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File 3300/1916 Pts 3-4 'Aden Newsletter'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/10/611
Date(s)	1919-1924 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 volume (639 folios)
Copyright for document	Unknown

About this record

The volume mainly contains copies of News Letters from the Political Resident, Aden, which were forwarded to the Under Secretary of State for India. The News Letters report on the political situation in the Yemen.

The volume consists of two parts: Part 3, dated 28 February 1919 to 16 February 1921 [IOR/L/PS/10/611/1]; and Part 4, dated 16 February 1921 to 26 February 1924 [IOR/L/PS/10/611/2].

Each part includes a divider which gives the subject and part numbers, the year the subject file was opened, the subject heading, and a list of correspondence references contained in that part by year. This is placed at the back of the correspondence.

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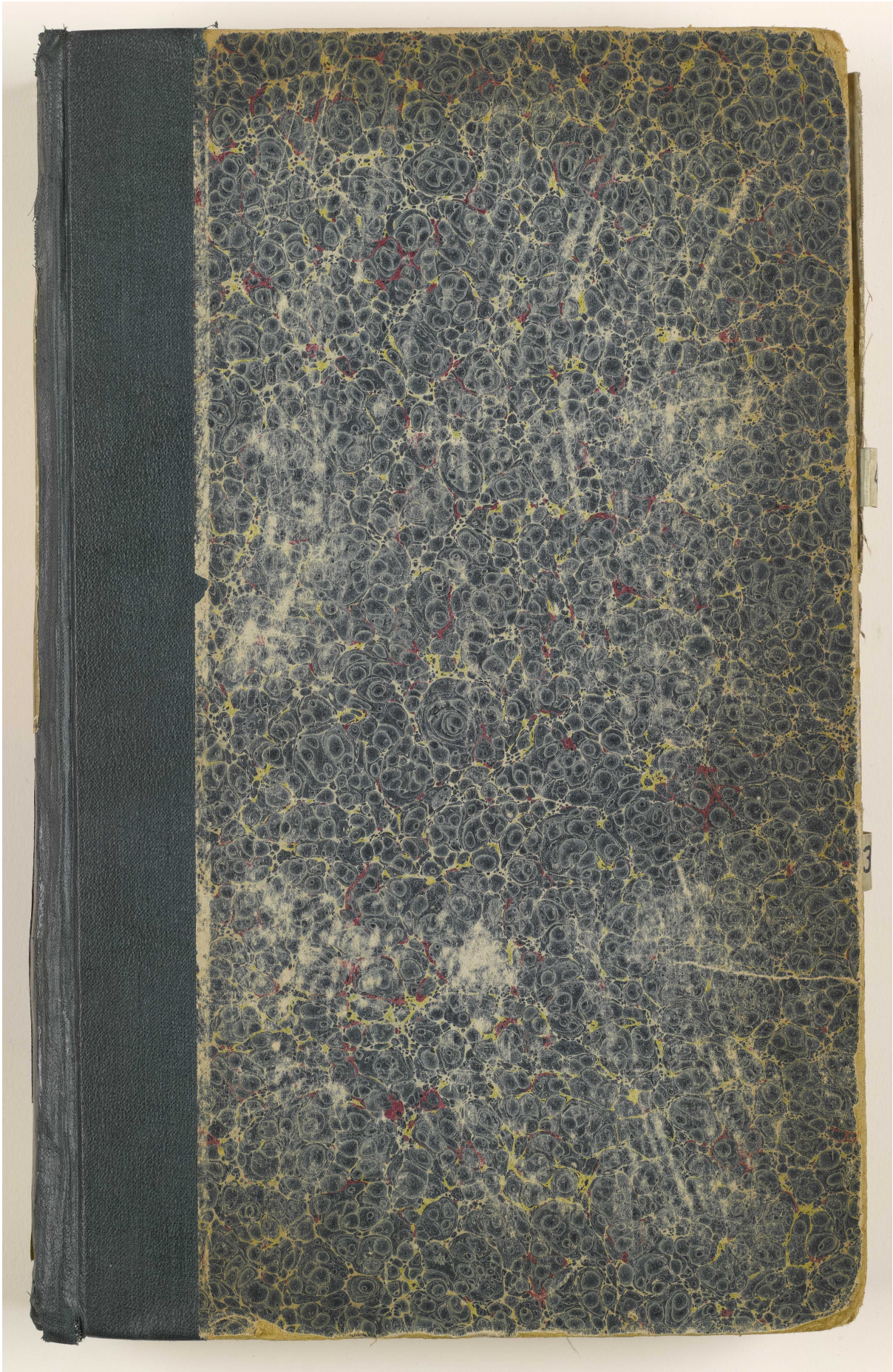

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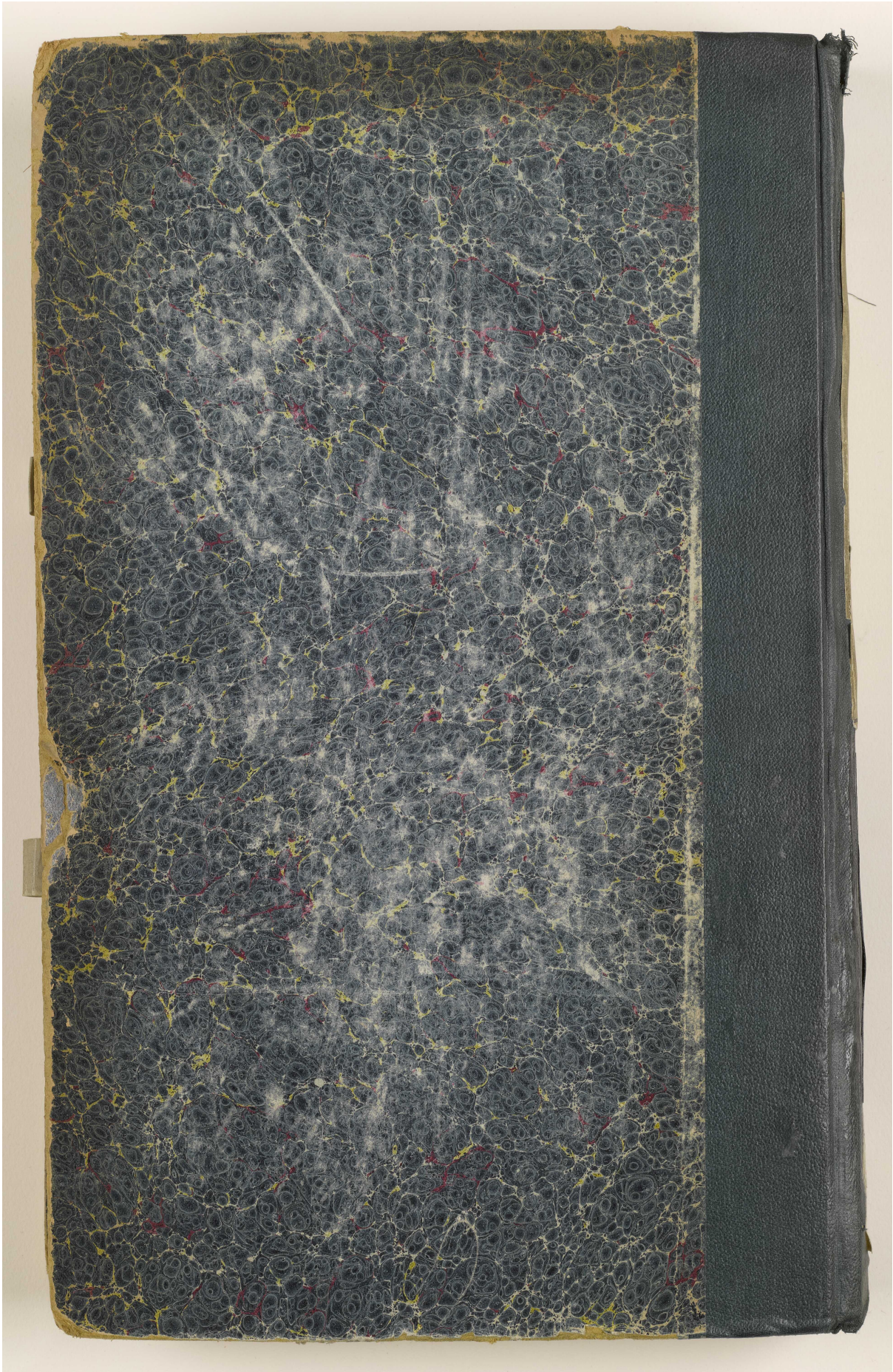

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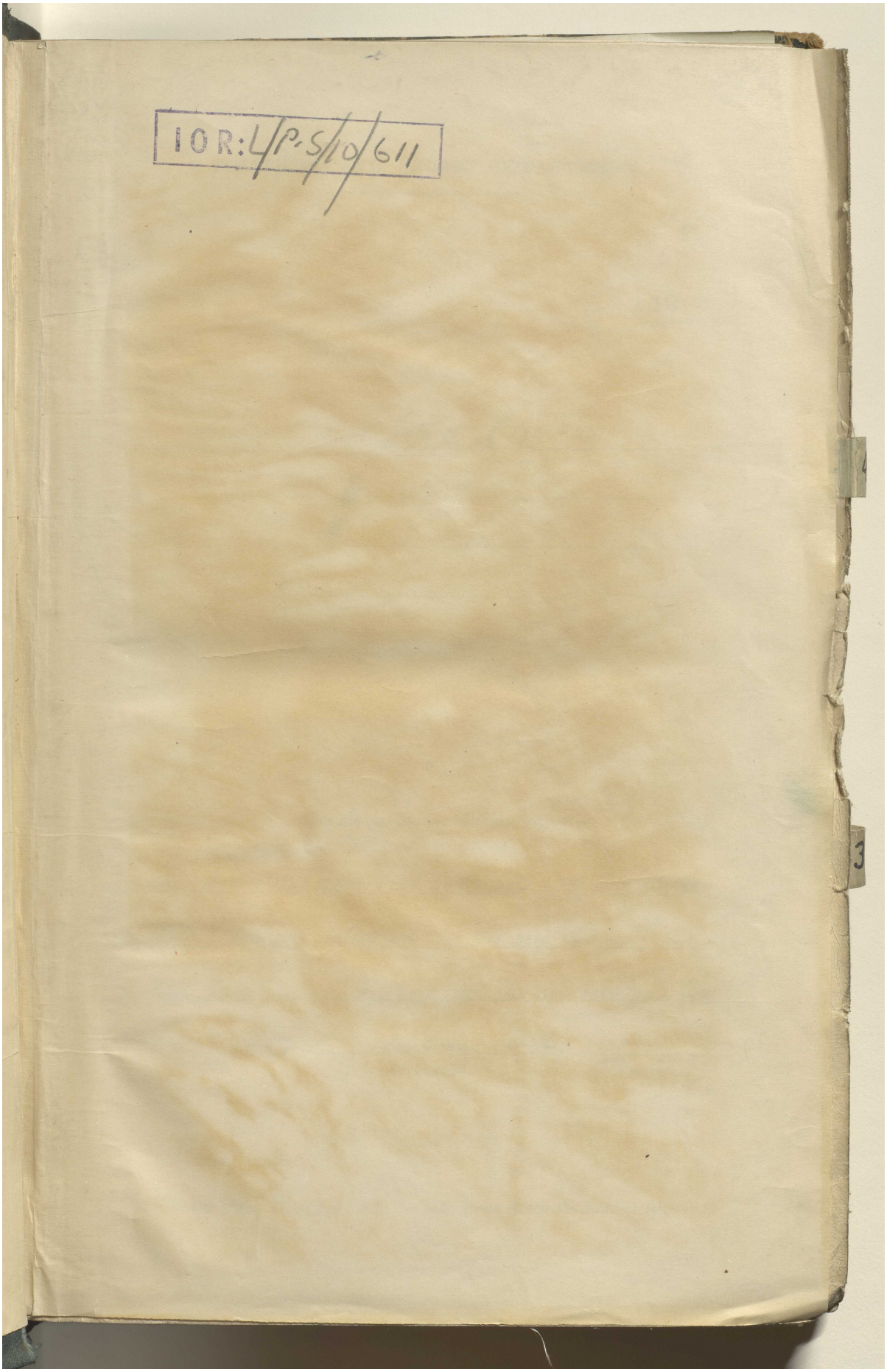
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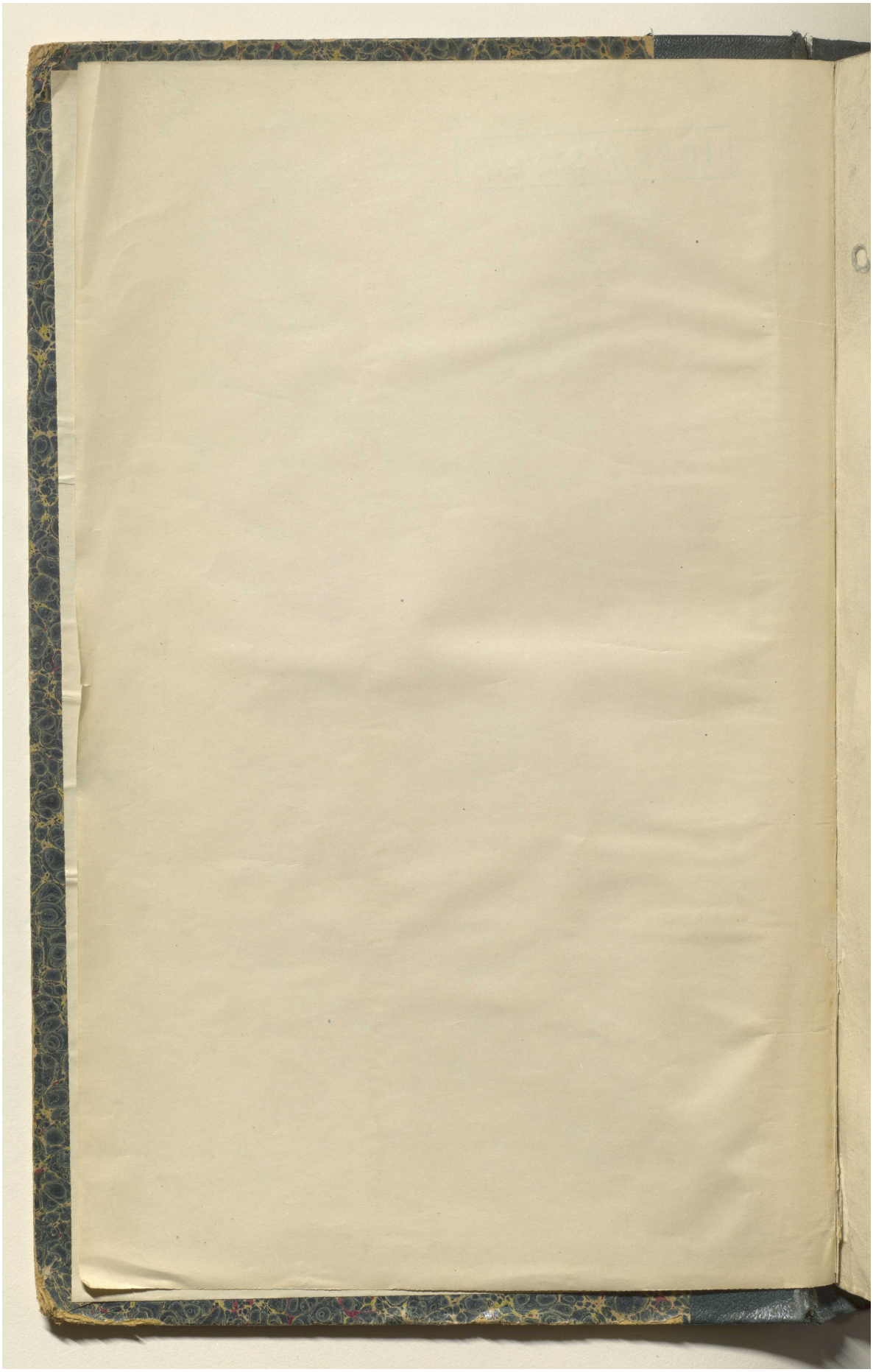

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Previous File
P. 3300/16 (3)

POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPARTMENT.

P. 3300 4
19/6 .

Subject:

Aden News Letters. (1921-23)

This file contains the following papers:—

YEAR.

1921. P. 939. 1295 2500 2748 2939 3286 4359 4627. 5167 5557

1922. P. 456 955 1212. 1648 2174 2590 3005 3520 3900 4297 4643 5090

1923. P. 493. 901 1100, 1816, 2094 2736 3213 3360 3553 4142. 4491

1924. P. 289 766 continued in Sec 1108/24

Memoranda.

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2689—2 500 11/20

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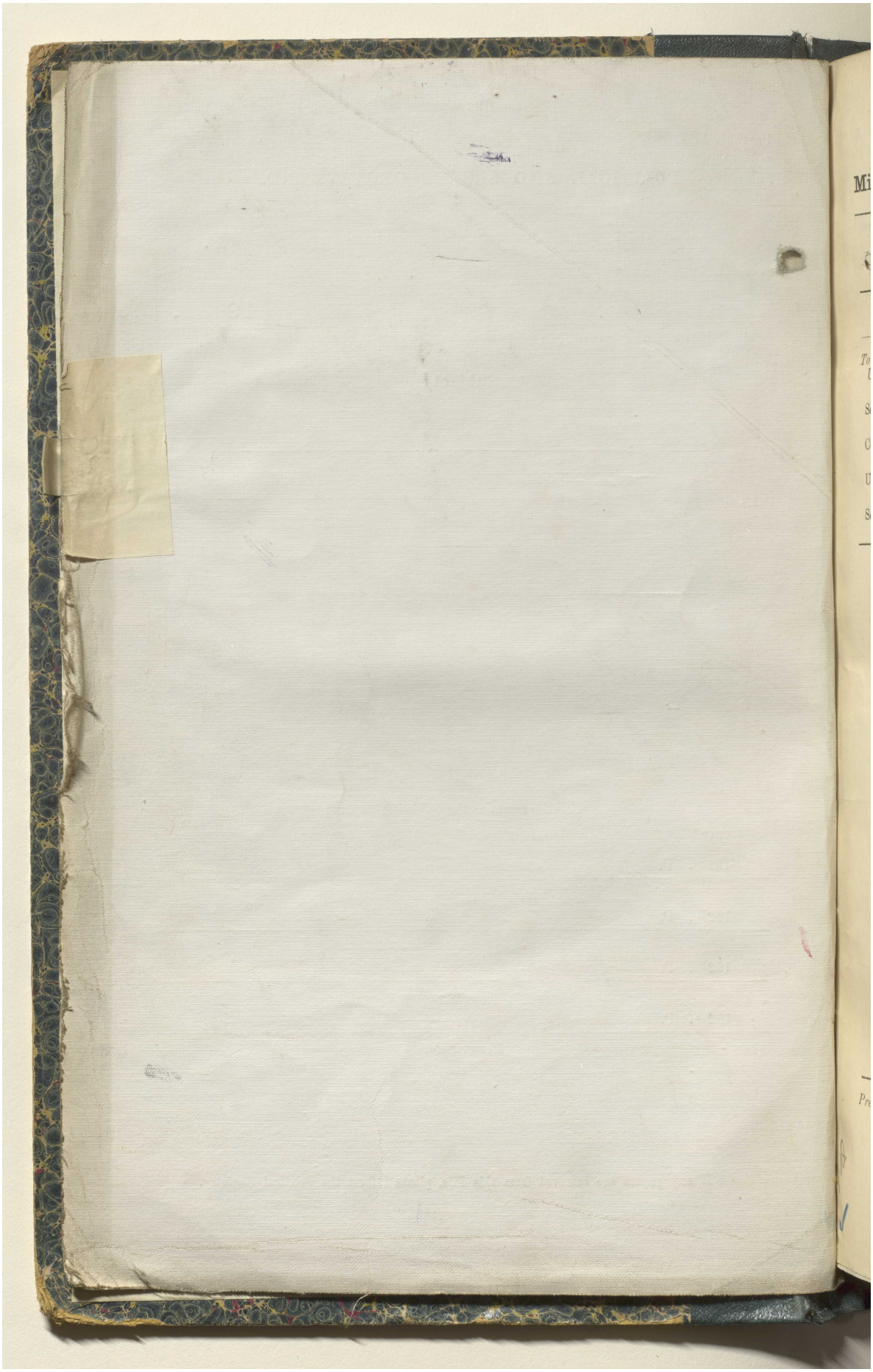

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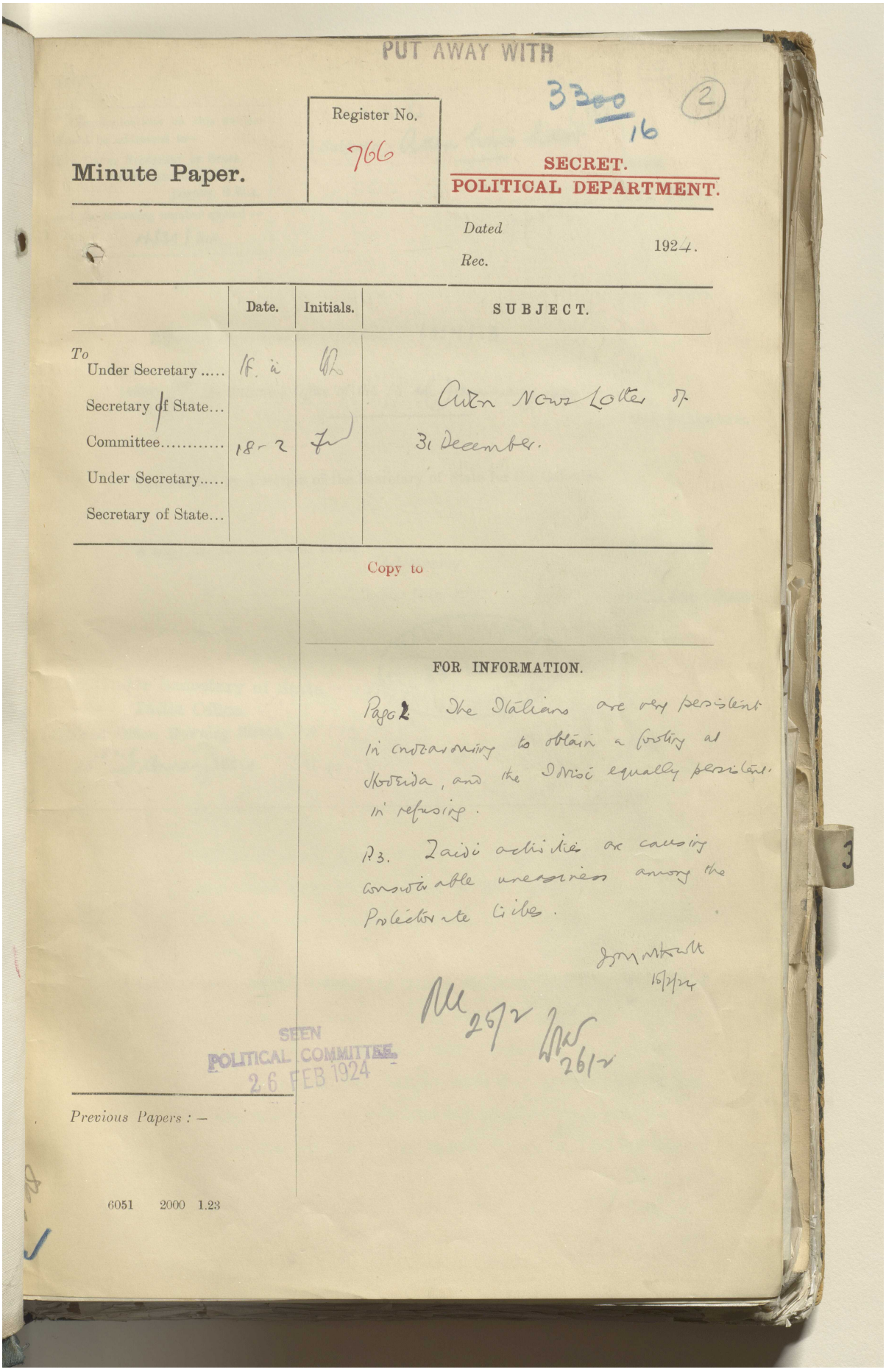

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3300/16 (2)

Register No. 766

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 1924.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	16. ii		Aden News Letter of 31 December.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	18-2		
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

Page 2 The Italians are very persistent in endeavouring to obtain a footing at Obbia, and the Sirsi equally persistent in refusing.

P3. Zaidi activities are causing considerable uneasiness among the Protectorate tribes.

J. Shuckburgh 16/2/24

Mr 25/2 WRS 26/2

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
26 FEB 1924

Previous Papers :—

6051 2000 1.23

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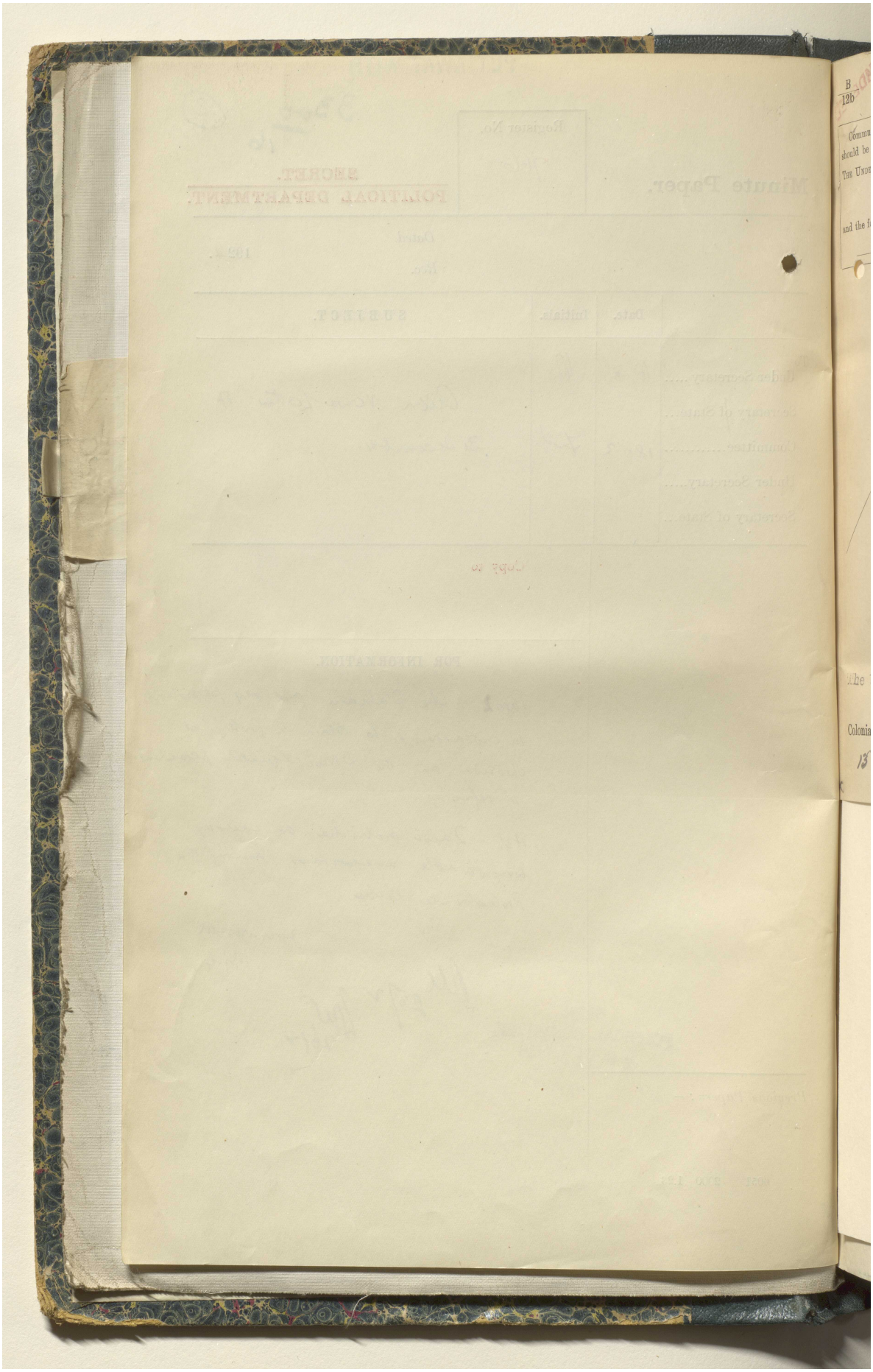

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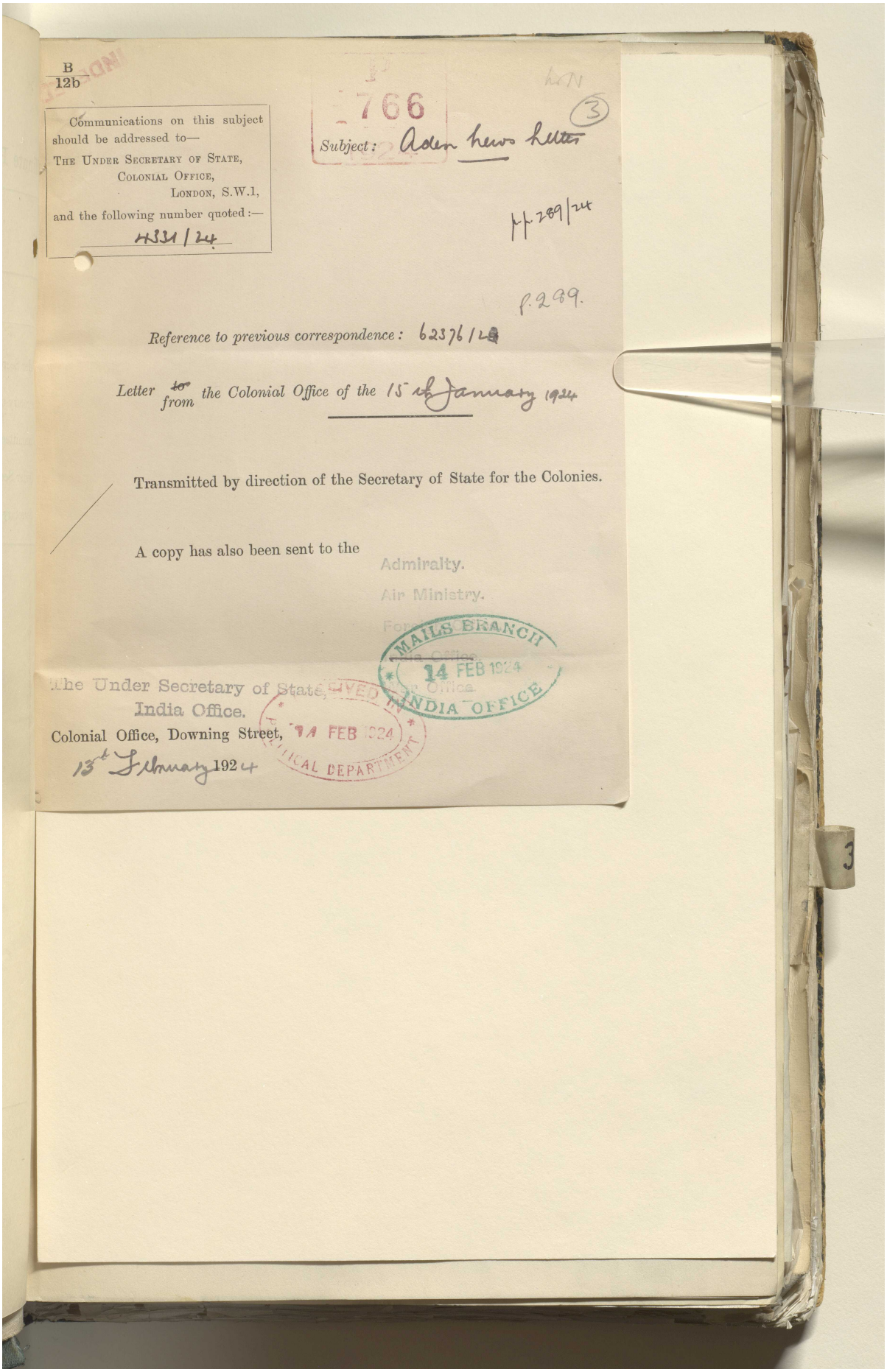

B
12b

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
4331/24

766
Subject: Aden news letter

(3)

44 269/24

p. 299.

Reference to previous correspondence: 62376/23

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 15th January 1924

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the

Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
War Office.

MAILS BRANCH
14 FEB 1924
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

RECEIVED IN
14 FEB 1924
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
13th February 1924

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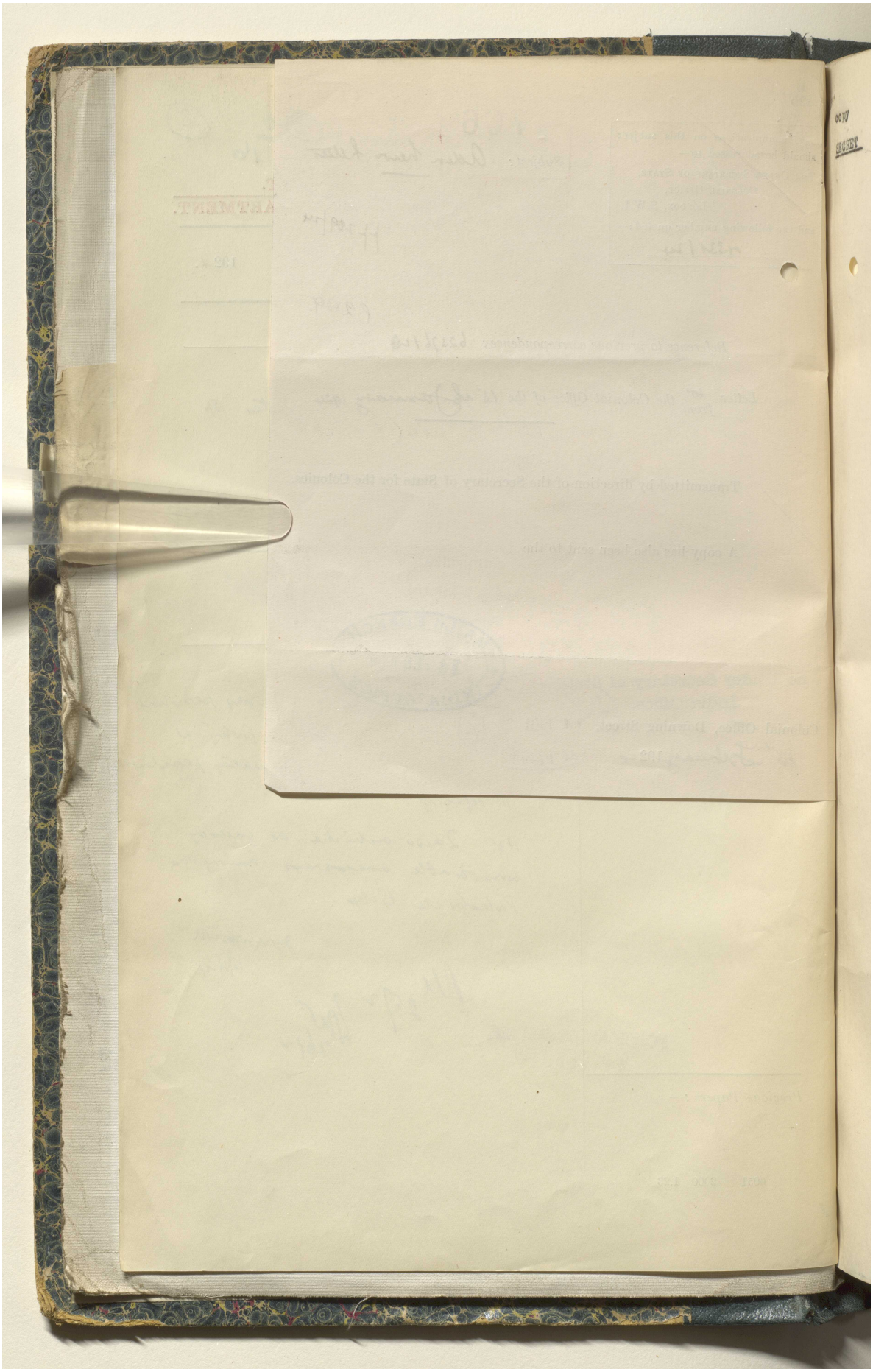

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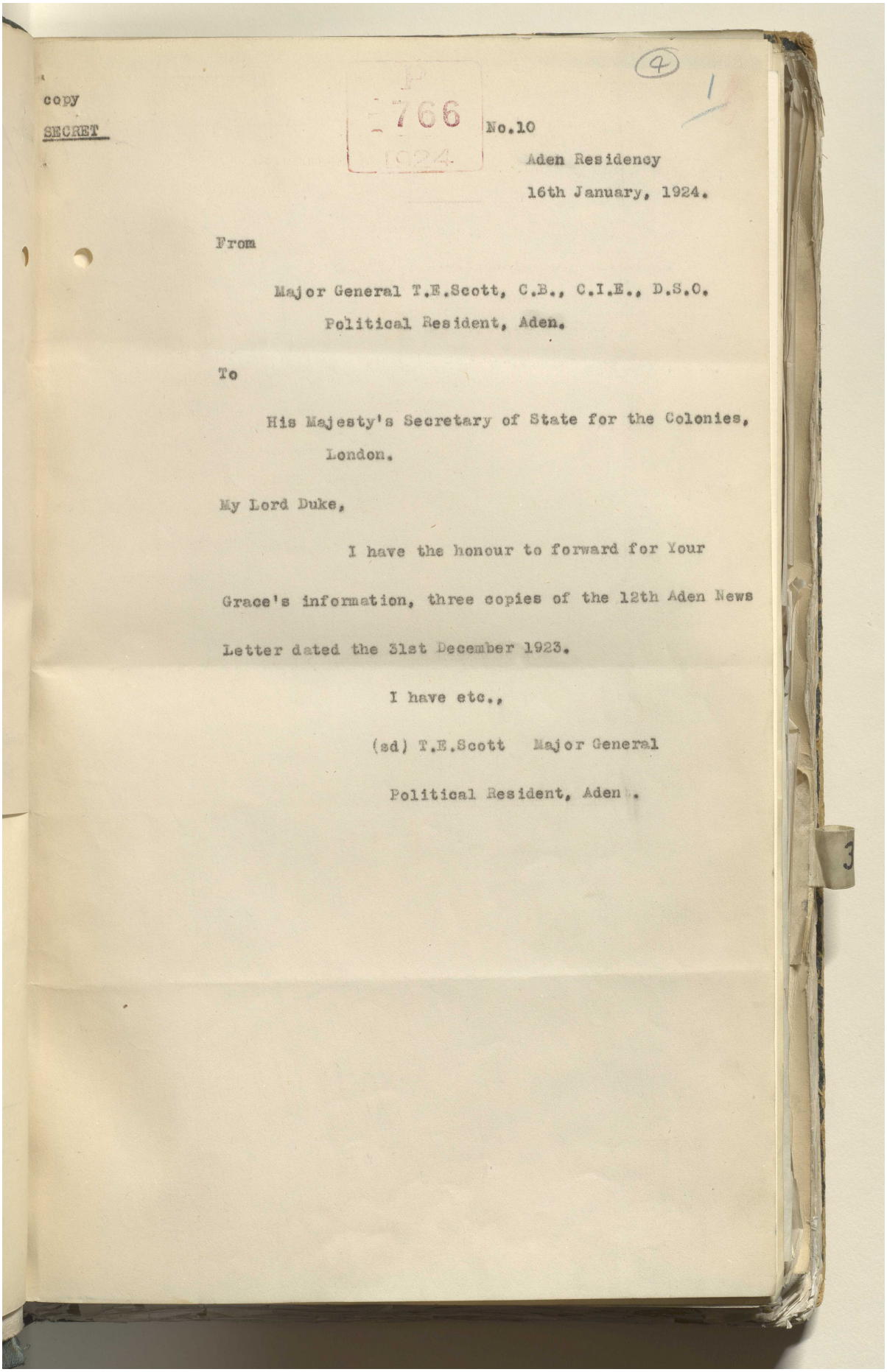

copy

SECRET

P 766 1924

No.10

Aden Residency

16th January, 1924.

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.

Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,

London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 12th Aden News Letter dated the 31st December 1923.

I have etc.,

(sd) T.E.Scott Major General

Political Resident, Aden.

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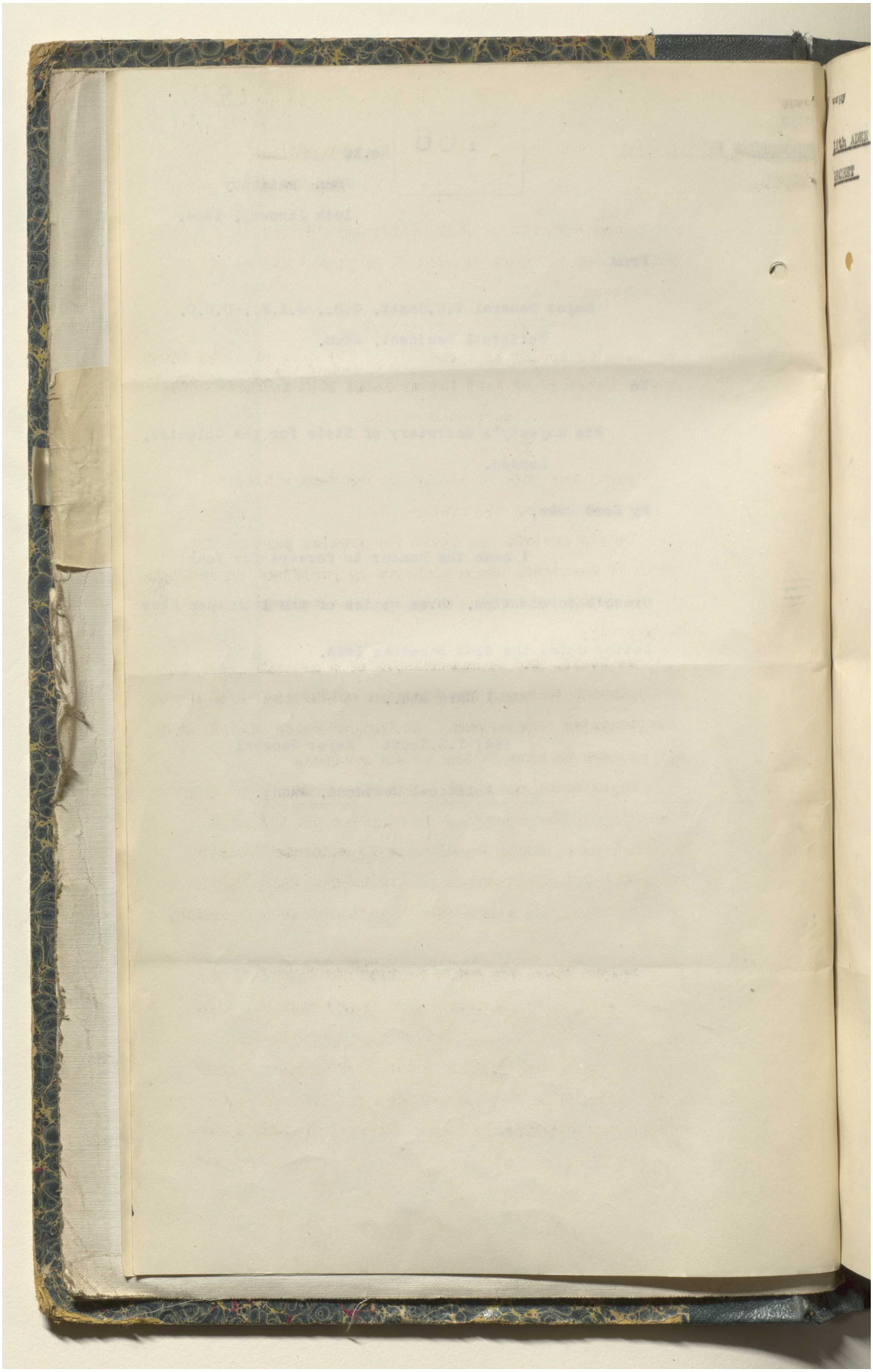

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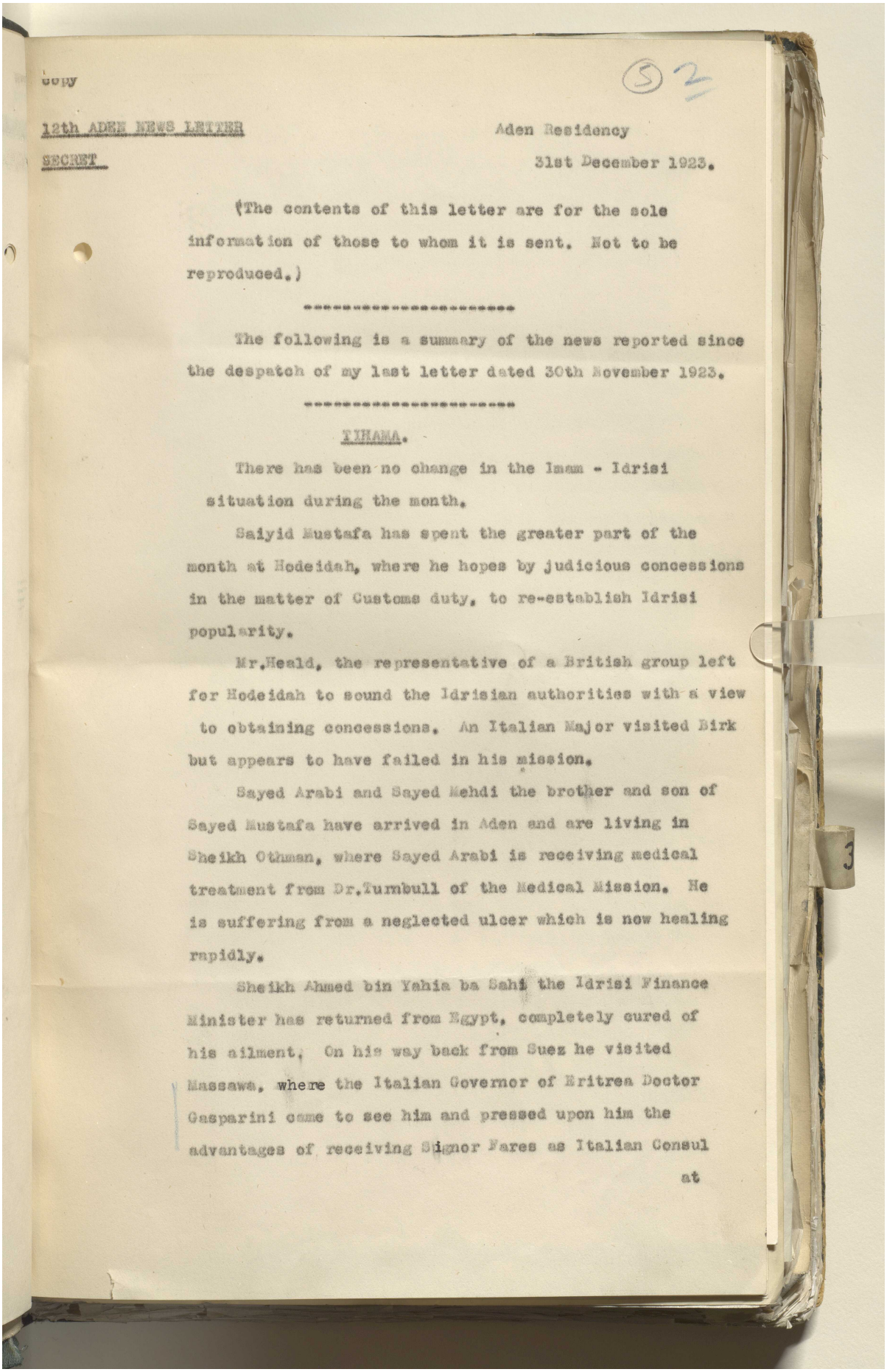

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(5) 2

12th ADEN NEWS LETTER

SECRET

Aden Residency

31st December 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 30th November 1923.

YEMEN.

There has been no change in the Imam - Idrisi situation during the month.

Saiyid Mustafa has spent the greater part of the month at Hodeidah, where he hopes by judicious concessions in the matter of Customs duty, to re-establish Idrisi popularity.

Mr.Heald, the representative of a British group left for Hodeidah to sound the Idrisian authorities with a view to obtaining concessions. An Italian Major visited Birk but appears to have failed in his mission.

Sayed Arabi and Sayed Mehdi the brother and son of Sayed Mustafa have arrived in Aden and are living in Sheikh Othman, where Sayed Arabi is receiving medical treatment from Dr.Turnbull of the Medical Mission. He is suffering from a neglected ulcer which is now healing rapidly.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Yahia ba Sahi the Idrisi Finance Minister has returned from Egypt, completely cured of his ailment. On his way back from Suez he visited Massawa, where the Italian Governor of Eritrea Doctor Gasparini came to see him and pressed upon him the advantages of receiving Signor Fares as Italian Consul at

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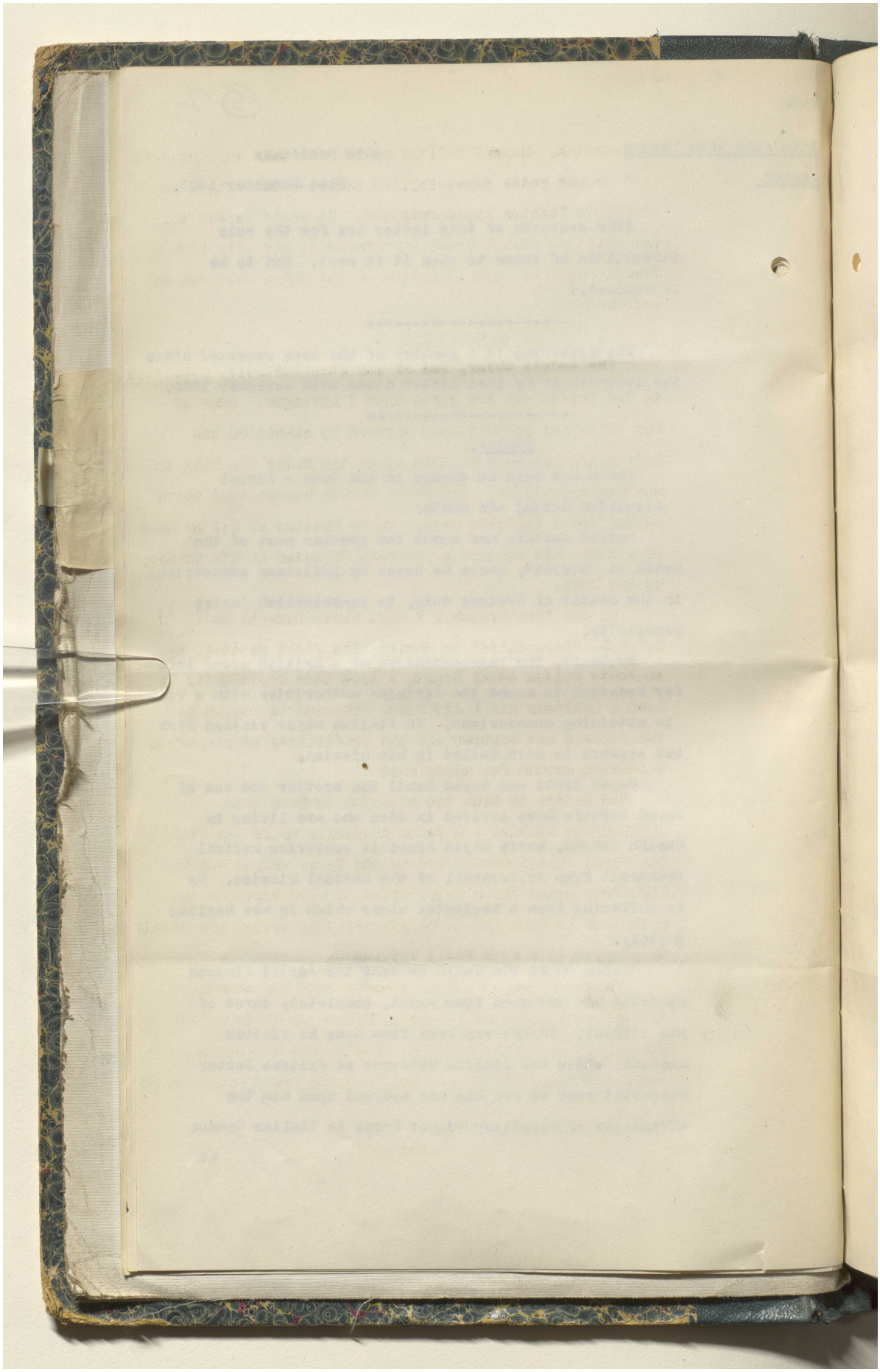

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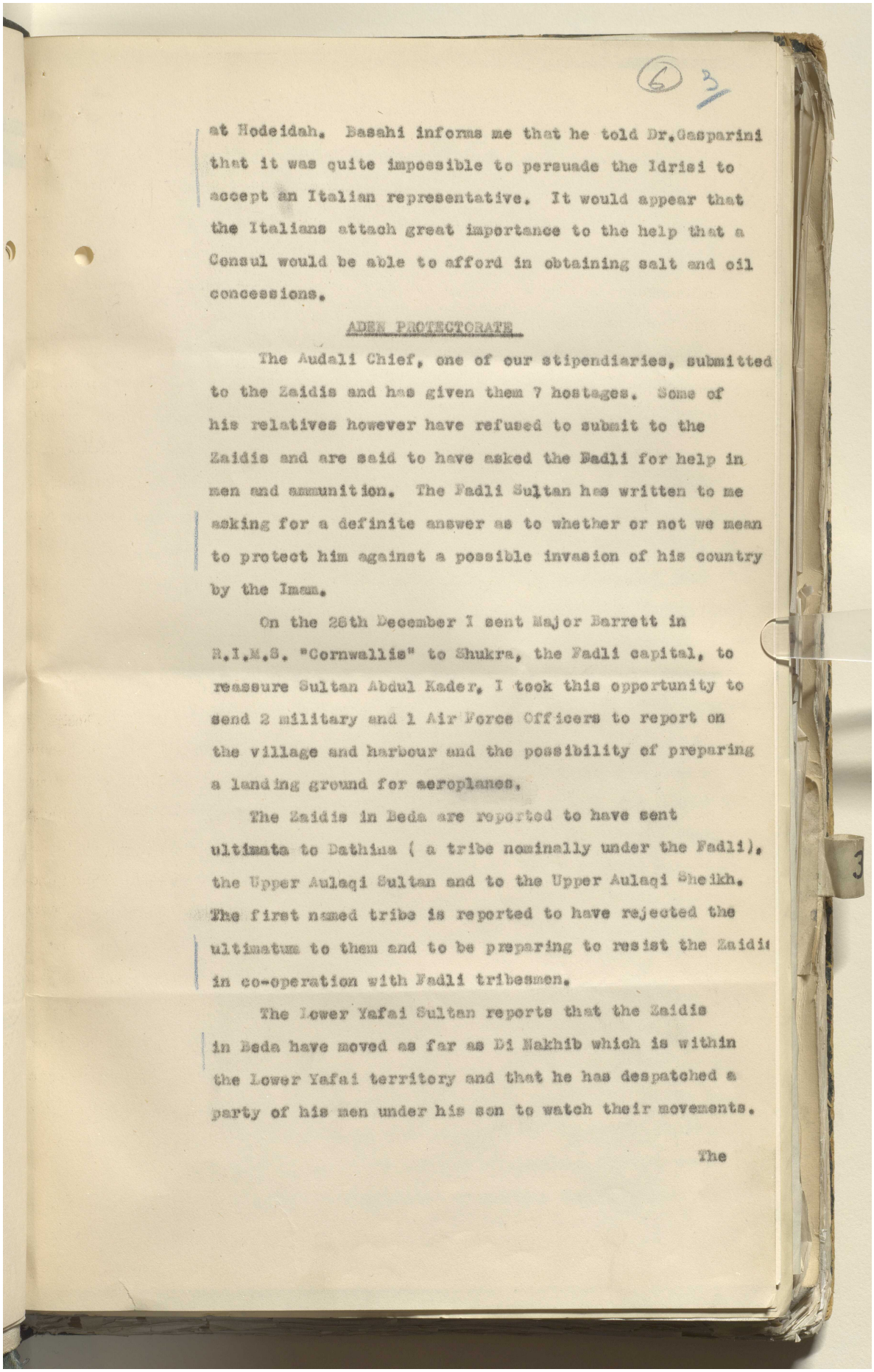

(6) 3

at Hodeidah. Basahi informs me that he told Dr.Gasparini that it was quite impossible to persuade the Idrisi to accept an Italian representative. It would appear that the Italians attach great importance to the help that a Consul would be able to afford in obtaining salt and oil concessions.

ADEN PROTECTORATE

The Audali Chief, one of our stipendiaries, submitted to the Zaidis and has given them 7 hostages. Some of his relatives however have refused to submit to the Zaidis and are said to have asked the Fadli for help in men and ammunition. The Fadli Sultan has written to me asking for a definite answer as to whether or not we mean to protect him against a possible invasion of his country by the Imam.

On the 28th December I sent Major Barrett in H.I.M.S. "Cornwallis" to Shukra, the Fadli capital, to reassure Sultan Abdul Kader. I took this opportunity to send 2 military and 1 Air Force Officers to report on the village and harbour and the possibility of preparing a landing ground for aeroplanes.

The Zaidis in Beda are reported to have sent ultimata to Dathina (a tribe nominally under the Fadli), the Upper Aulaqi Sultan and to the Upper Aulaqi Sheikh. The first named tribe is reported to have rejected the ultimatum to them and to be preparing to resist the Zaidis in co-operation with Fadli tribesmen.

The Lower Yafai Sultan reports that the Zaidis in Beda have moved as far as Di Nakhib which is within the Lower Yafai territory and that he has despatched a party of his men under his son to watch their movements.

The

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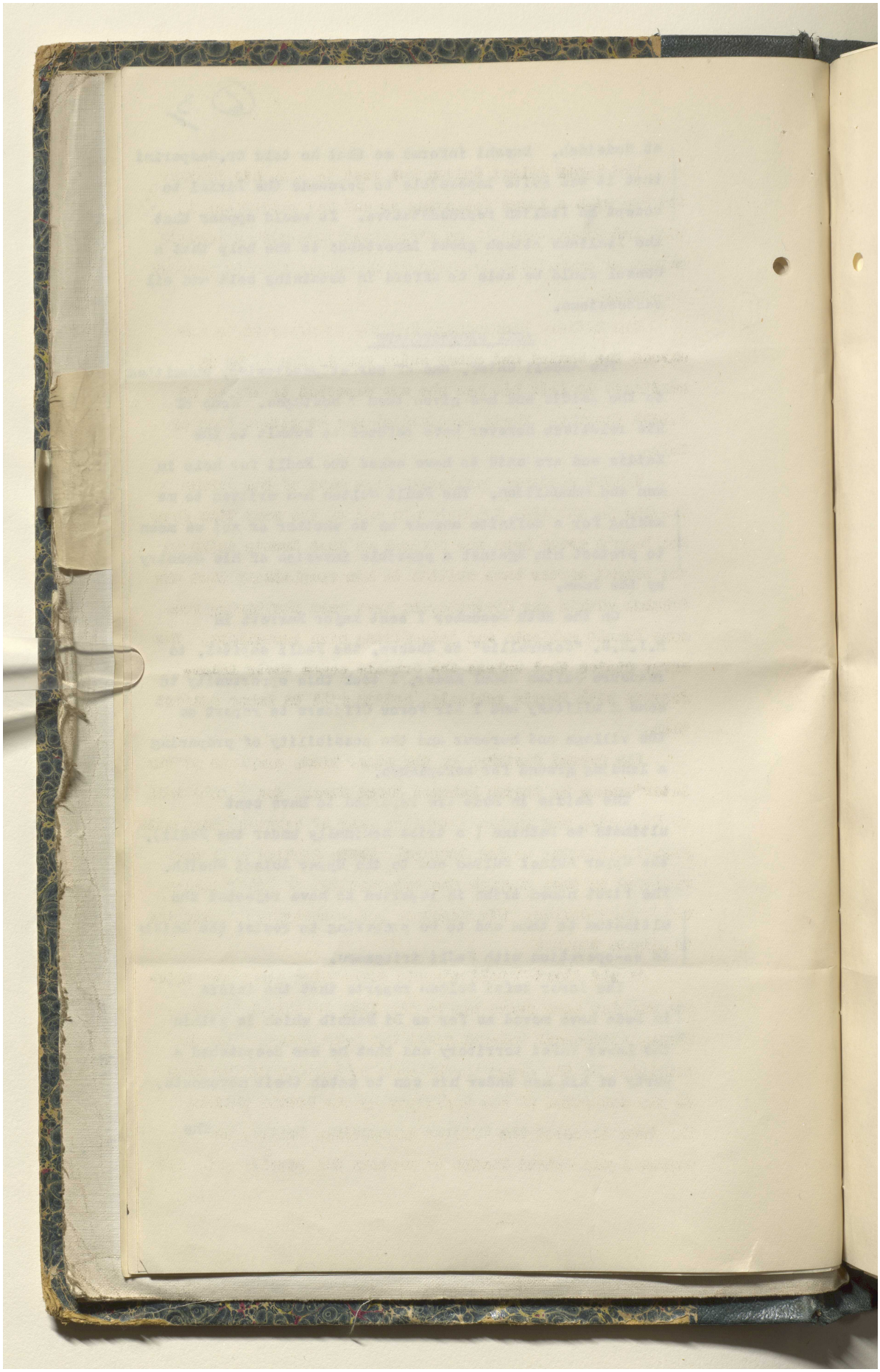

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(7) 4

The Upper Aulaqi Sultan has sent to Aden his brother and son with a large following to ask for assistance in arms and ammunition. I am presenting them with a certain amount of ammunition in order to encourage them to protect themselves.

The Officer Commanding, Nadira, is reported to have warned the Shairi and other Amiri sub-tribes to be in readiness to join his men who are expected to arrive at Kataba shortly. Their destination may be either Beda or Yafa.

I have received complaints from some of the Subehi Sheikhs in the Aden Protectorate and at the same time from the Imam's envoy here who informs me that Imamic Amils on the Subehi border have written to him complaining that the Subehis within our Protectorate have been sheltering runaway Imamic subjects and interfering with travellers. The envoy states that unless the Subehis cease their interference with Imamic subjects, action will be taken against them.

The Subehi Sheikhs, on the other hand, complain of the interference by Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Noman, the Imam's Amil in Hujjaria, who recently carried away 50 donkeys laden with jowari belonging to the Subehis. These donkeys have been restored to them through the intervention of His Highness the Abdali Sultan. His Highness has warned the Subehis not to create trouble.

An old Alawi-Kotebi dispute concerning territory which was settled some years ago by the late Political Officer, Dhala, Lieutenant Colonel Jacob has been reopened on the complaint of the Alawi Sheikh made personally to the Imam re the occupation of his territory by the Kotebi Sheikh. The Imam directed the Officer Commanding, Nadira, to persuade the Kotebi Sheikh to restore the territory to the Alawi.

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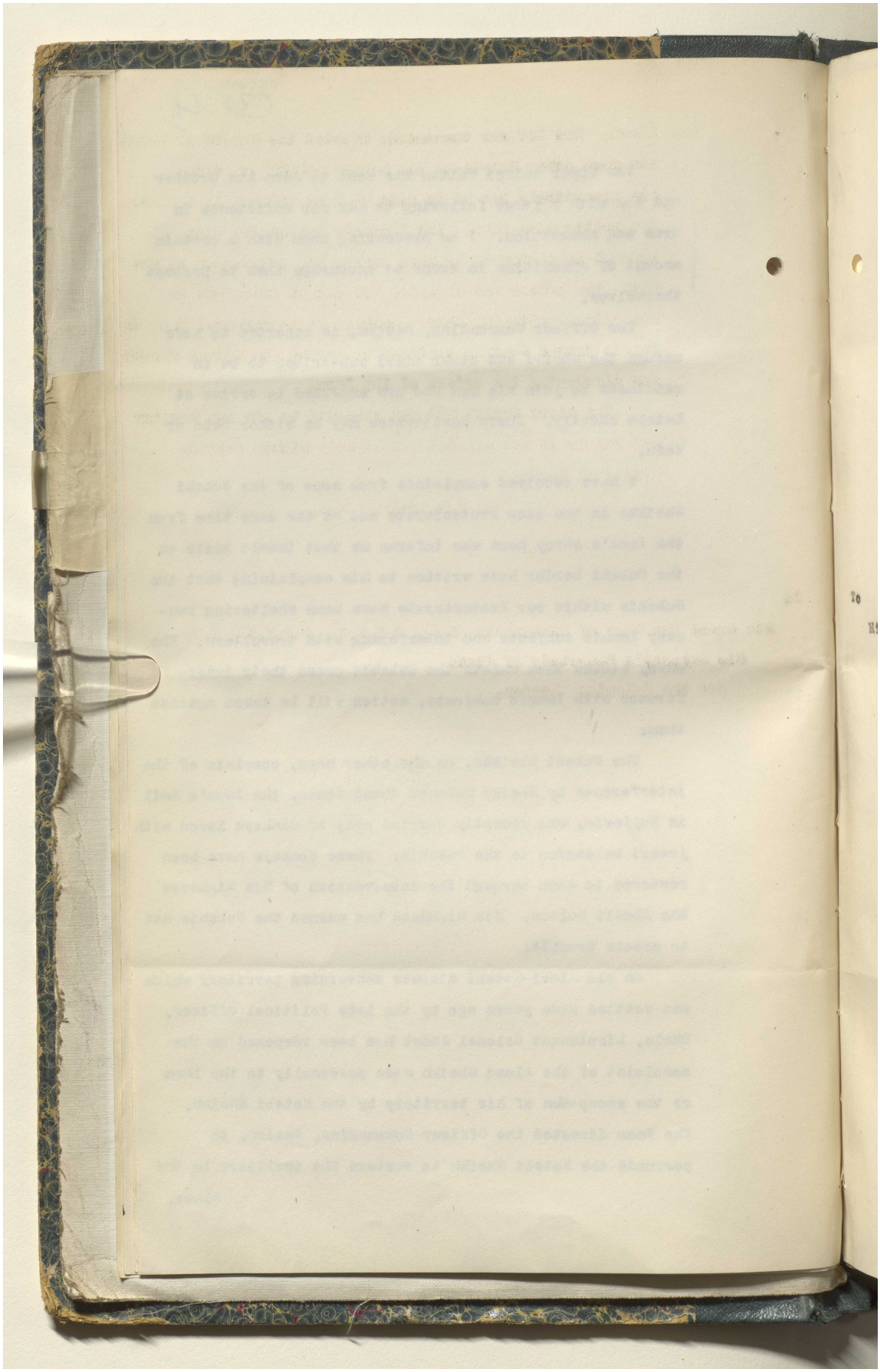

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(8) 5

Alawi. The Officer Commanding deputed the Mansab of Dulayt and some other Saiyid to the Kotebi Sheikh to advise him accordingly but he is said to have refused to discuss the matter with them. The Sheikh's reason for this refusal is stated to be that before his submission to the Imam, the latter had promised him not to interfere in his dispute with the Alawi Sheikh. It is rumoured that the Zaidis intend sending soldiers to punish the Kotebi Sheikh for disobeying the orders of the Imam.

The Alawi Sheikh has not returned to his own country yet but he is now allowed his liberty within certain limits at Dhala.

(sd) T.H.Scott. M.C.

To

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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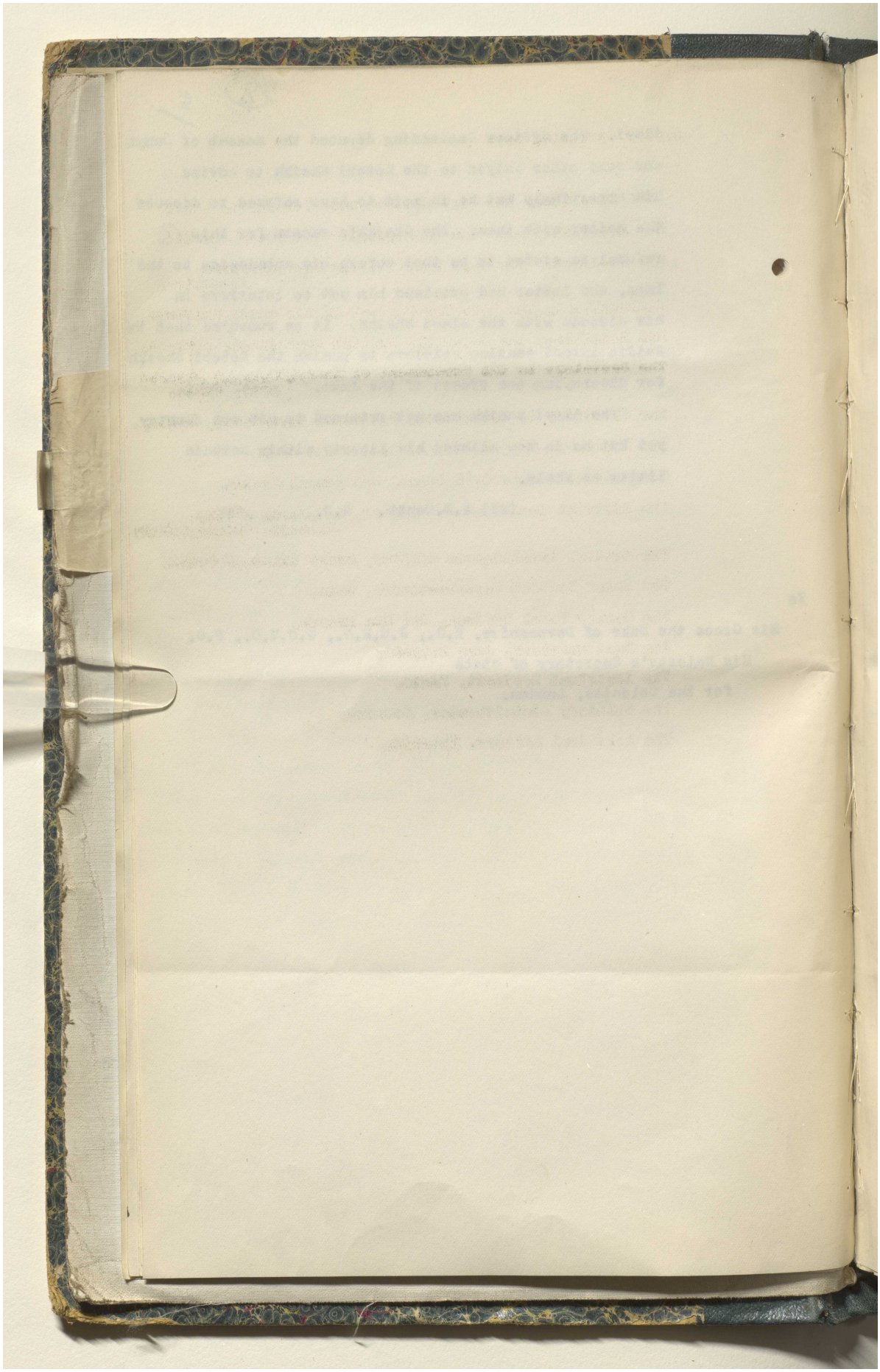

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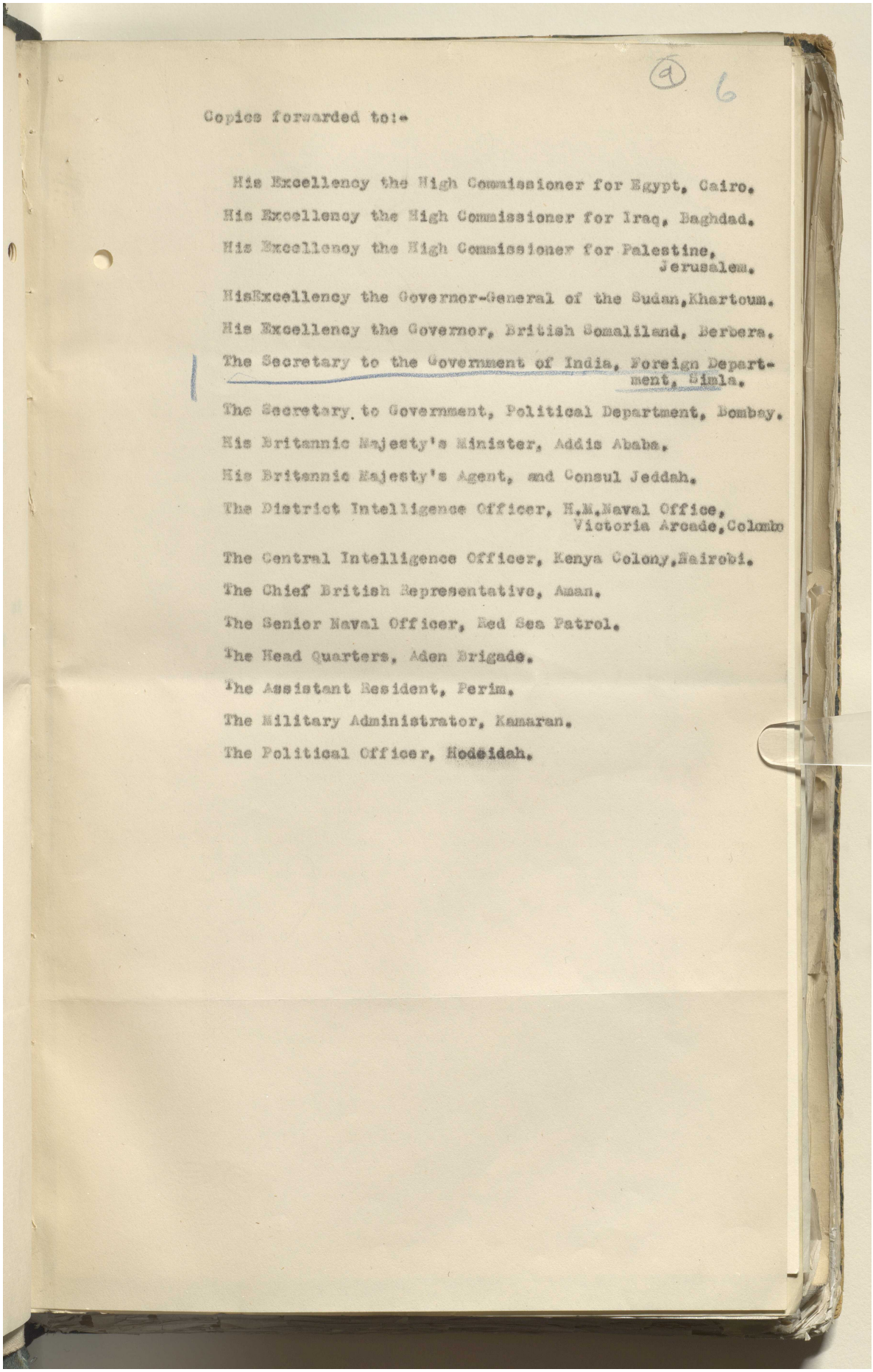

(9) 6

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His Excellency the High Commissioner for Egypt, Cairo.

His Excellency the High Commissioner for Iraq, Baghdad.

His Excellency the High Commissioner for Palestine, Jerusalem.

HisExcellency the Governor-General of the Sudan,Khartoum.

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.

The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa.

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, and Consul Jeddah.

The District Intelligence Officer, H.M.Naval Office, Victoria Arcade,Colombo

The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony,Nairobi.

The Chief British Representative, Aman.

The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Patrol.

The Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.

The Assistant Resident, Perim.

The Military Administrator, Kamaran.

The Political Officer, Hodeidah.

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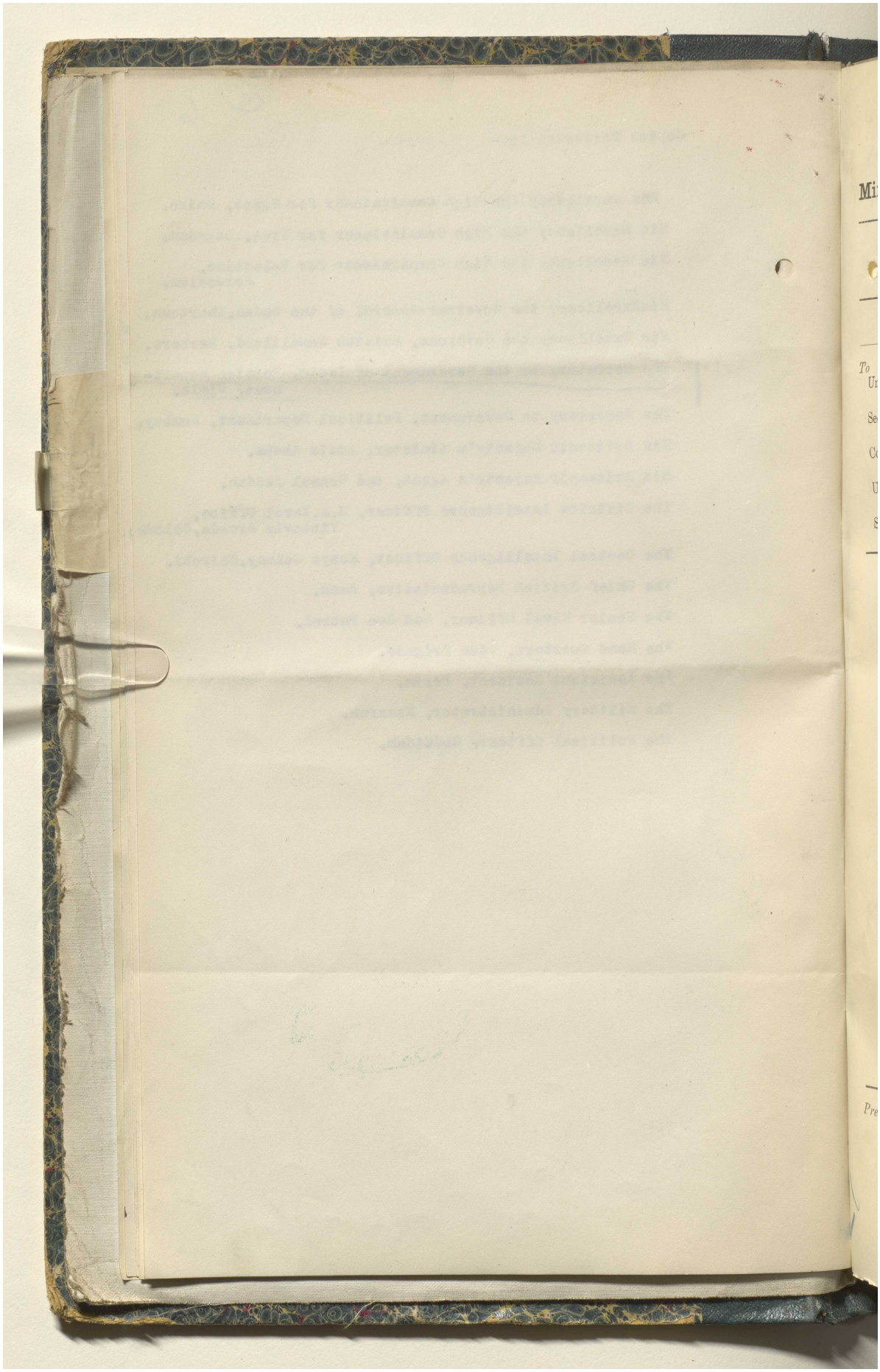

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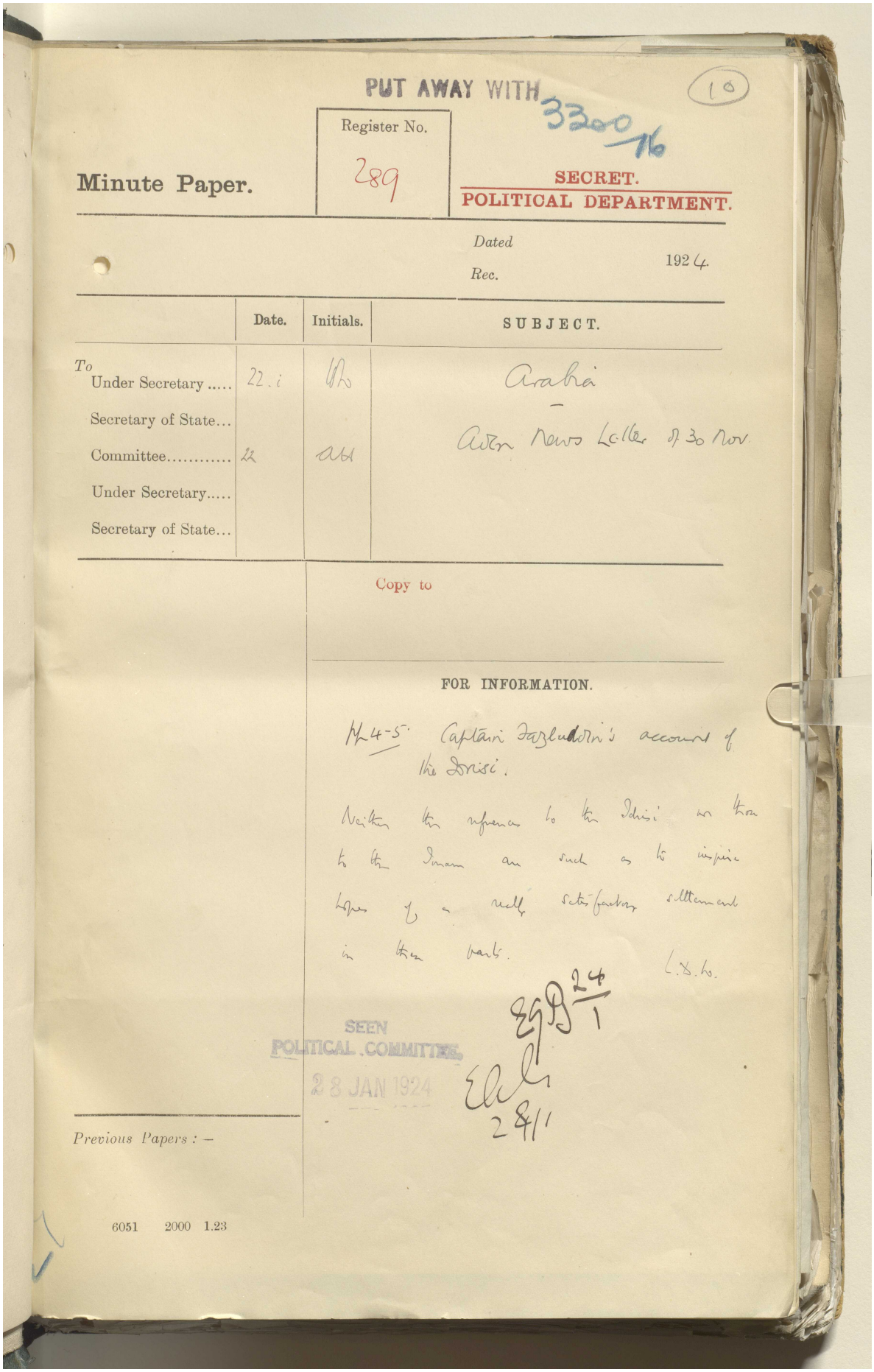

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(10)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 289

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 1924.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	22.i	Ms	Arabia — Aden News Letter of 30 Nov
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	22	ABA	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

M 4-5. Captain Fazluddin's account of the Idrisi.

Neither the reference to the Idrisi on pp 4 to the Imam are such as to inspire hopes of a really satisfactory settlement in the near future. L.S.A.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
28 JAN 1924

EGB 24/1

24/1

Previous Papers : —

6051 2000 1.23

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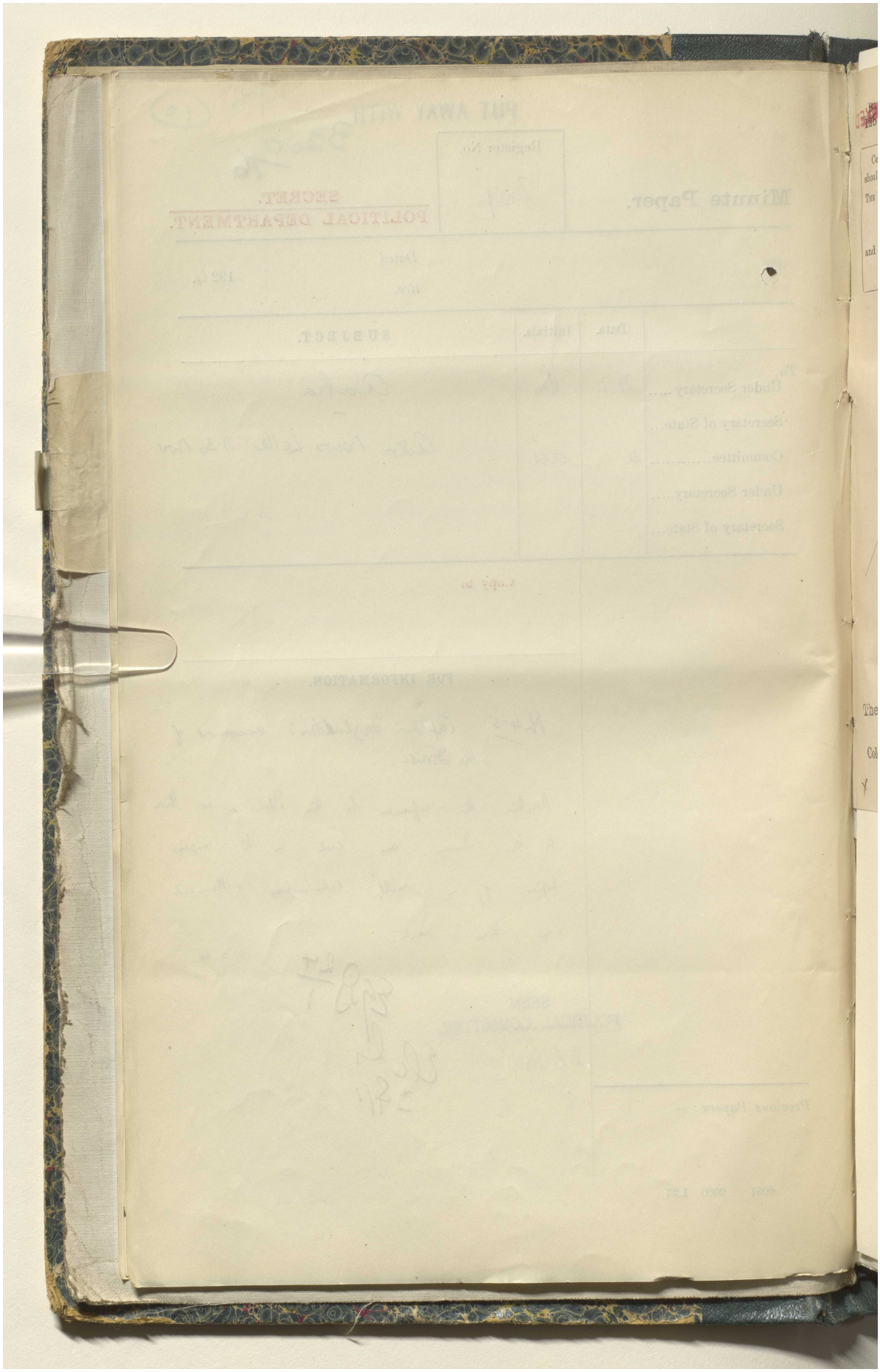

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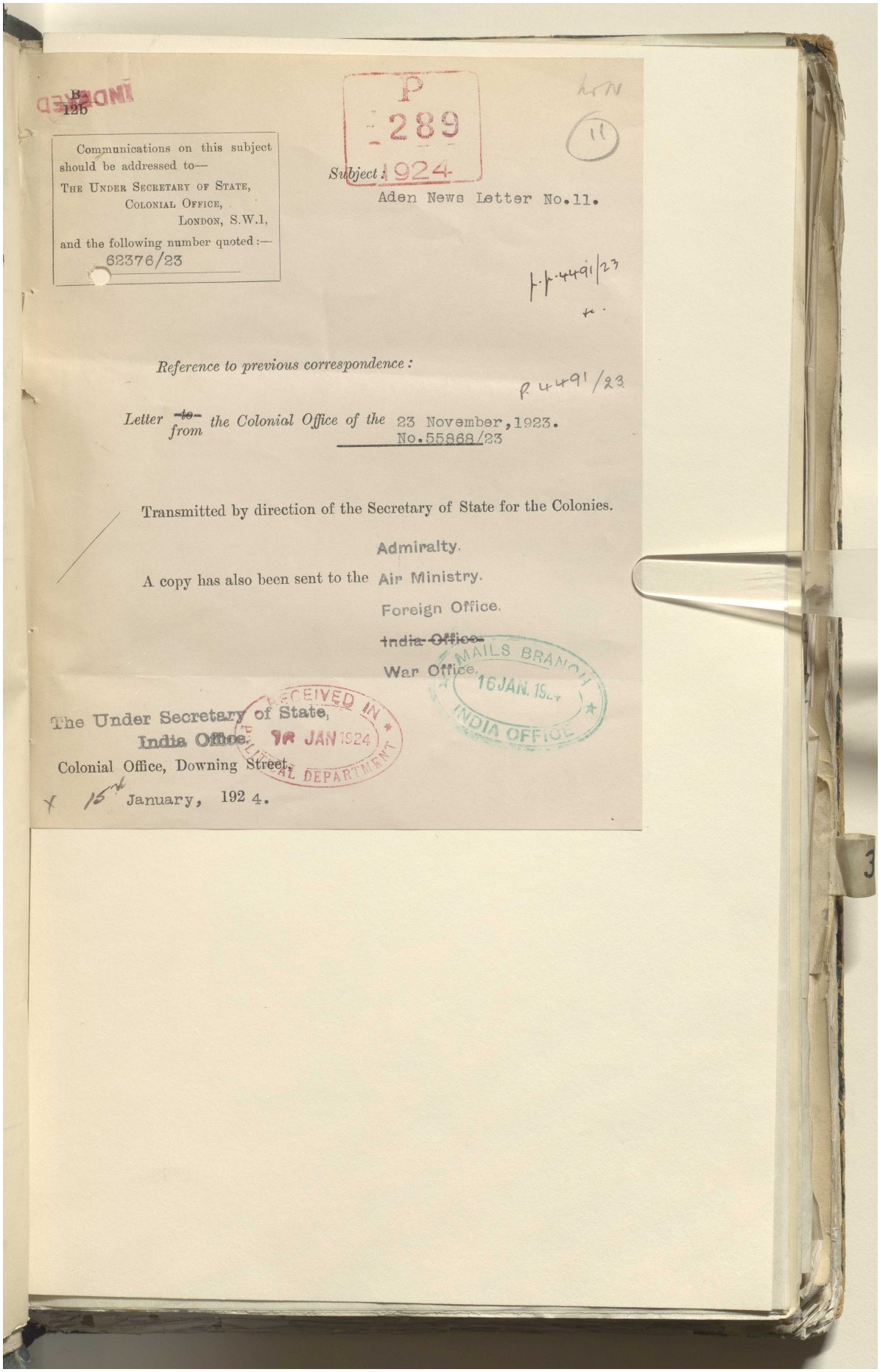

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INDEXED

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289

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
62376/23

Subject: 1924

Aden News Letter No.11.

hrN

(11)

P.P.4491/23

P 4491/23

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 23 November, 1923.
No.55868/23

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 18 JAN 1924

MAILS BRANCH 16 JAN. 1924 INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
~~India Office.~~
Colonial Office, Downing Street.

15th January, 1924.

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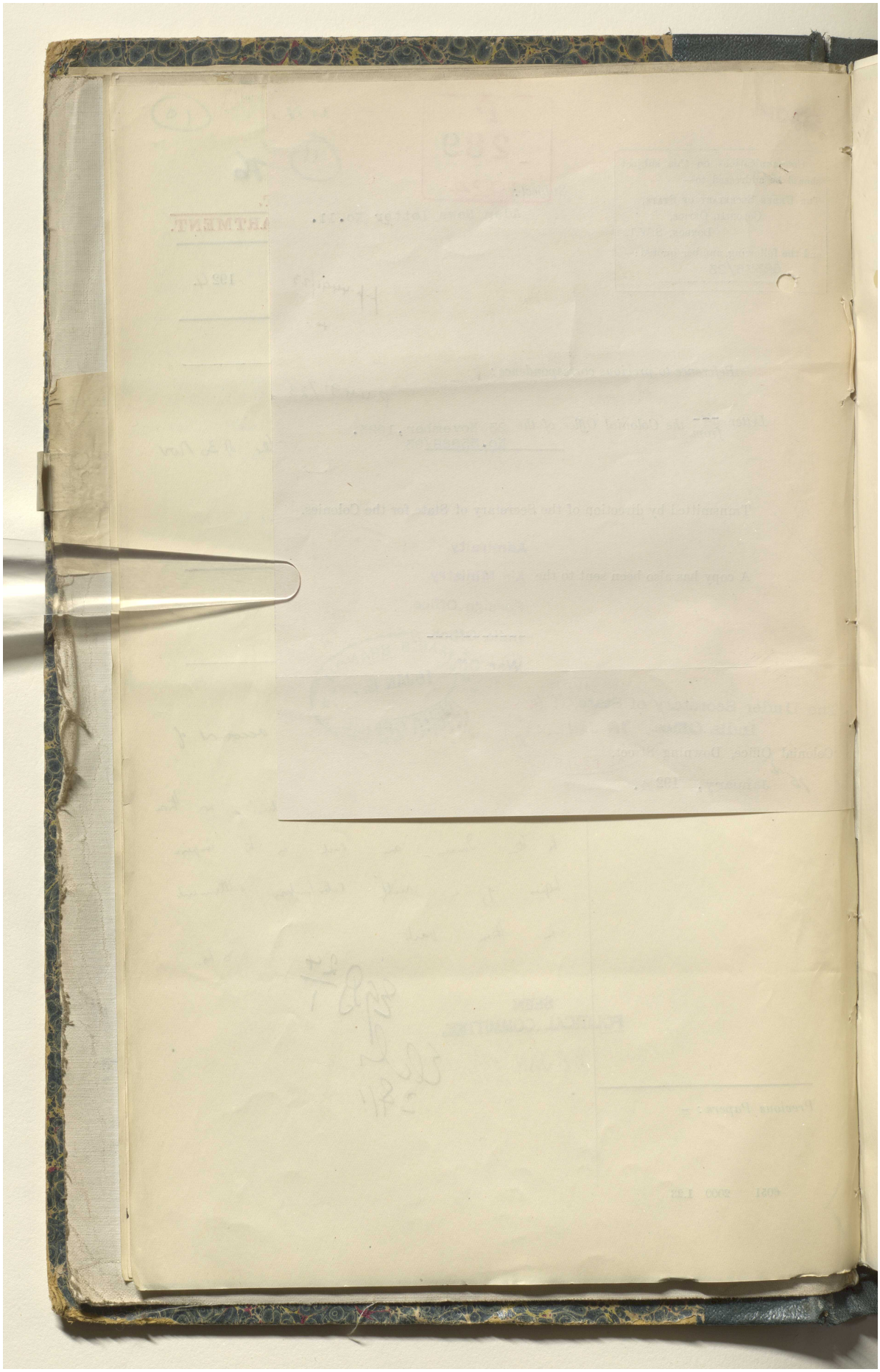

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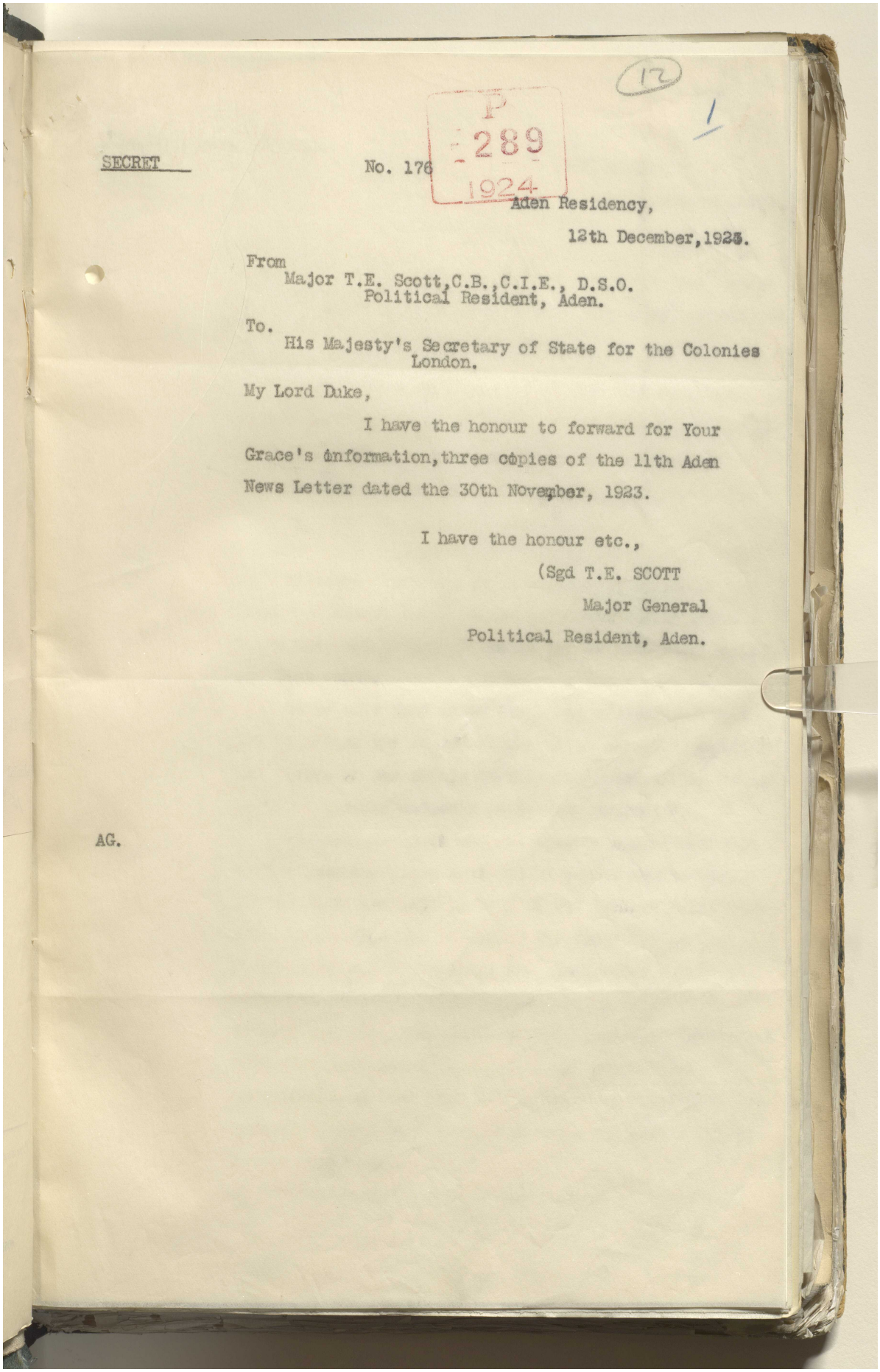

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P
289
1924

SECRET

No. 176

Aden Residency,

12th December, 1923.

From
Major T.E. Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden.

To.
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 11th Aden News Letter dated the 30th November, 1923.

I have the honour etc.,

(Sgd T.E. SCOTT
Major General
Political Resident, Aden.

AG.

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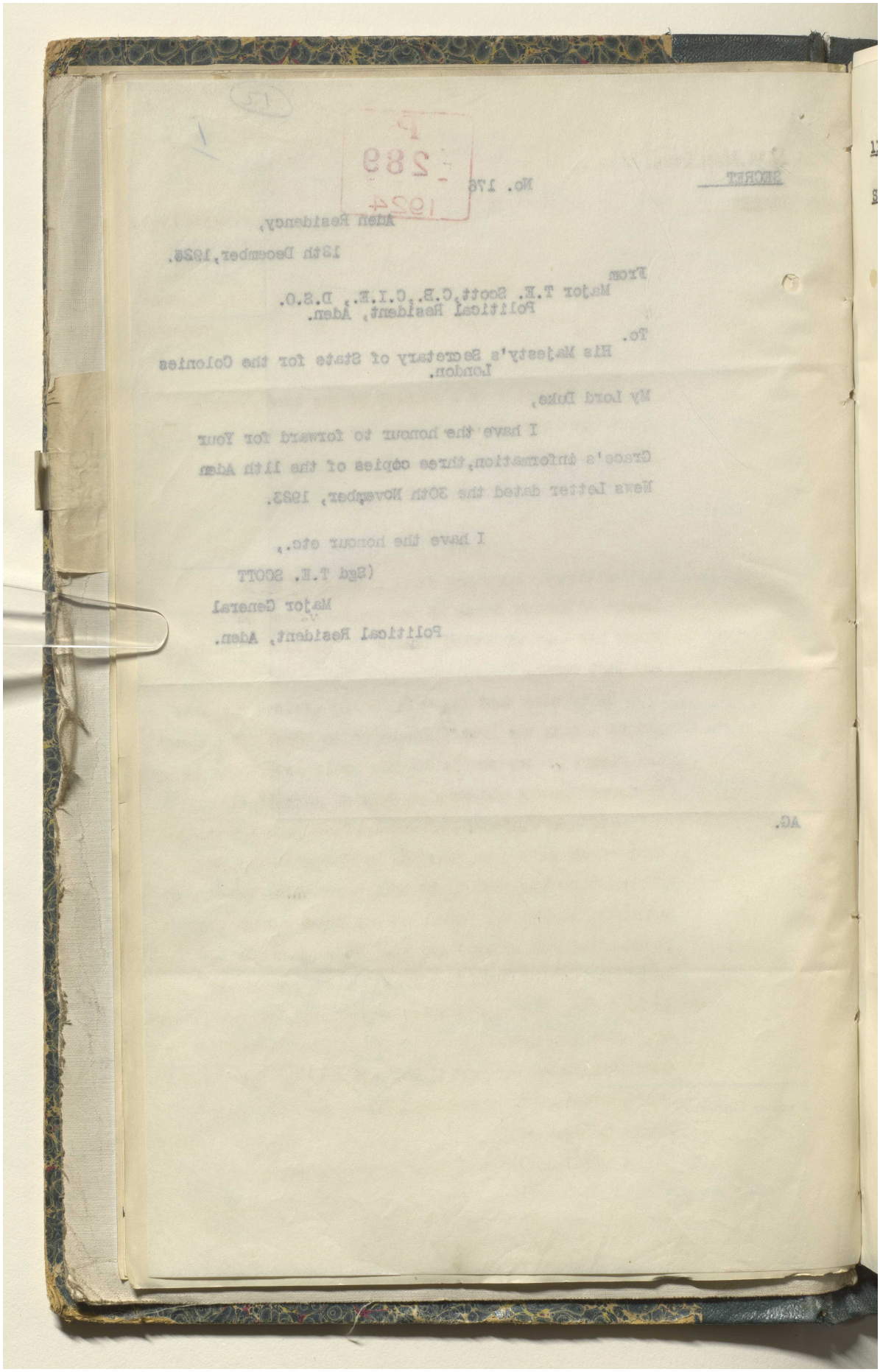

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289
1924

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11th Aden News Letter.

SECRET

ADEN RESIDENCY
30th November, 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 6th November 1923.

TIHAMA

Although there are still rumours of an early Imamic attack on Buraa in the neighbourhood of Bajil there has been no actual change in the situation during the past month.

It is said that Izzet Pasha has advised the Imam not to attack the Idrisi Tihama or to occupy it against the wishes of the people as this would compel the Idrisi to throw himself entirely on British protection.

One open despatch and one another secret despatch from Angora have been received by Mahmud Nadhim Bey. The contents are said to be that the Turkish Government have not settled the future of the Yemen though they have decided not to reoccupy it. As however the inhabitants desire Turkish protection and suzerainty to save them from the greed of foreigners, the Government will give this matter their deep and sympathetic consideration. The Arab Chiefs are then invited to send representatives to Angora to discuss the best form of future Government.

A reference is made to the Turkish officers still

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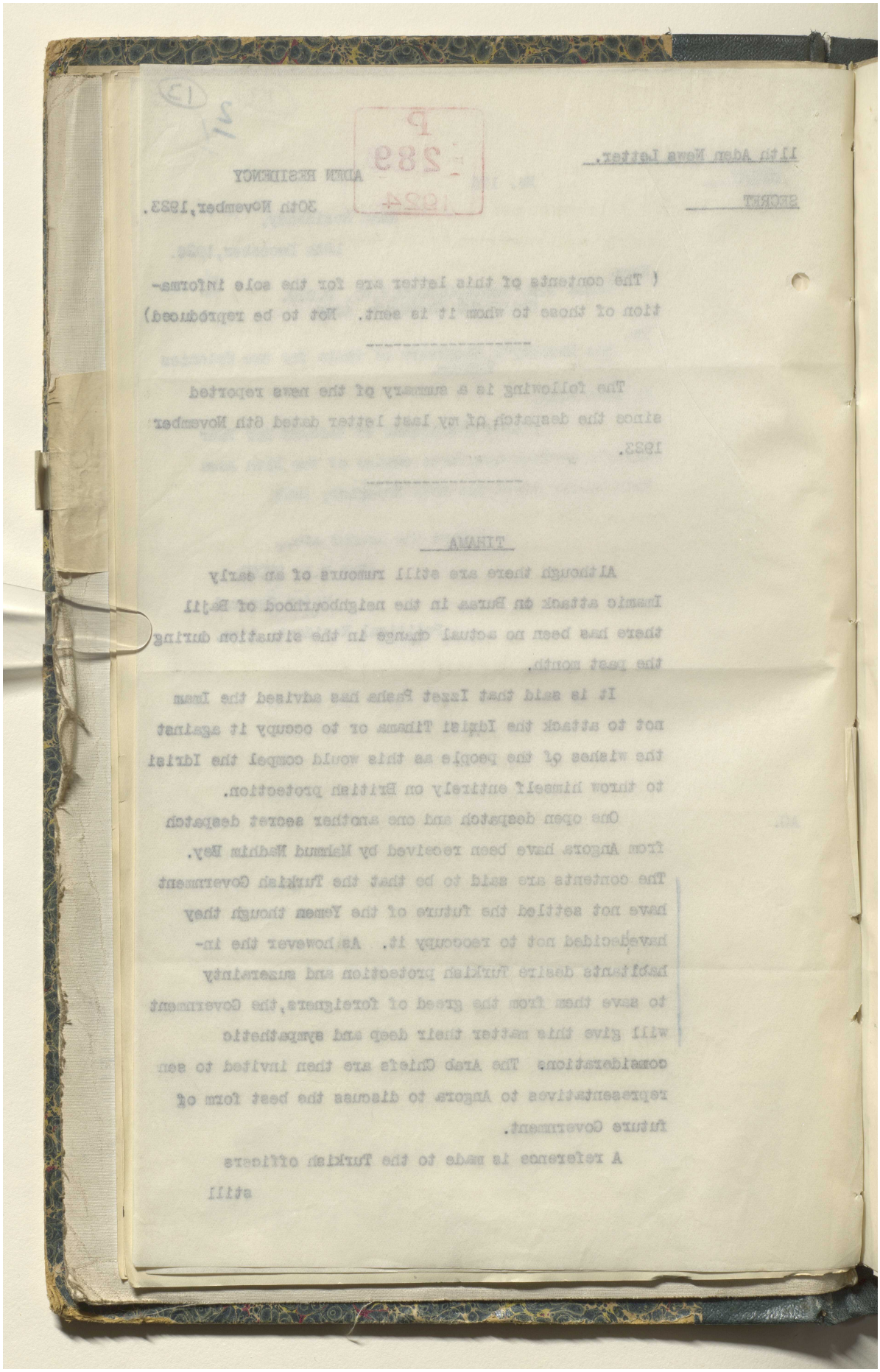

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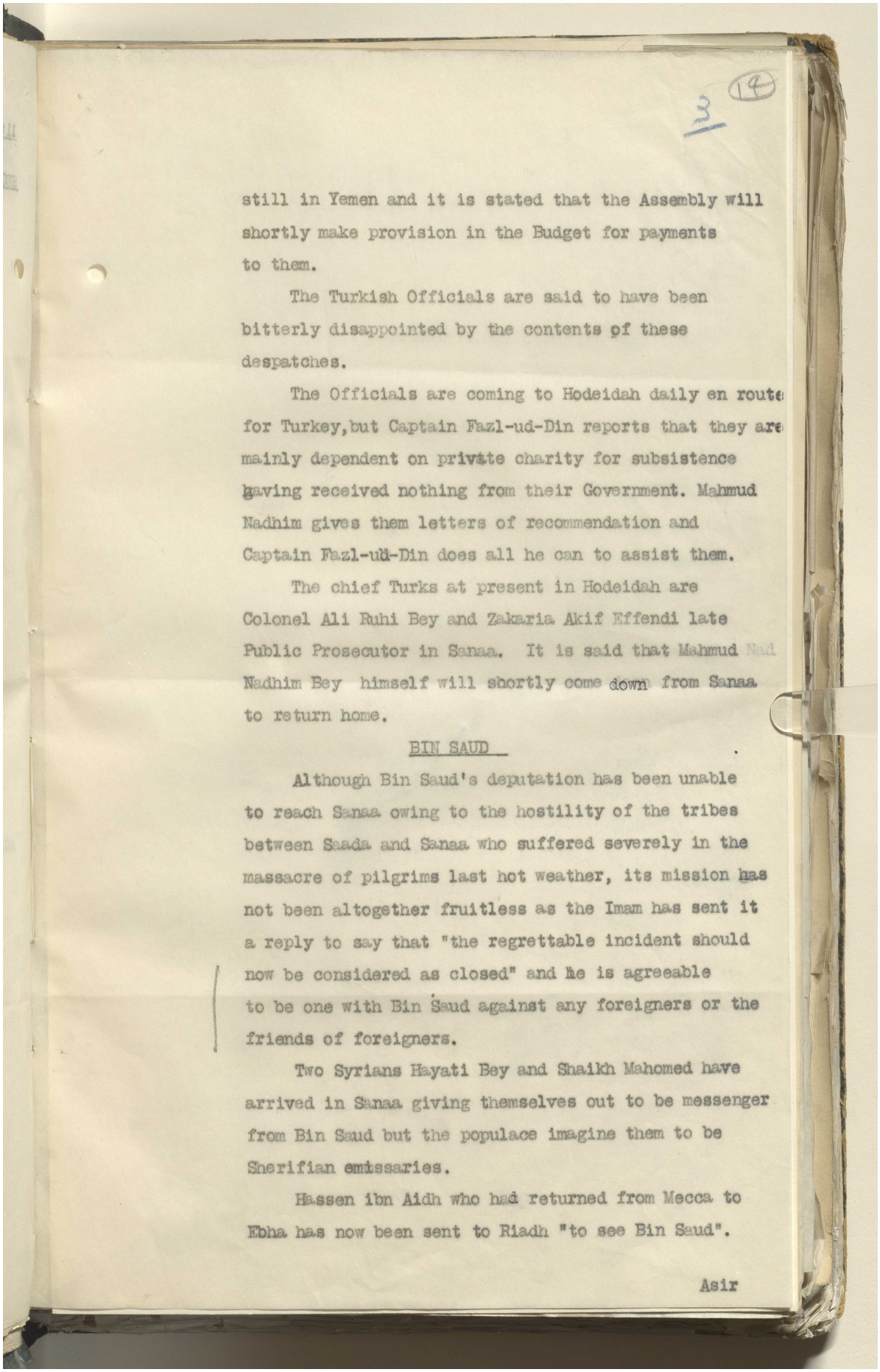

3 (14)

still in Yemen and it is stated that the Assembly will shortly make provision in the Budget for payments to them.

The Turkish Officials are said to have been bitterly disappointed by the contents of these despatches.

The Officials are coming to Hodeidah daily en route for Turkey, but Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that they are mainly dependent on private charity for subsistence having received nothing from their Government. Mahmud Nadhim gives them letters of recommendation and Captain Fazl-ud-Din does all he can to assist them.

The chief Turks at present in Hodeidah are Colonel Ali Ruhi Bey and Zakaria Akif Effendi late Public Prosecutor in Sanaa. It is said that Mahmud Nad Nadhim Bey himself will shortly come down from Sanaa to return home.

BIN SAUD

Although Bin Saud's deputation has been unable to reach Sanaa owing to the hostility of the tribes between Saada and Sanaa who suffered severely in the massacre of pilgrims last hot weather, its mission has not been altogether fruitless as the Imam has sent it a reply to say that "the regrettable incident should now be considered as closed" and he is agreeable to be one with Bin Saud against any foreigners or the friends of foreigners.

Two Syrians Hayati Bey and Shaikh Mahomed have arrived in Sanaa giving themselves out to be messenger from Bin Saud but the populace imagine them to be Sherifian emissaries.

Hassen ibn Aidh who had returned from Mecca to Ebha has now been sent to Riadh "to see Bin Saud".

Asir

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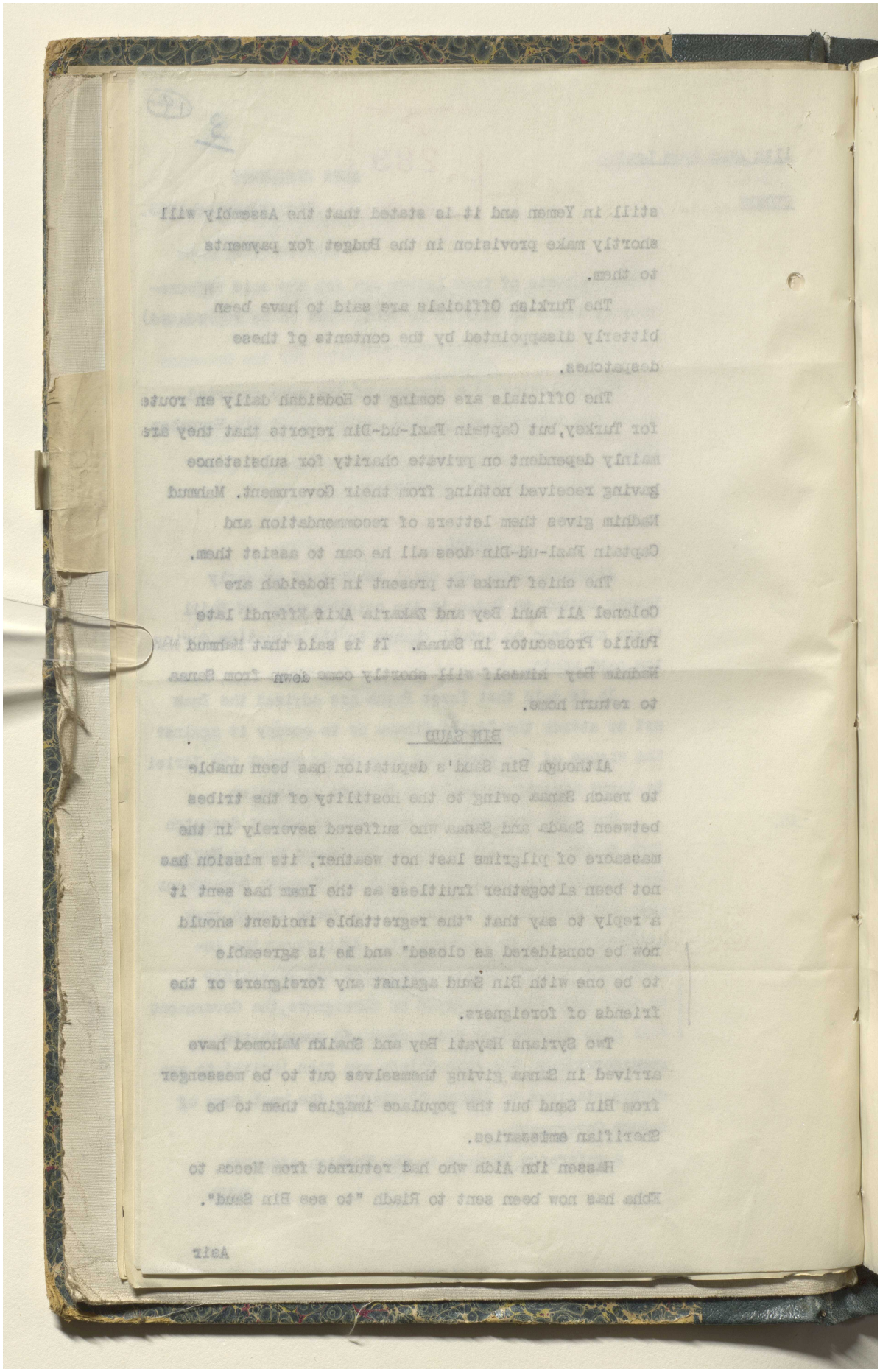

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(15) 4

A S I R

Sayed Ali the young Idrisi arrived in Lohaiya with an escort of 400 tribesmen and accompanied by Shaikh Yahiya Zakari, Sharif Hamood, Kazi Abdur Rahman al Utmi and Kazi Ali Utaif. The last named, a boy of 20 has more influence over the young Idrisi than any other person at present. Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that he fills the joint posts of Chief Judge and Confidential Secretary.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din had two interviews with the young Idrisi during which he spoke his mind freely as to his immature intellect which makes him a prey to flatterers and sycophants. He attributed Sayed Mahomed the late Idrisi's success first to that ruler's outstanding personality, then to the extreme misgovernment of the Turks and finally to their misfortune in 3 wars. None of these causes hold good at the present time and Sayed Ali must rely on good government and not on pious ejaculations. At present the misgovernment was upsetting the whole country, and as a proof of this the Quhra Shaikhs had told Mahomed Tahir Ridwan the Idrisi Commander at Bajil, that they were quite able to look after themselves and would bless the day when the Idrisi troops withdrew from their country.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din added that he was glad to see that Sayed Mustafa was not taking affairs into his own hands, and that in the cup of bitterness he could see only two drops of consolation, one was that the country was still peaceful and the other that the British Government wishes the Idrisi Government to be strong.

Some

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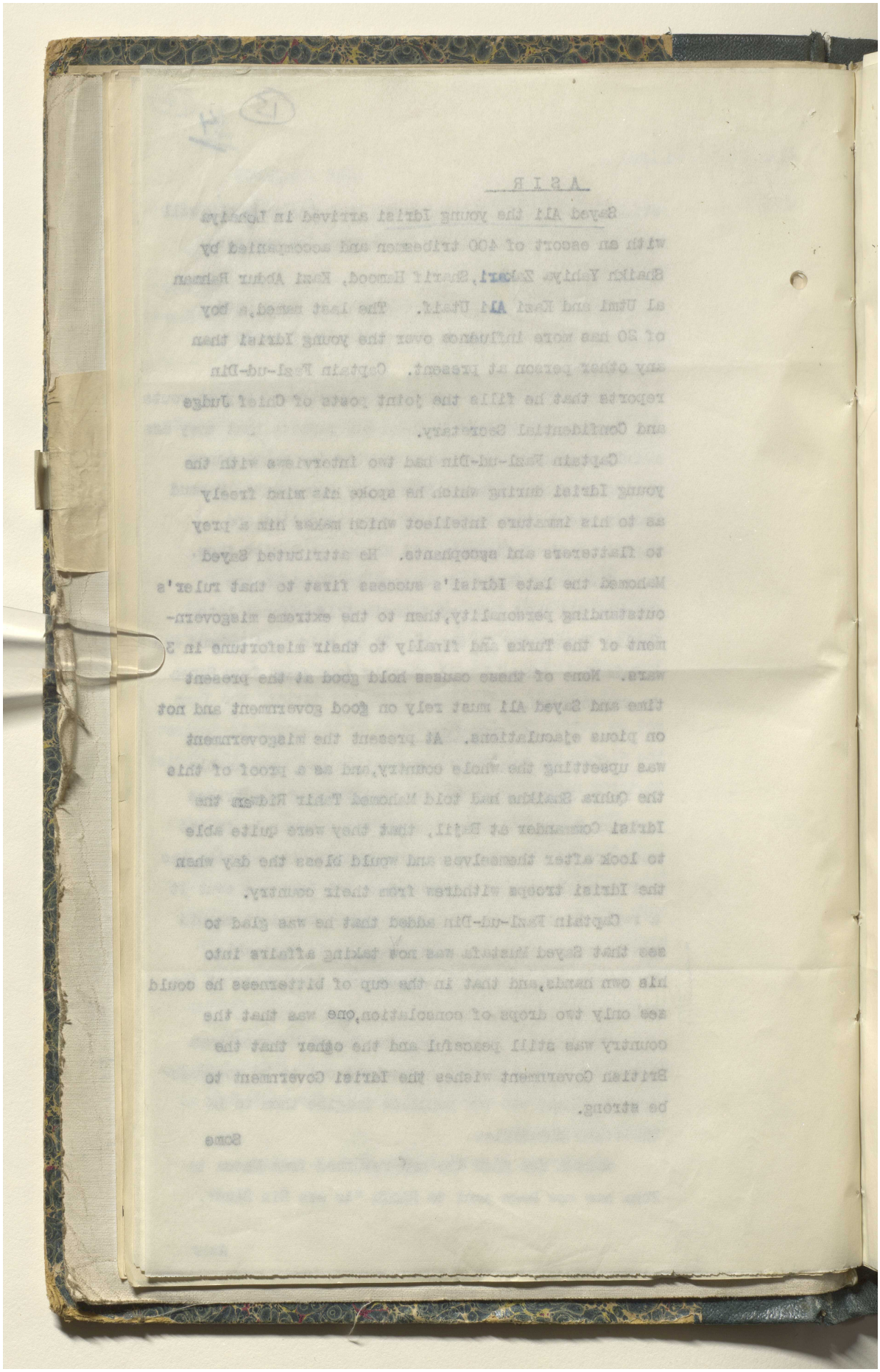

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(16) 5

Some of the Idrisi's counsellors supported Captain Fazl-ud-Din in his words, by murmers of approval,but at the conclusion the Idrisi's only reply was "an idiotic stare, a wide-mouthed "Ha" followed by an imbecile laugh".

Captain Fazl-ud-Din further reports the approaching marriage of the Idrisi with the daughter of an oil presser named Hassan Mahomed Bagara, a bad character.

Sayed Mustafa has been the victim of prolonged propaganda directed from Egypt mainly by his brothers but he is now regaining much of his former influence. His star is in the ascendant and the flatterers kiss his feet, but it is not to be expected that the attacks on him will cease. He has had much difficulty in restraining the young Idrisi from writing a letter to Mahmud Nadhim Bey, to say that he hated the foreign influence in his country, recognised Mustafa Kemal as his virtual over-lord and was ready to carry out his behests.

Sayed Mustafa suggested to the Idrisi that Mahmud Nadhim was working for the Imam, who wished to get possession of something to show his perfidy to the British.

FARISAN ISLANDS & SALIF.

Some of the Idrisian courtiers have been attempting to make money out of the Farisan Island and Salif concessions and it is said that they are in correspondence with Italians at Massawa on this subject.

SLAVE TRADE

180 slaves now in Midi arrived during October and

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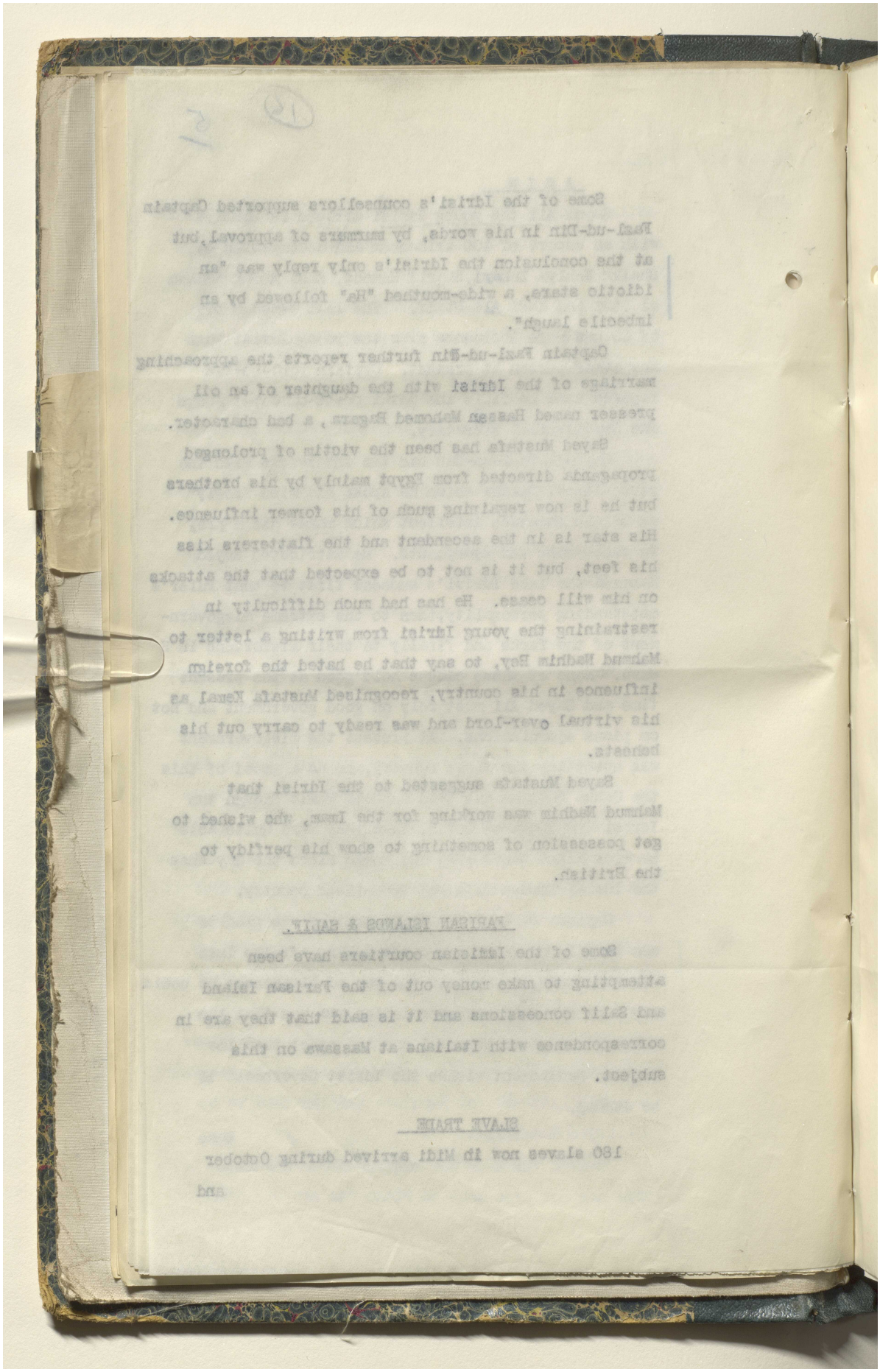

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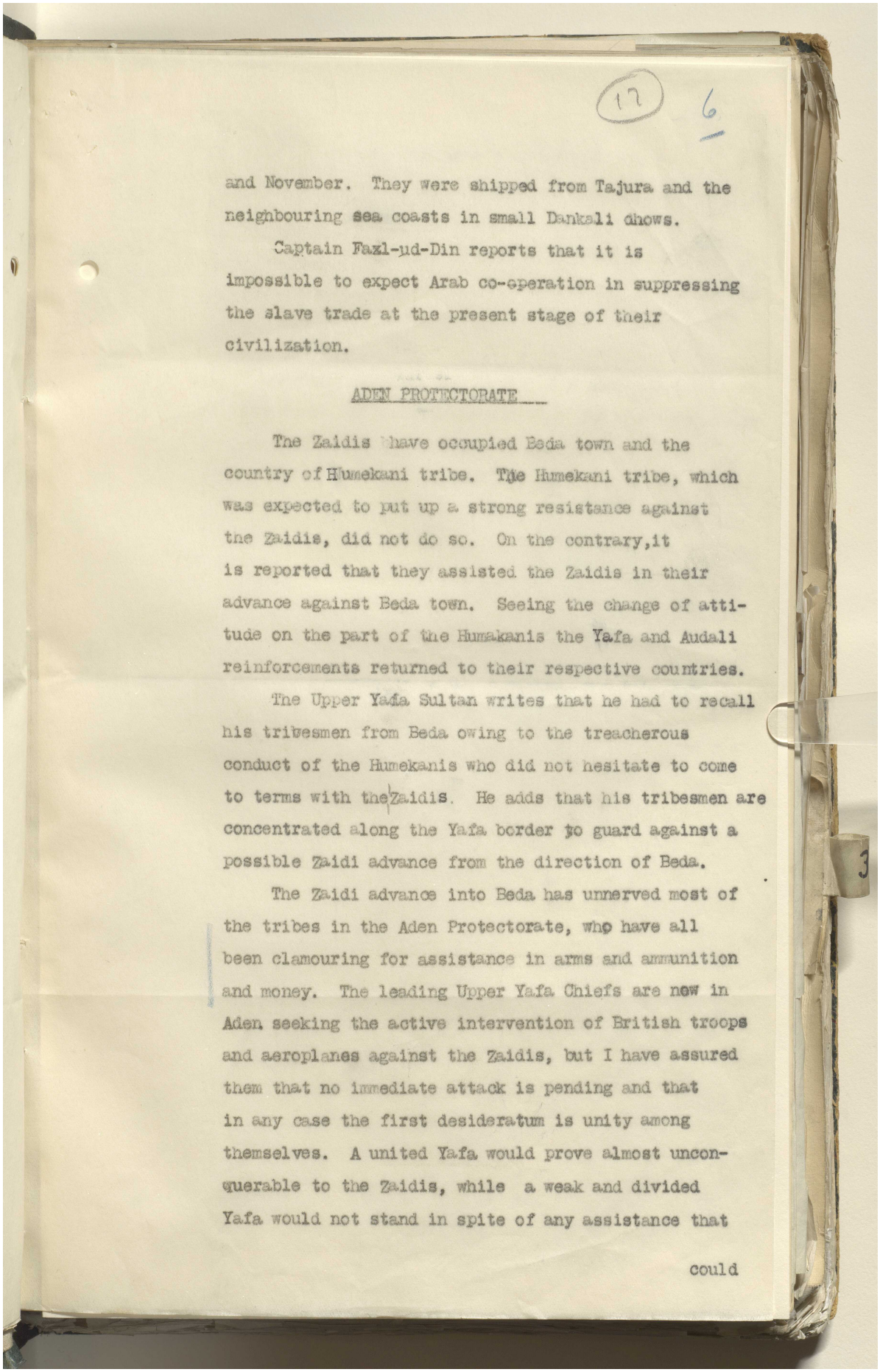

(17) 6

and November. They were shipped from Tajura and the neighbouring sea coasts in small Dankali dhows.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that it is impossible to expect Arab co-operation in suppressing the slave trade at the present stage of their civilization.

ADEN PROTECTORATE

The Zaidis have occupied Beda town and the country of Humekani tribe. The Humekani tribe, which was expected to put up a strong resistance against the Zaidis, did not do so. On the contrary,it is reported that they assisted the Zaidis in their advance against Beda town. Seeing the change of attitude on the part of the Humakanis the Yafa and Audali reinforcements returned to their respective countries.

The Upper Yafa Sultan writes that he had to recall his tribesmen from Beda owing to the treacherous conduct of the Humekanis who did not hesitate to come to terms with the Zaidis. He adds that his tribesmen are concentrated along the Yafa border to guard against a possible Zaidi advance from the direction of Beda.

The Zaidi advance into Beda has unnerved most of the tribes in the Aden Protectorate, who have all been clamouring for assistance in arms and ammunition and money. The leading Upper Yafa Chiefs are now in Aden seeking the active intervention of British troops and aeroplanes against the Zaidis, but I have assured them that no immediate attack is pending and that in any case the first desideratum is unity among themselves. A united Yafa would prove almost unconquerable to the Zaidis, while a weak and divided Yafa would not stand in spite of any assistance that

could

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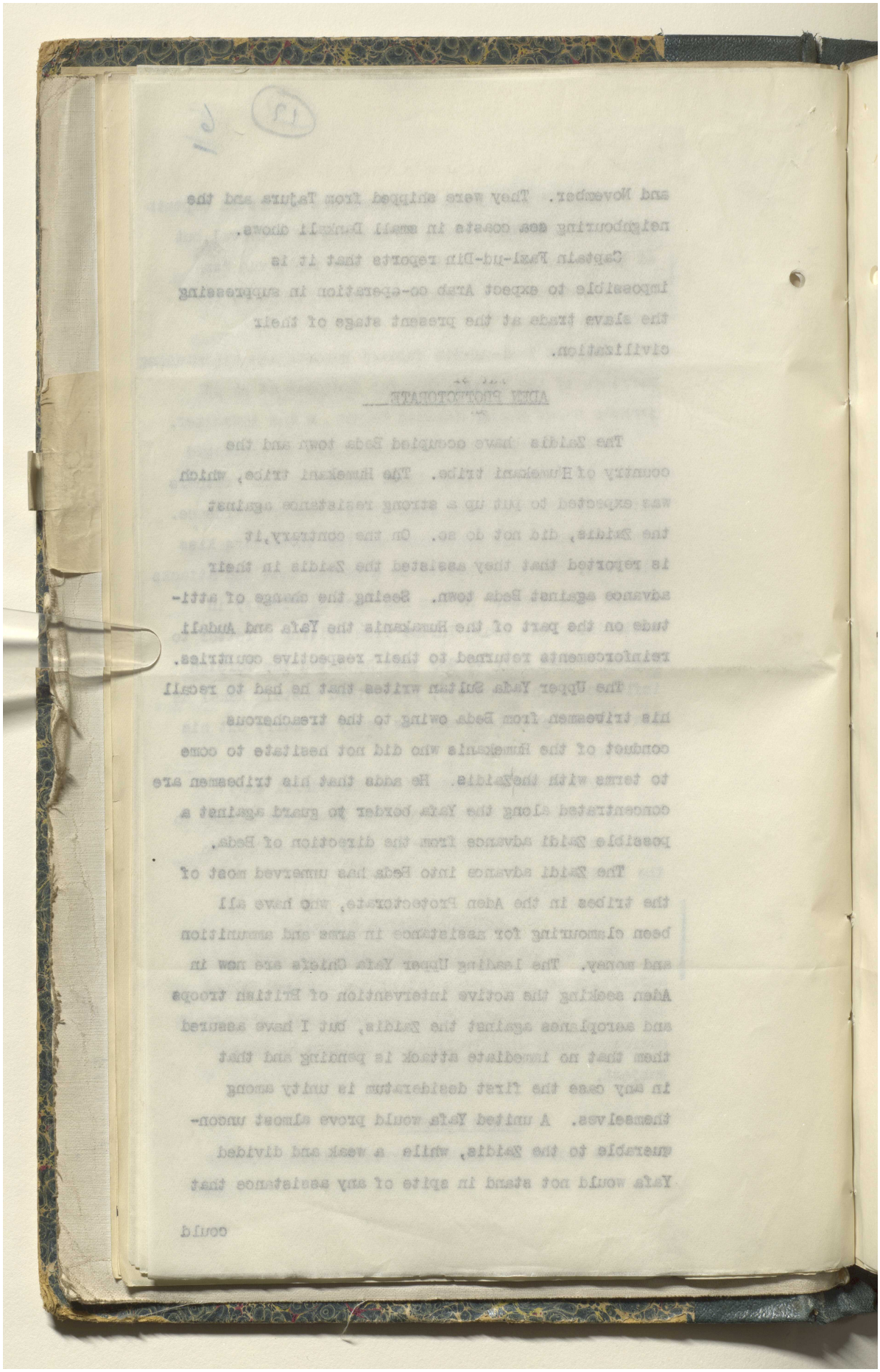

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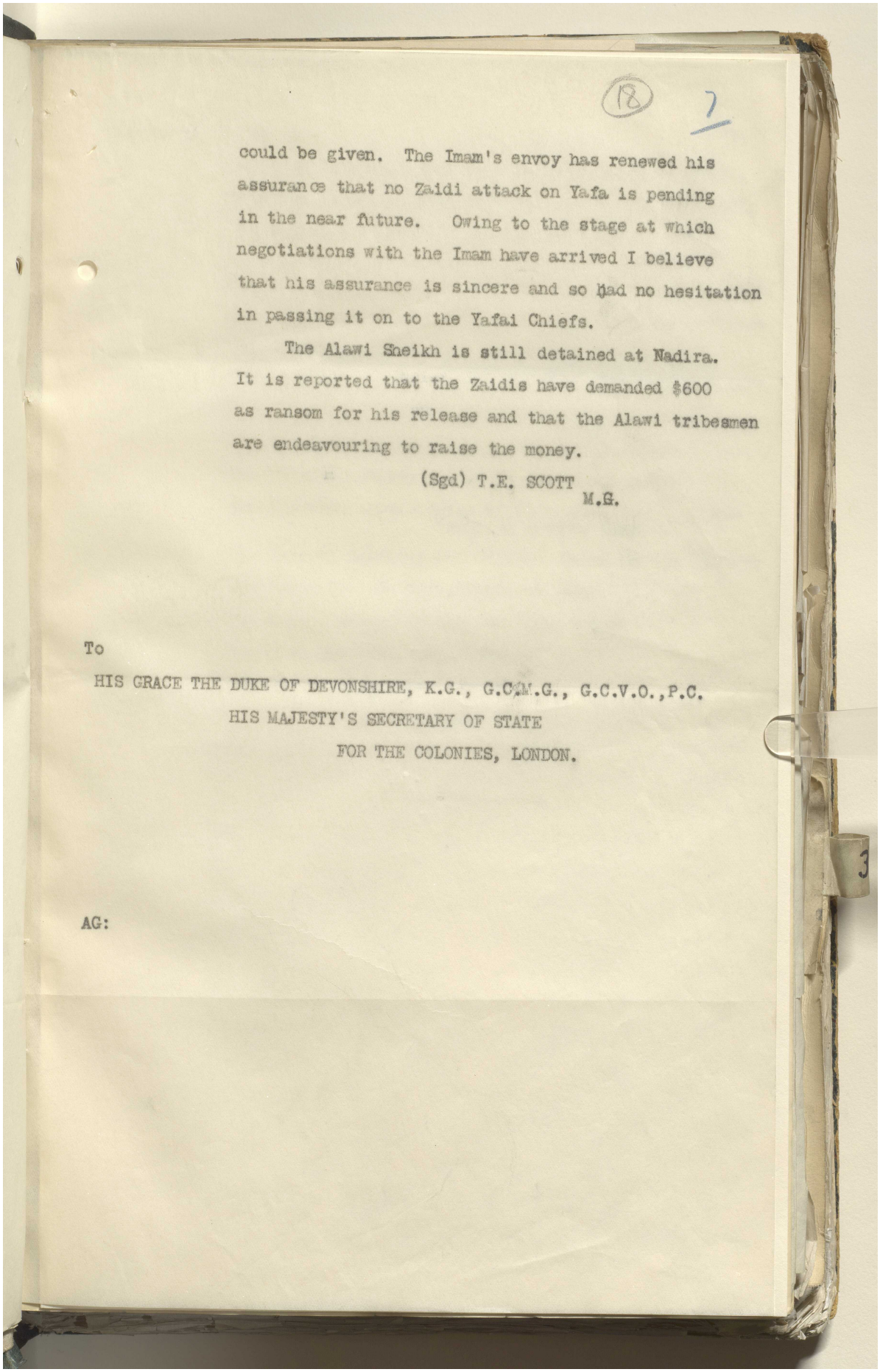

(18) 7

could be given. The Imam's envoy has renewed his assurance that no Zaidi attack on Yafa is pending in the near future. Owing to the stage at which negotiations with the Imam have arrived I believe that his assurance is sincere and so had no hesitation in passing it on to the Yafai Chiefs.

The Alawi Sheikh is still detained at Nadira. It is reported that the Zaidis have demanded $600 as ransom for his release and that the Alawi tribesmen are endeavouring to raise the money.

(Sgd) T.E. SCOTT
M.G.

To

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,P.C.
HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES, LONDON.

AG:

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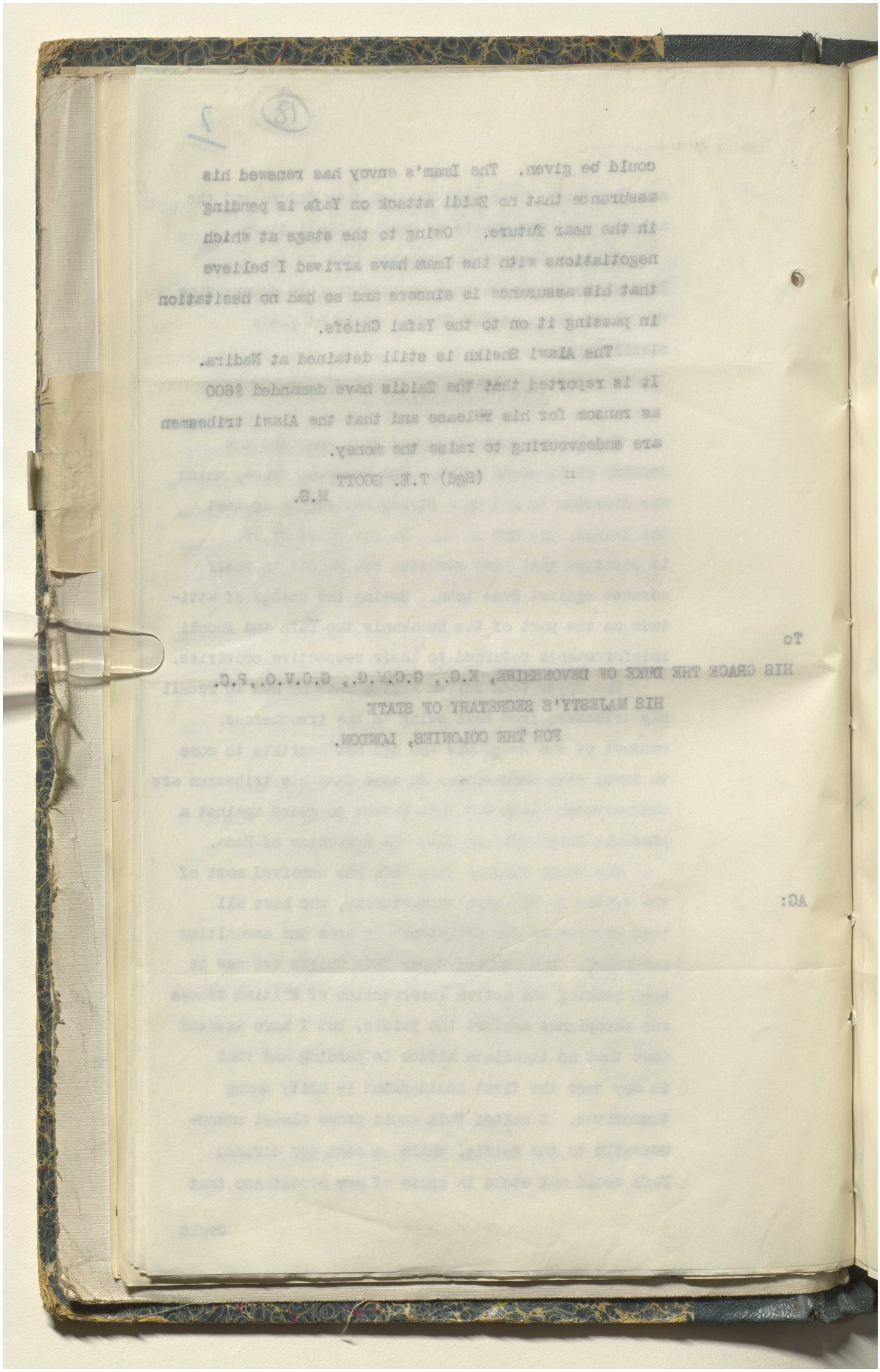

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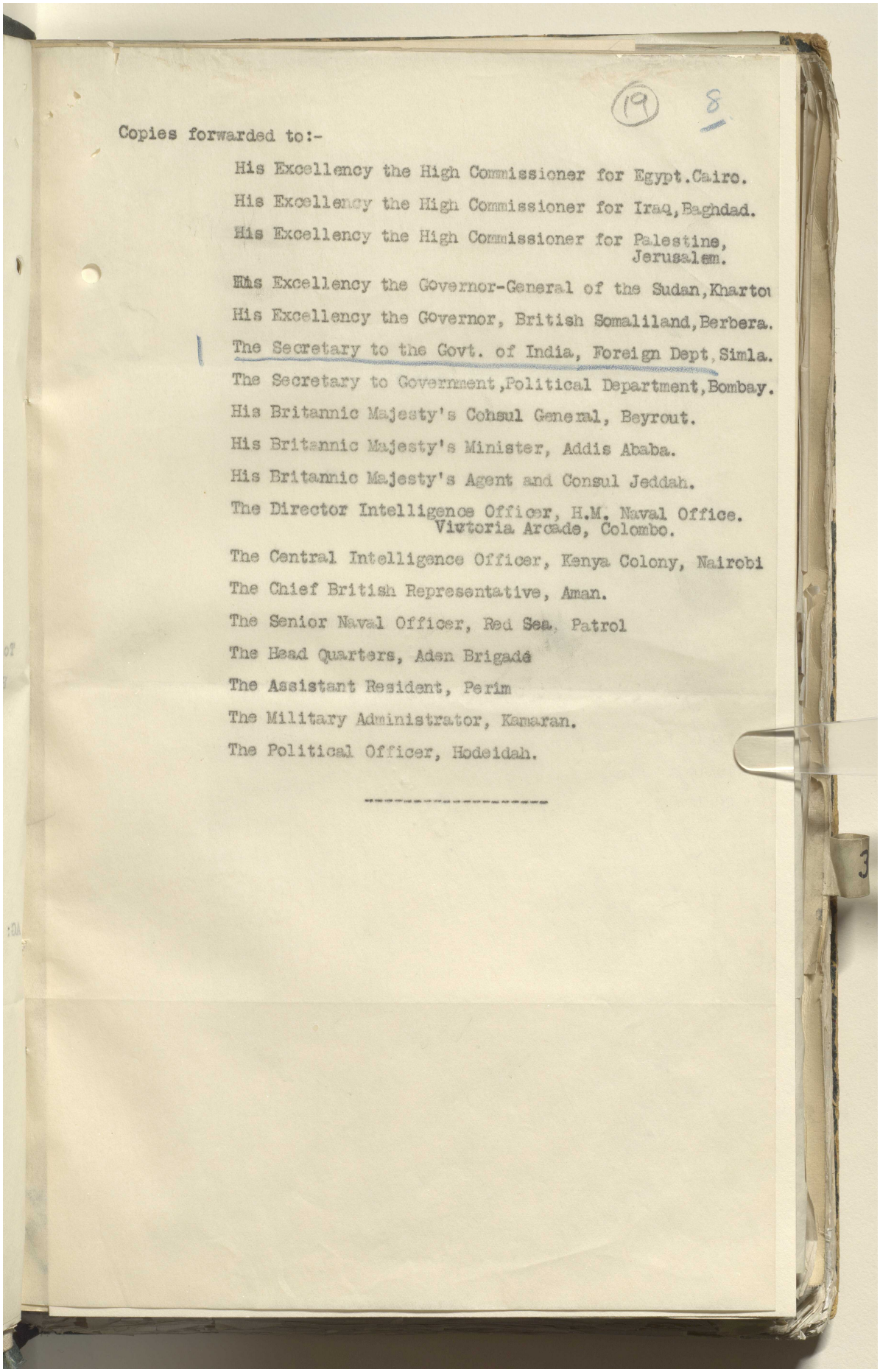

(19) 8

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His Excellency the High Commissioner for Iraq,Baghdad.
His Excellency the High Commissioner for Palestine, Jerusalem.
His Excellency the Governor-General of the Sudan,Khartou
His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland,Berbera.
The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept, Simla.
The Secretary to Government,Political Department,Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa.
His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul Jeddah.
The Director Intelligence Officer, H.M. Naval Office. Victoria Arcade, Colombo.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Patrol
The Head Quarters, Aden Brigade
The Assistant Resident, Perim
The Military Administrator, Kamaran.
The Political Officer, Hodeidah.

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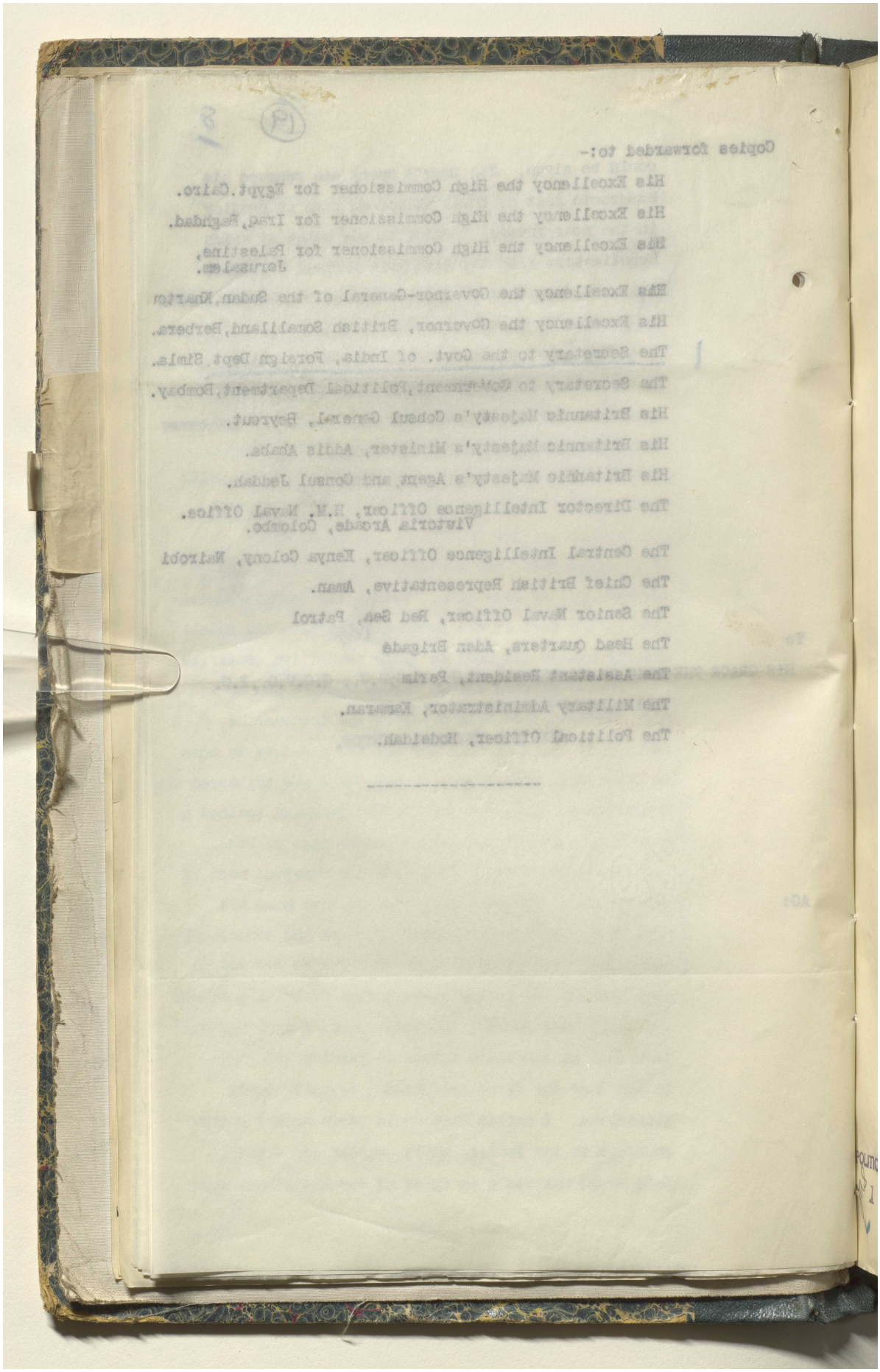

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 44491

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	10. xii	[illegible]	Arabia — Aden News Letter of 6 Nov.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	11	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

P.I. Nothing is known of Col Jacob's visit to Sanaa.

Abdul Kadir, referred to in para 2, is one of the most prominent of the Quhra Chiefs who prevented Col Jacob from reaching the Imam by holding up his mission at Bajil from August to December 1919.

The agreement mentioned in para 3, is presumably the unauthorised agreement signed by Col Jacob, in connection with the negotiations for his release, which was subsequently repudiated by H.M.G.

With regard to this agreement Col Meek, who was in charge of the negotiations says in his report .. "The agreement, however, repeats certain assurances officially conveyed to the Sheikhs by me .... they provide for the protection by Govt. of the Quhra tribe from agression by the Imam and Idrisi .. "

He regrets the hand of Govt. to be freed from this liability, however, by reason of subsequent action on the part of the Quhra tribe in accepting the protection of the Idrisi against an attack on their territory by the Imam

[illegible] 20/11/23

Previous Papers : —

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE,
19 DEC 1923

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[illegible] 14/12 [illegible] 19/12

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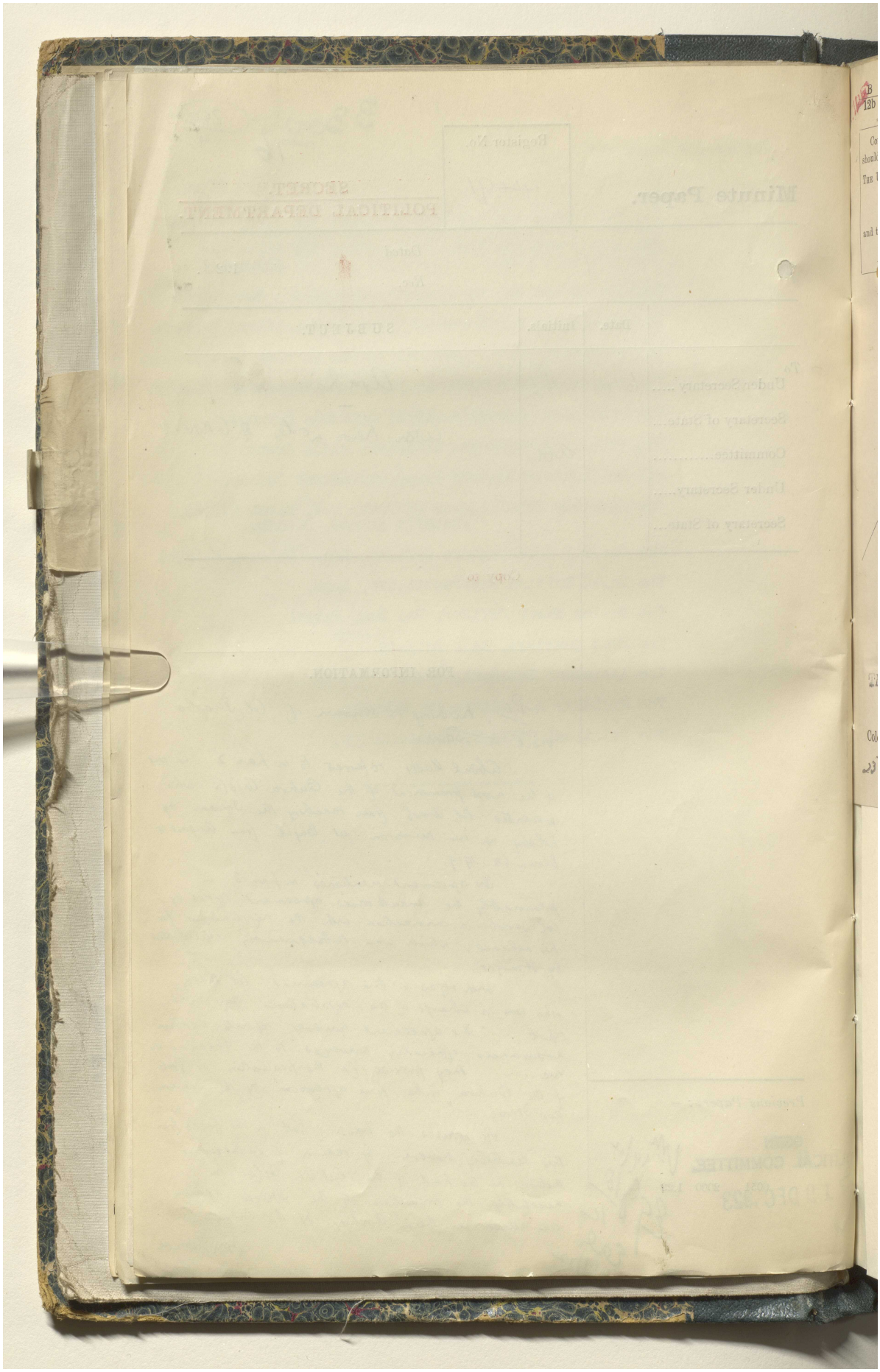

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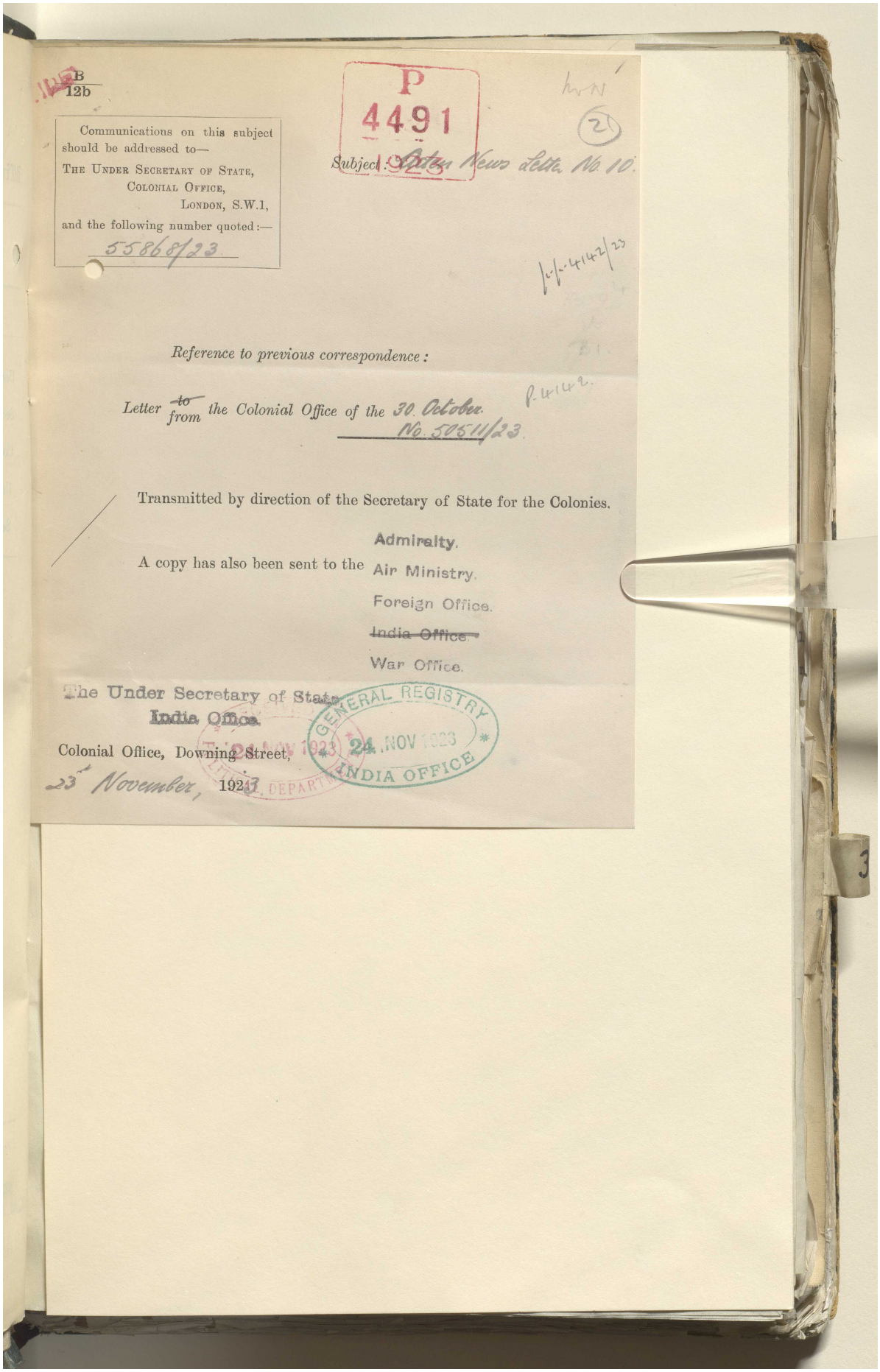

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
55868/23

Subject: Aden News Letter No 10.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 30 October
No. 50511/23.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

GENERAL REGISTRY 24 NOV 1923 INDIA OFFICE

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
23rd November, 1921.

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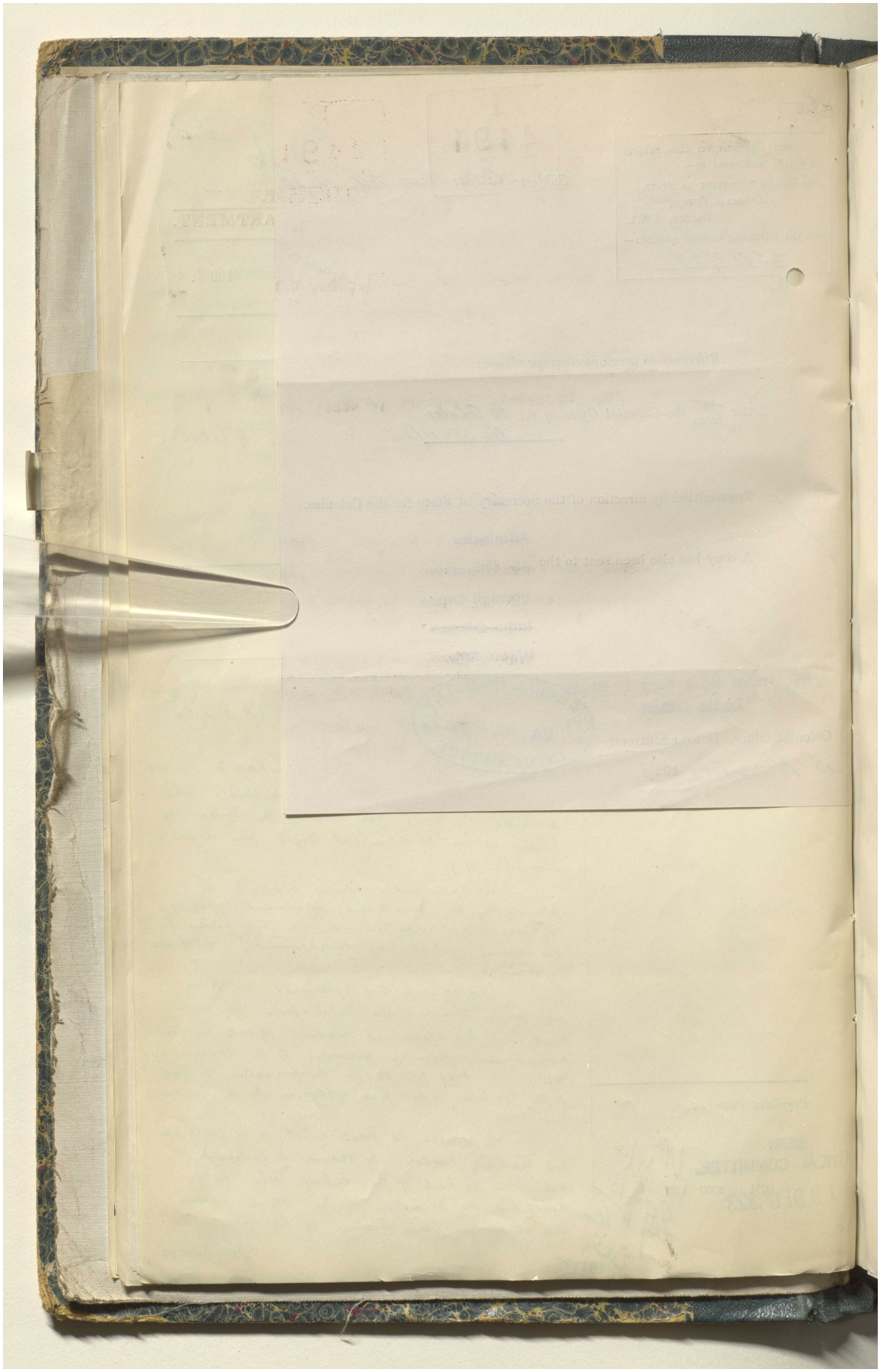

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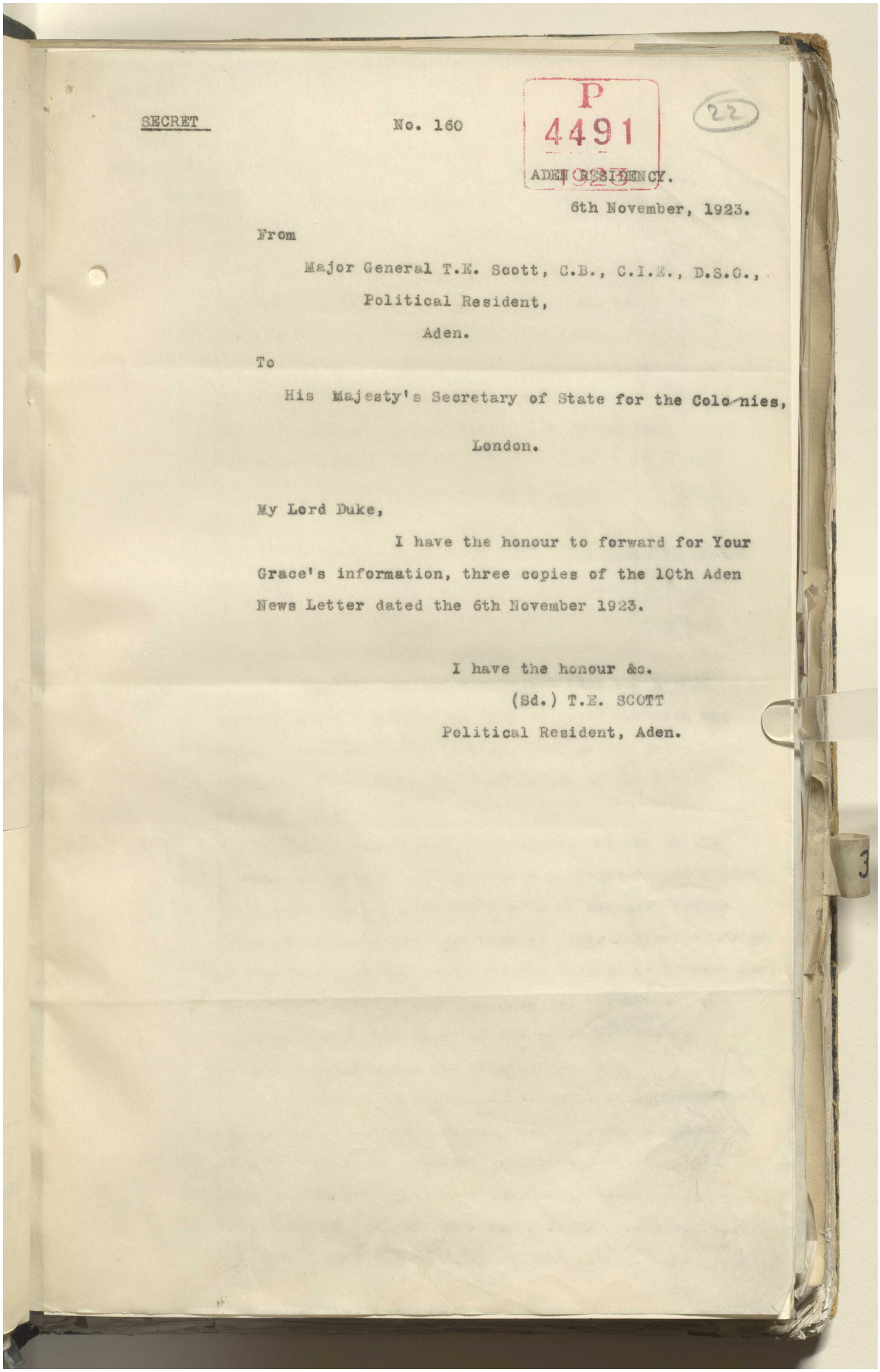

SECRET

No. 160

P
4491
1923
ADEN RESIDENCY.

22

6th November, 1923.

From

Major General T.E. Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident,
Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 10th Aden News Letter dated the 6th November 1923.

I have the honour &c.
(Sd.) T.E. SCOTT
Political Resident, Aden.

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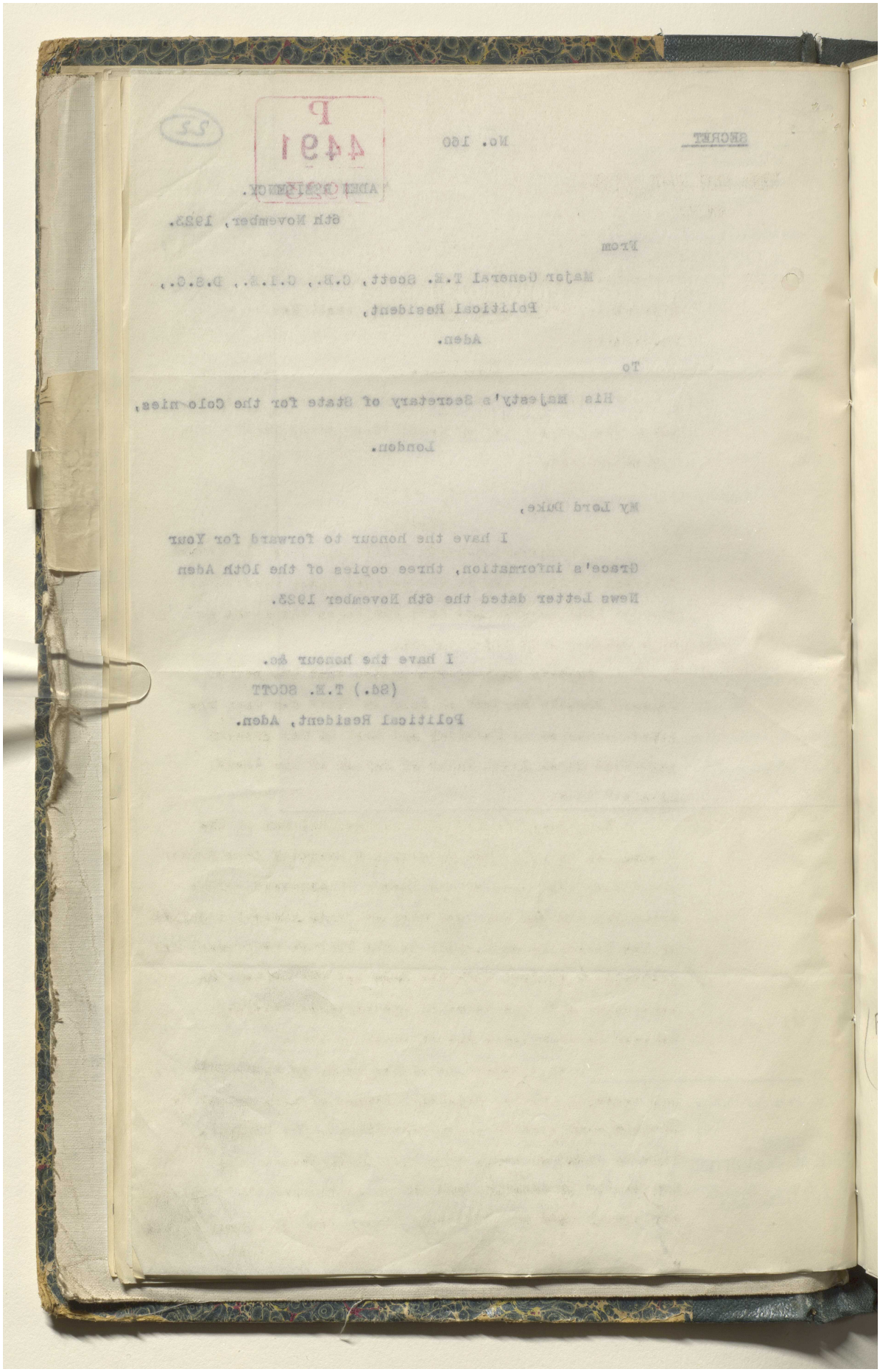

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10th ADEN NEWS LETTER. Aden Residency.

SECRET. 6th November, 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 30th September 1923.

TIHAMA.

1 Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob late First Assistant Resident at Aden, now on the retired list, arrived at Aden on 12th October and left for Sanaa via Mocha on 28th October with Major Spiers.

2 Captain Fazl-ud-Din writes that the news of Colonel Jacob's arrival at Aden en route for Sana has caused surprise in Hodeidah and that it has greatly perturbed Sayed Abdul Kader of Marawa of the 'Jacob Mission' fame.

3 This Sayed is the most influential man in the Tihama. It is said that he awaits a despatch from Angora containing the terms of the treaty of Lausanne before declaring himself and that when he finds himself deserted by the Turks, he will apply to the British Government for protection against both the Imam and the Idrisi, in accordance with the terms of the agreement whereby Colonel Jacob's Mission was released in 1919.

File 349/19 968/20

4 From a report submitted to me by Major Barrett, who recently visited Hodeidah, Idrisi affairs appear to be in a very unsatisfactory condition. The Idrisi's rule in Hodeidah rests on a very shaky basis. His Government is bankrupt and can no longer pay their troops nor supply them with military stores and the Tihama tribes are

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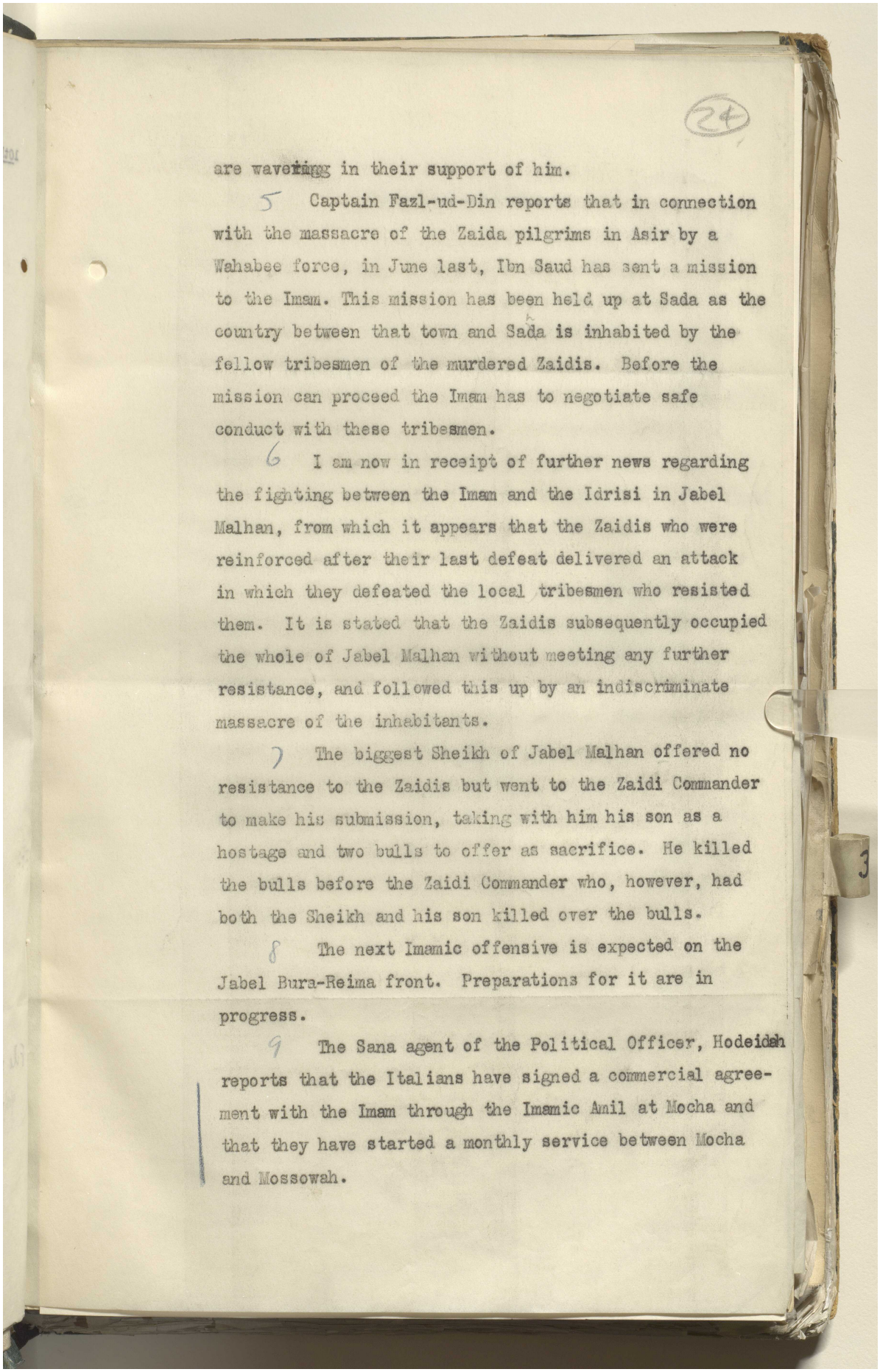

(24)

are wavering in their support of him.

5 Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that in connection with the massacre of the Zaida pilgrims in Asir by a Wahabee force, in June last, Ibn Saud has sent a mission to the Imam. This mission has been held up at Sada as the country between that town and Sada is inhabited by the fellow tribesmen of the murdered Zaidis. Before the mission can proceed the Imam has to negotiate safe conduct with these tribesmen.

6 I am now in receipt of further news regarding the fighting between the Imam and the Idrisi in Jabel Malhan, from which it appears that the Zaidis who were reinforced after their last defeat delivered an attack in which they defeated the local tribesmen who resisted them. It is stated that the Zaidis subsequently occupied the whole of Jabel Malhan without meeting any further resistance, and followed this up by an indiscriminate massacre of the inhabitants.

7 The biggest Sheikh of Jabel Malhan offered no resistance to the Zaidis but went to the Zaidi Commander to make his submission, taking with him his son as a hostage and two bulls to offer as sacrifice. He killed the bulls before the Zaidi Commander who, however, had both the Sheikh and his son killed over the bulls.

8 The next Imamic offensive is expected on the Jabel Bura-Reima front. Preparations for it are in progress.

9 The Sana agent of the Political Officer, Hodeidah reports that the Italians have signed a commercial agreement with the Imam through the Imamic Amil at Mocha and that they have started a monthly service between Mocha and Mossowah.

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(25)

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Zaidi force referred to in my last letter arrived in Beda territory and occupied Ahl Umar a small tract in Beda territory after overcoming the very feeble resistance made by the inhabitants of the place numbering about 250 men.

The Humakani and other sections of the Beda tribes are expected to put up a strong resistance against the Zaidis, Fighting is reported to be in progress, in which a large number of the Upper Yafa and Audali tribesmen have joined on the side of the Beda tribesmen. The townsmen in Beda are neutral.

The Zaidis are now reported to be preparing an expedition against Yafa, as their attempt to secure the neutrality of the Yafais, while they attacked Beda has failed.

About a month ago the Sheikh of Wadi Shaab who is in Aden, received a letter from Shaab saying that the Zaidis were expected to arrive there shortly for the annual collection of tithes. In forwarding the letter to this office the Sheikh threatened to make terms with the Zaidis unless we took steps to prevent them from entering the Shaab territory.

The Zaidis are reported to be intriguing with the Attifi tribes (Subehi). They have appointed the Akil of one of the sections of this tribe as their agent and have sent Imamic soldiers to assist him in collecting tithes from the people.

The Kotebi Sheikh who made his submission to the Zaidis recently, is endeavouring to win over the Dambari and Ahl Abdulla sections of Radfan, who have hitherto refused to submit to the Zaidis.

SLAVE TRADE.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din has received a report of the landing

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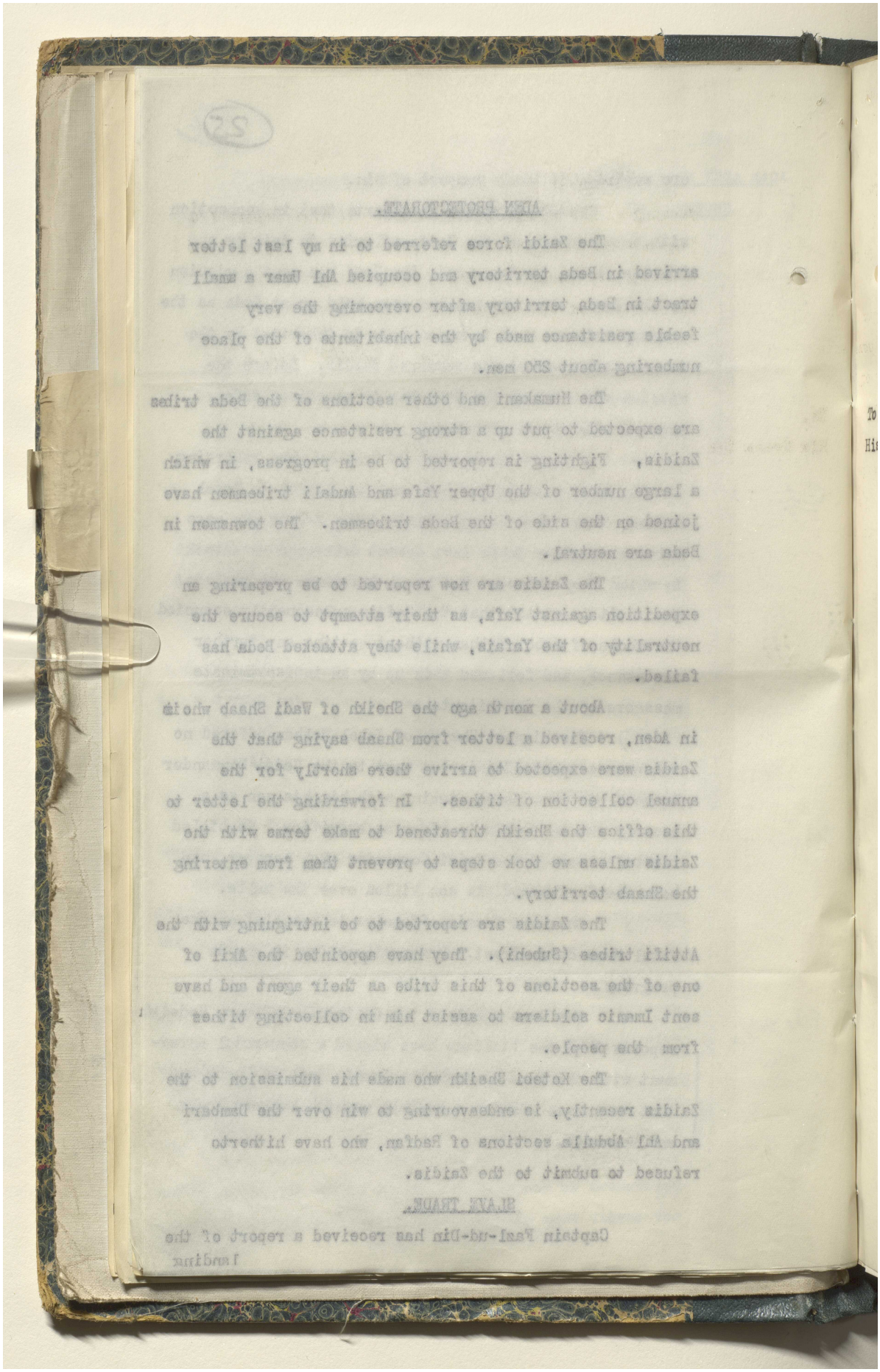

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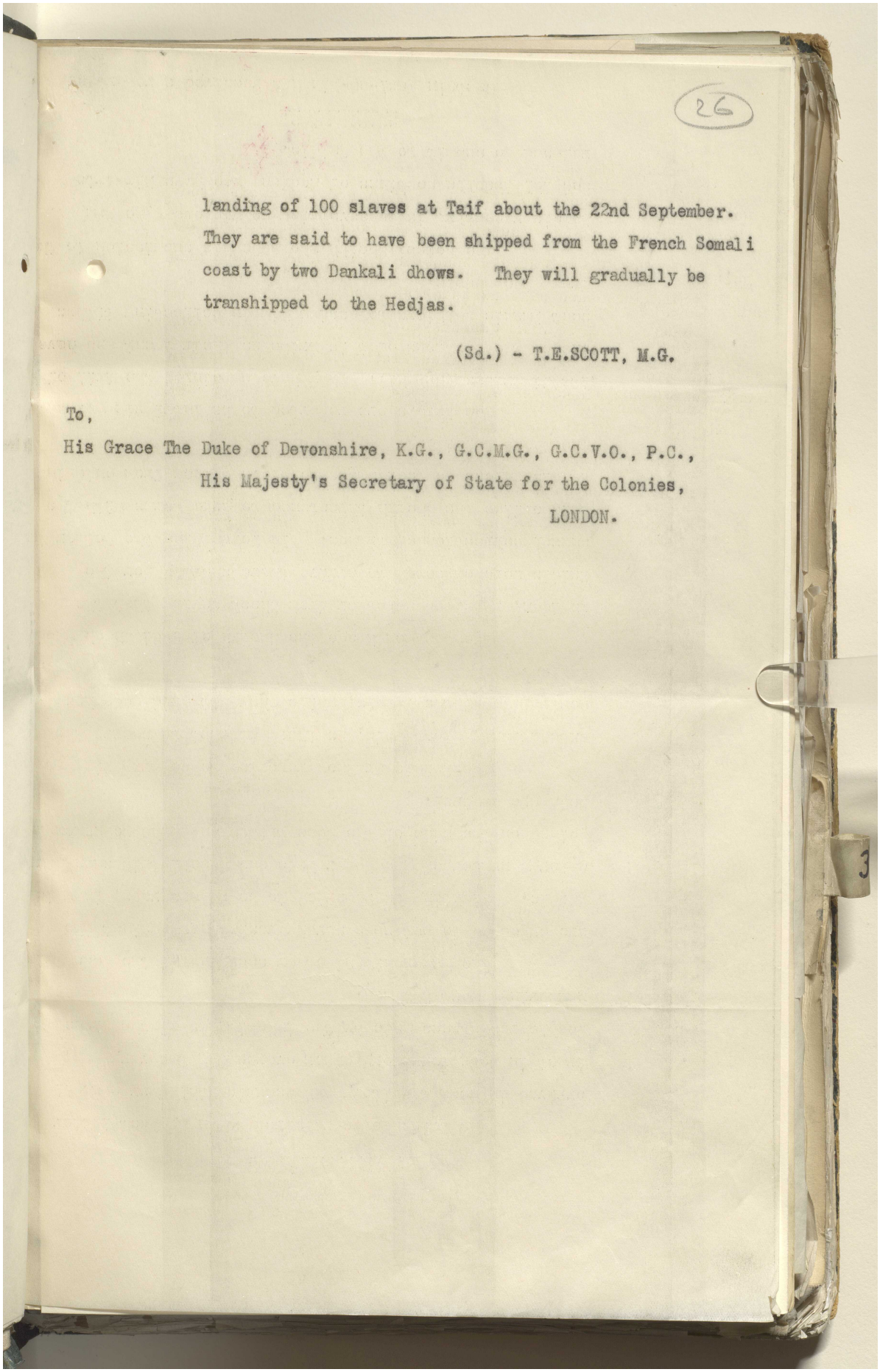

26

landing of 100 slaves at Taif about the 22nd September. They are said to have been shipped from the French Somali coast by two Dankali dhows. They will gradually be transhipped to the Hedjas.

(Sd.) - T.E.SCOTT, M.G.

To,

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
LONDON.

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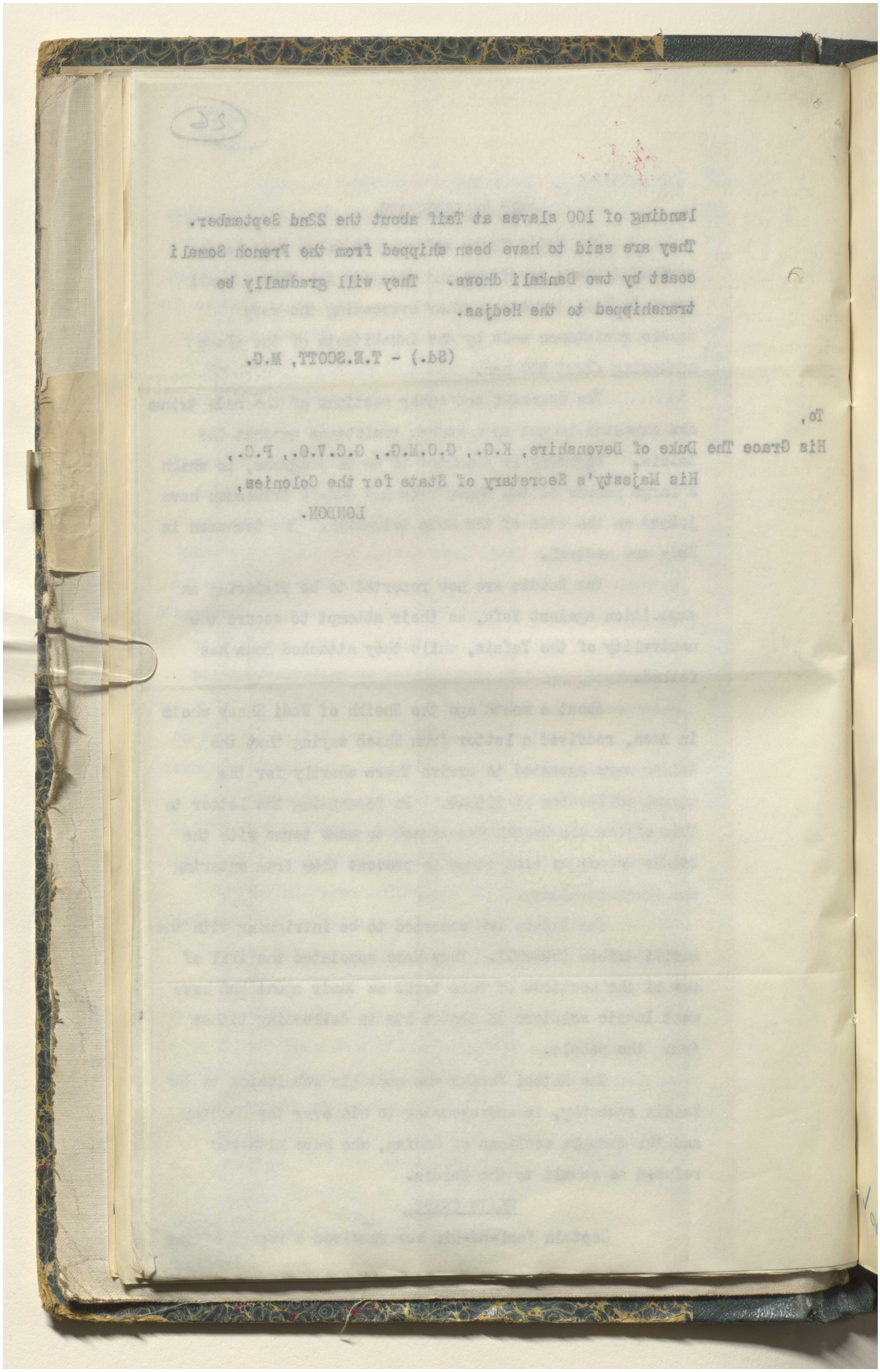

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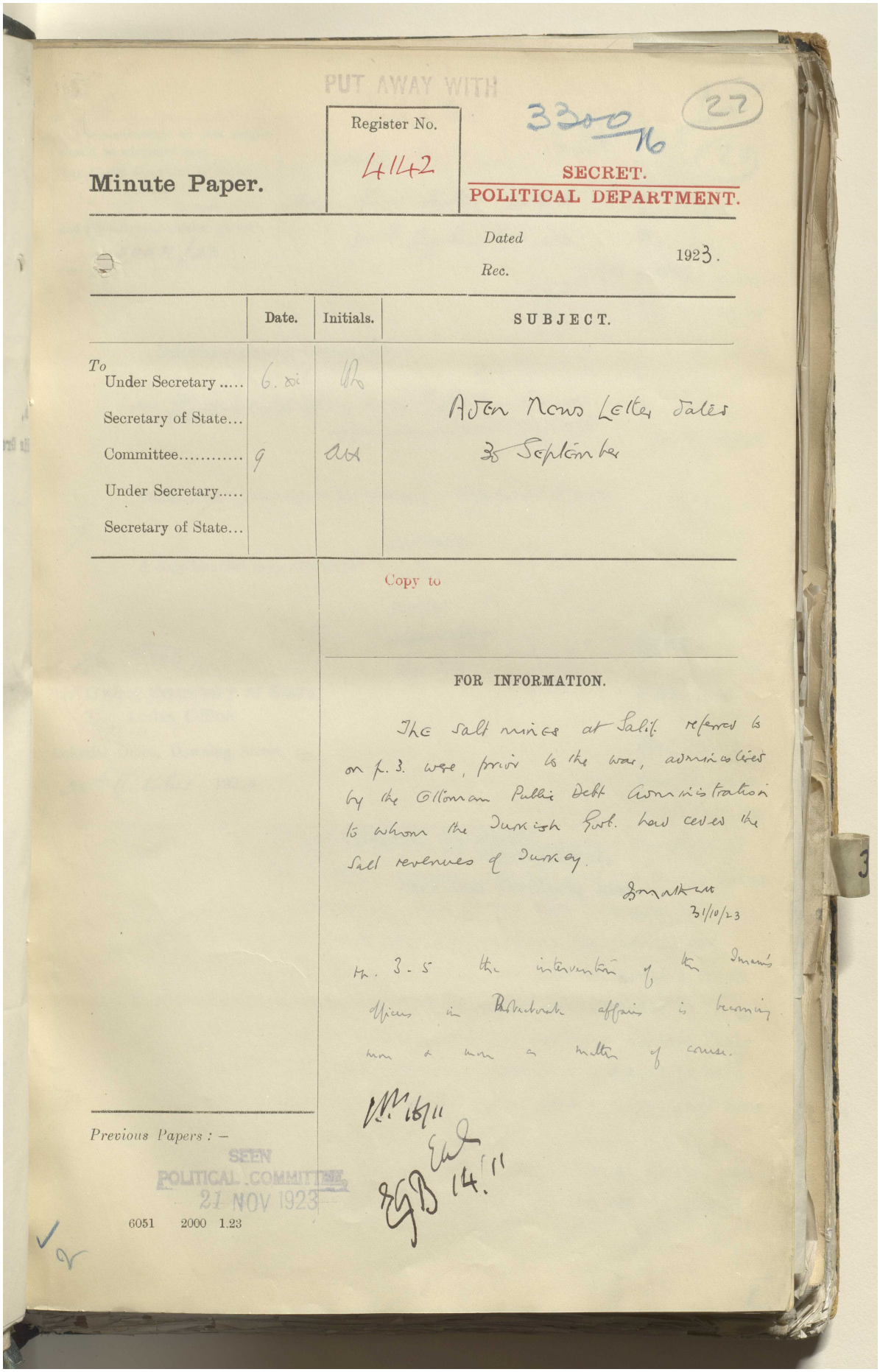

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Register No. 4142

3300/16

27

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	6. xi		Aden News Letter dated 30 September
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	9		
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

The salt mines at Salif referred to on p. 3. were, prior to the war, administered by the Ottoman Public Debt Administration to whom the Turkish Govt. had ceded the said revenues of Duty.

31/10/23

Pp. 3-5 the intervention of the Imam's officers in Protectorate affairs is becoming more & more a matter of concern.

Previous Papers :—

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POLITICAL COMMITTEE
21 NOV 1923

6051 2000 1.23

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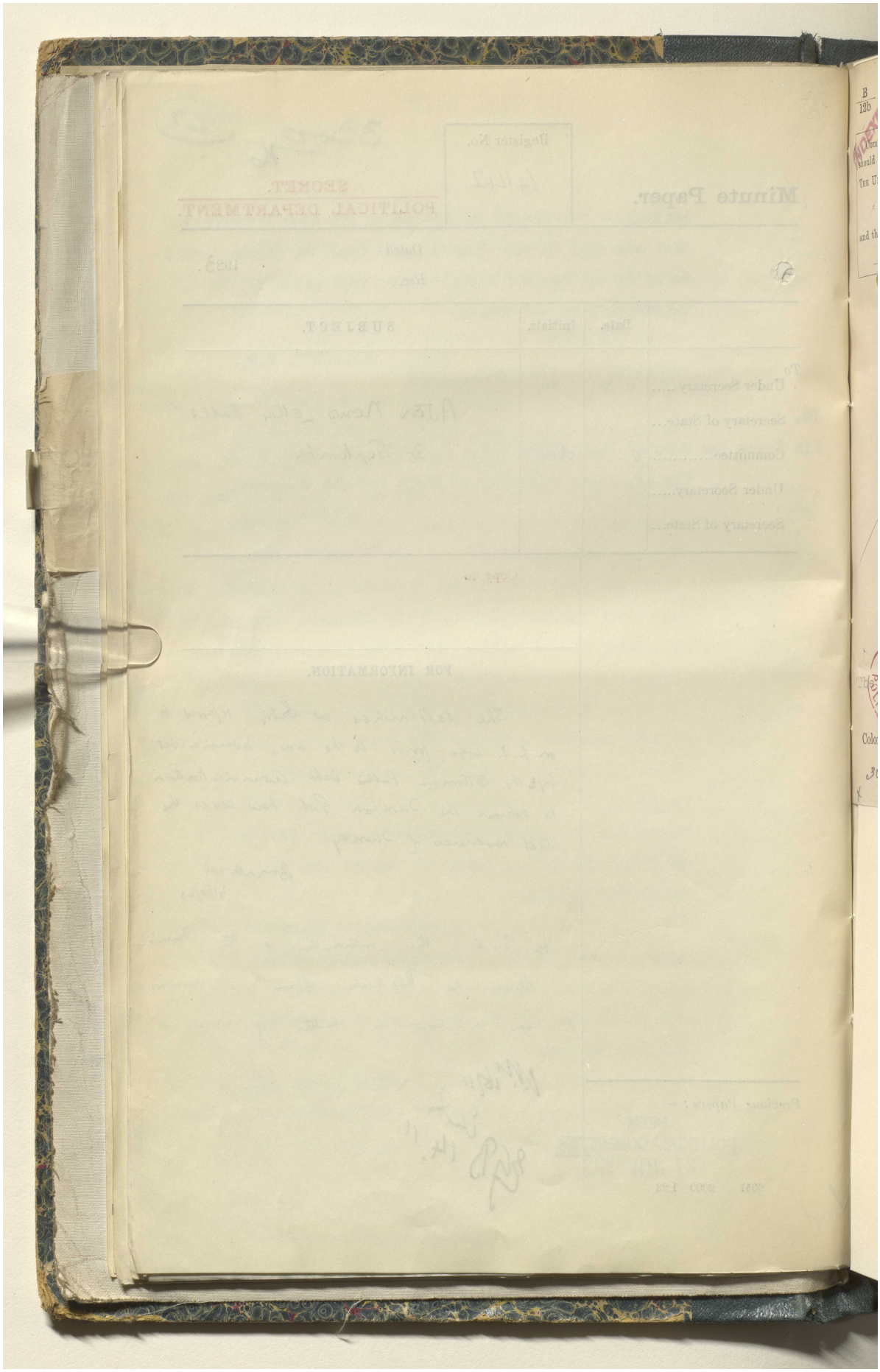

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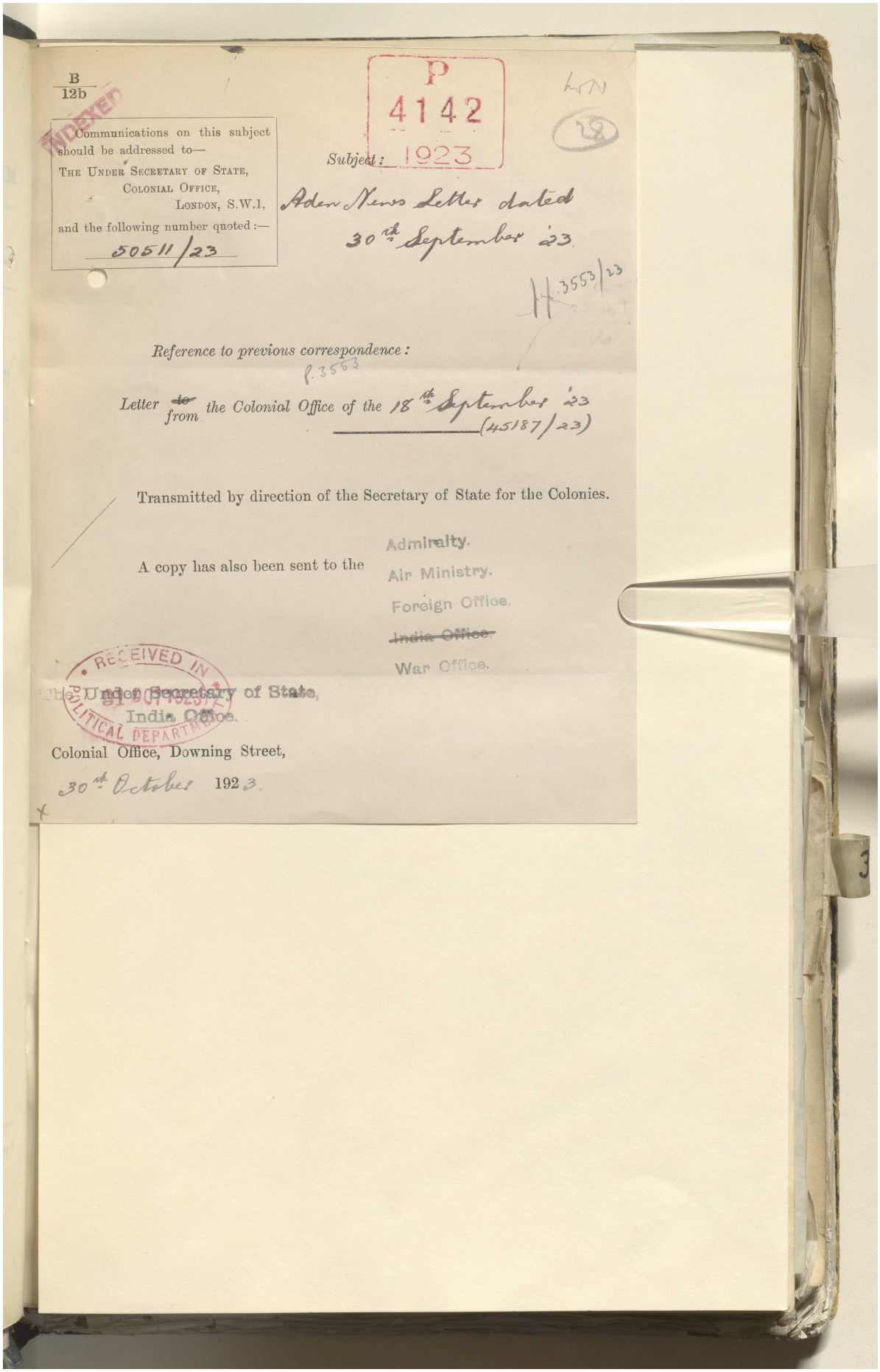

B
12b

INDEXED

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
50511/23

P
4142
1923

Subject : Aden News Letter dated 30th September '23.

H 3553/23

Reference to previous correspondence :

P. 3563

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 18th September '23 (45187/23)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the

Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

RECEIVED IN
31 OCT 1923
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
30th October 1923.

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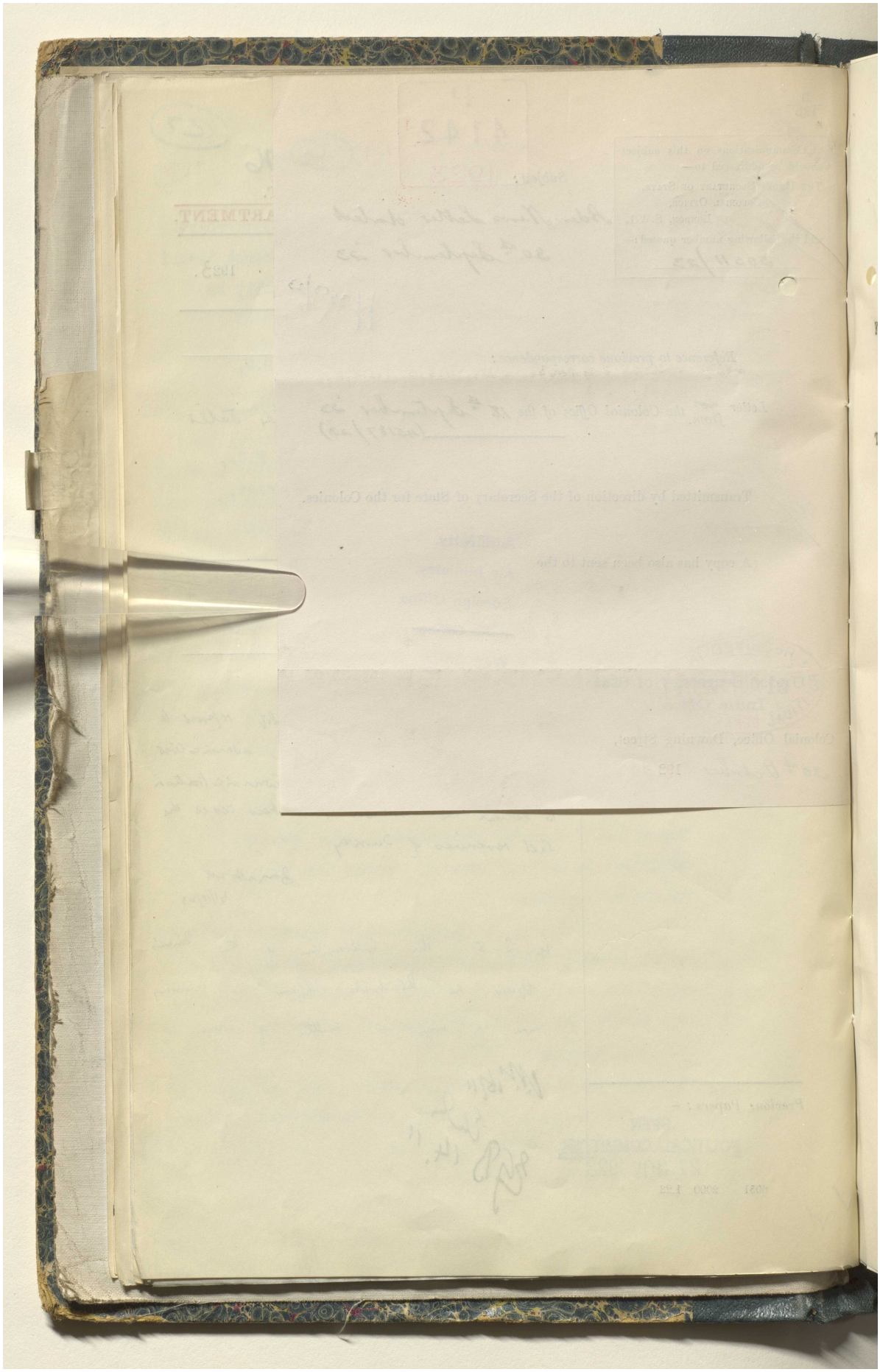

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1923

1/29

SECRET.

No.136.

ADENRESIDENCY,
3rd October, 1923.

From,

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 9th Aden News Letter dated the 30th September 1923.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) T.E.Scott,
Major General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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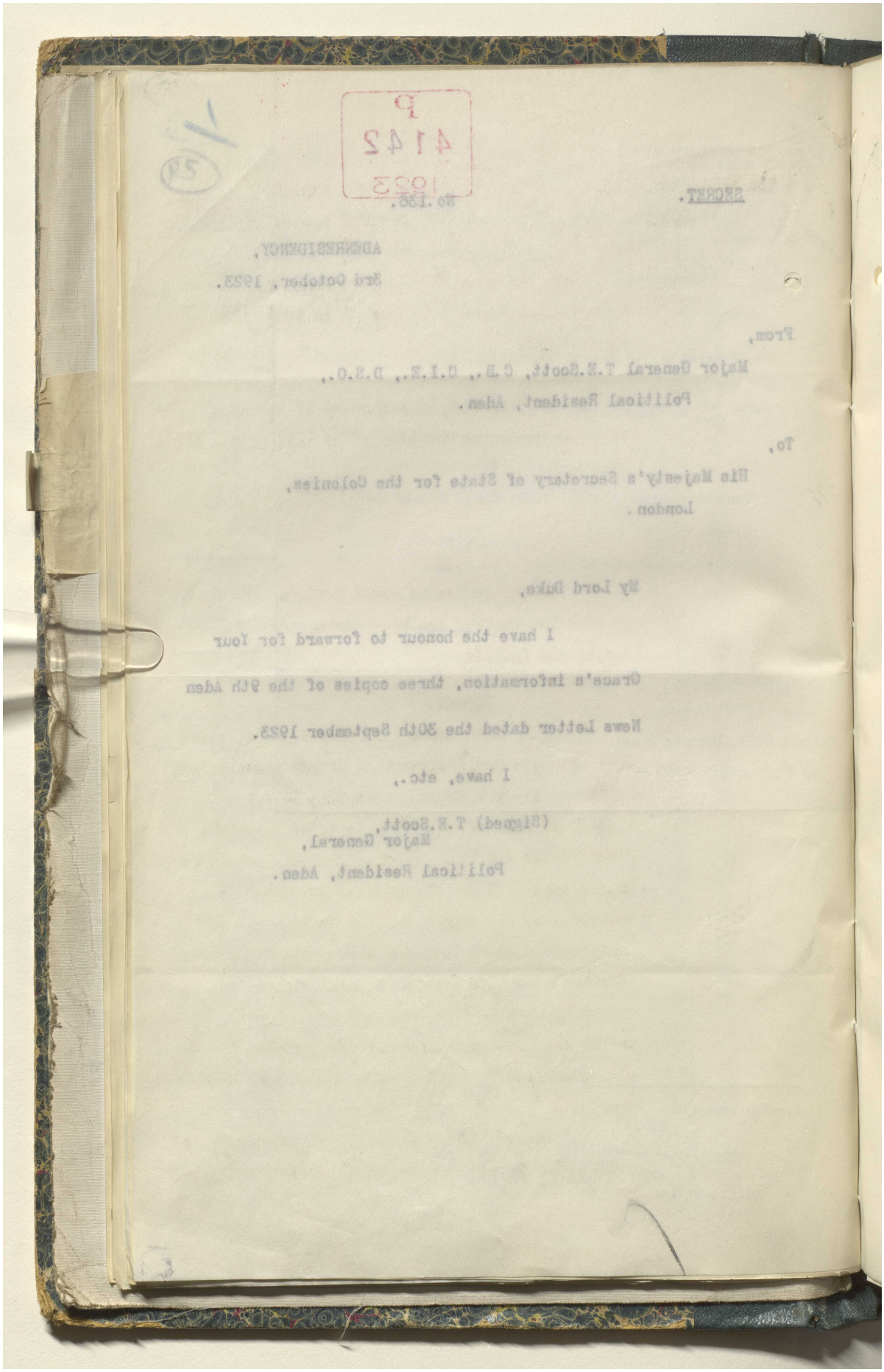

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P 4142 1923

9th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
30th September, 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 30th August 1923.

ASIR.

On the advice of Sayed Mustafa, the Sheikh of Birk has removed the blockade against the Hedjaz and Kunfida.

TIHAMA.

In my last letter, I forwarded the report that the Imam had delivered an attack against Jabel Malhan on the 6th August, resulting in a victory for the Idrisi who, after having occupied the whole of Jabel Hufash and Sari, had besieged the Imamic force in Shafaqain. These places were subsequently recovered by the Imam. Captain Fazl-ud-Din now telegraphs areport that the Imam delivered a fresh attack on the 23rd September and succeeded in occupying certain important centres. Captain Fazl-ud-Din adds that great atrocities are said to have been committed by the Zaidis in the places they have occupied.

The two Italians who landed at Khokha, as reported in my last letter, are the men who landed at

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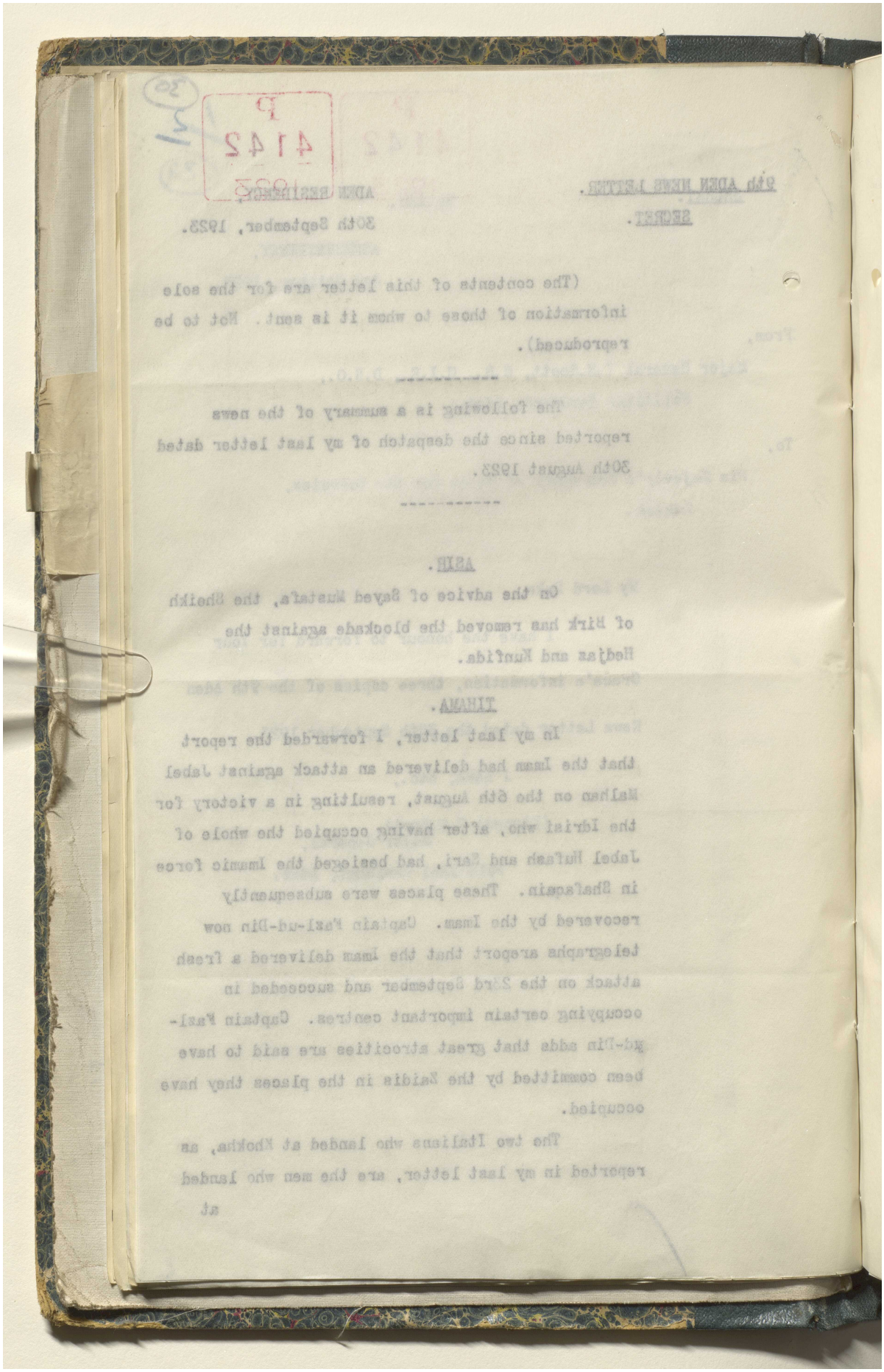

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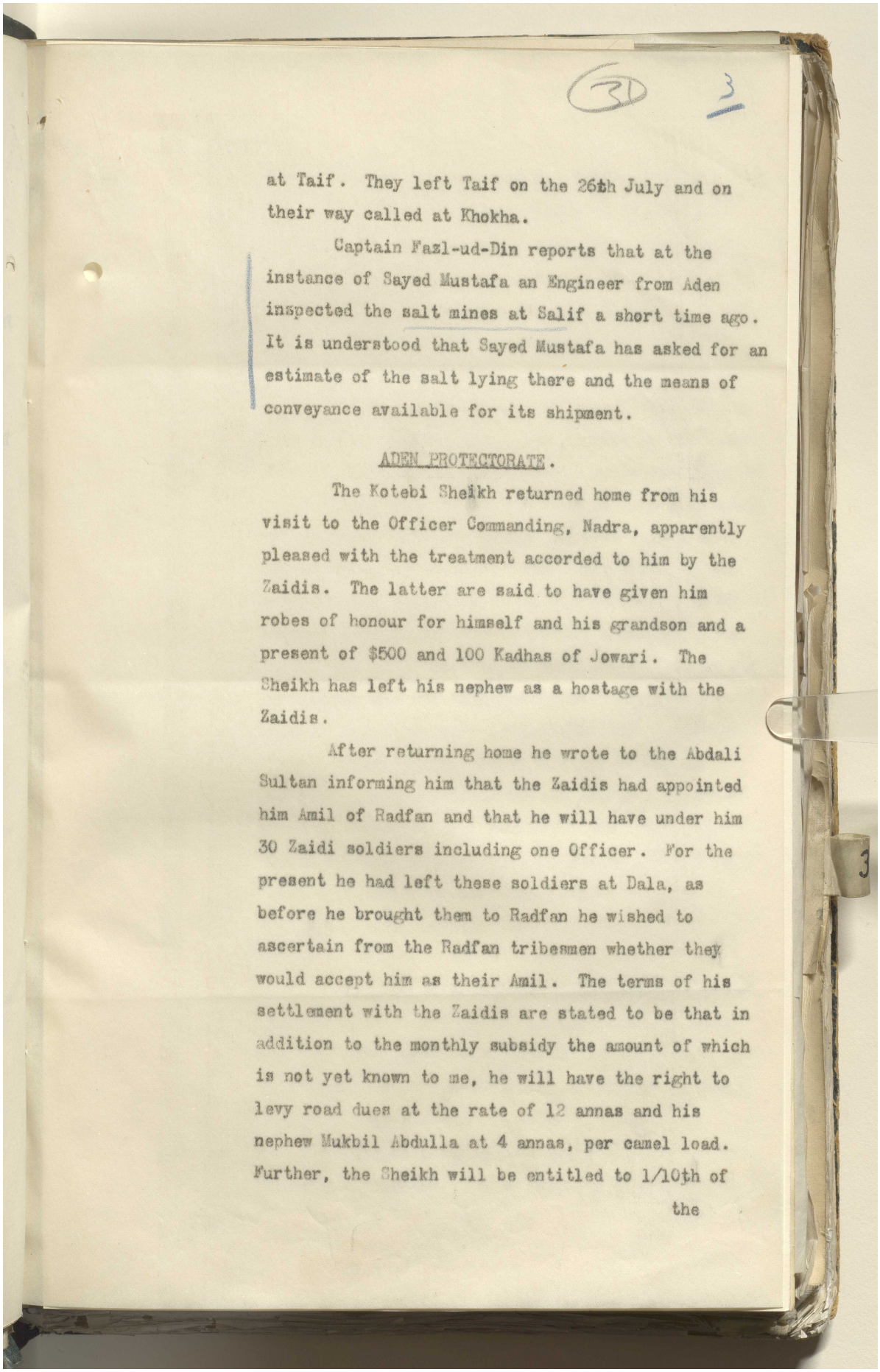

(31) ٣

at Taif. They left Taif on the 26th July and on their way called at Khokha.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that at the instance of Sayed Mustafa an Engineer from Aden inspected the salt mines at Salif a short time ago. It is understood that Sayed Mustafa has asked for an estimate of the salt lying there and the means of conveyance available for its shipment.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Kotebi Sheikh returned home from his visit to the Officer Commanding, Nadra, apparently pleased with the treatment accorded to him by the Zaidis. The latter are said to have given him robes of honour for himself and his grandson and a present of $500 and 100 Kadhas of Jowari. The Sheikh has left his nephew as a hostage with the Zaidis.

After returning home he wrote to the Abdali Sultan informing him that the Zaidis had appointed him Amil of Radfan and that he will have under him 30 Zaidi soldiers including one Officer. For the present he had left these soldiers at Dala, as before he brought them to Radfan he wished to ascertain from the Radfan tribesmen whether they would accept him as their Amil. The terms of his settlement with the Zaidis are stated to be that in addition to the monthly subsidy the amount of which is not yet known to me, he will have the right to levy road dues at the rate of 12 annas and his nephew Mukbil Abdulla at 4 annas, per camel load. Further, the Sheikh will be entitled to 1/10th of

the

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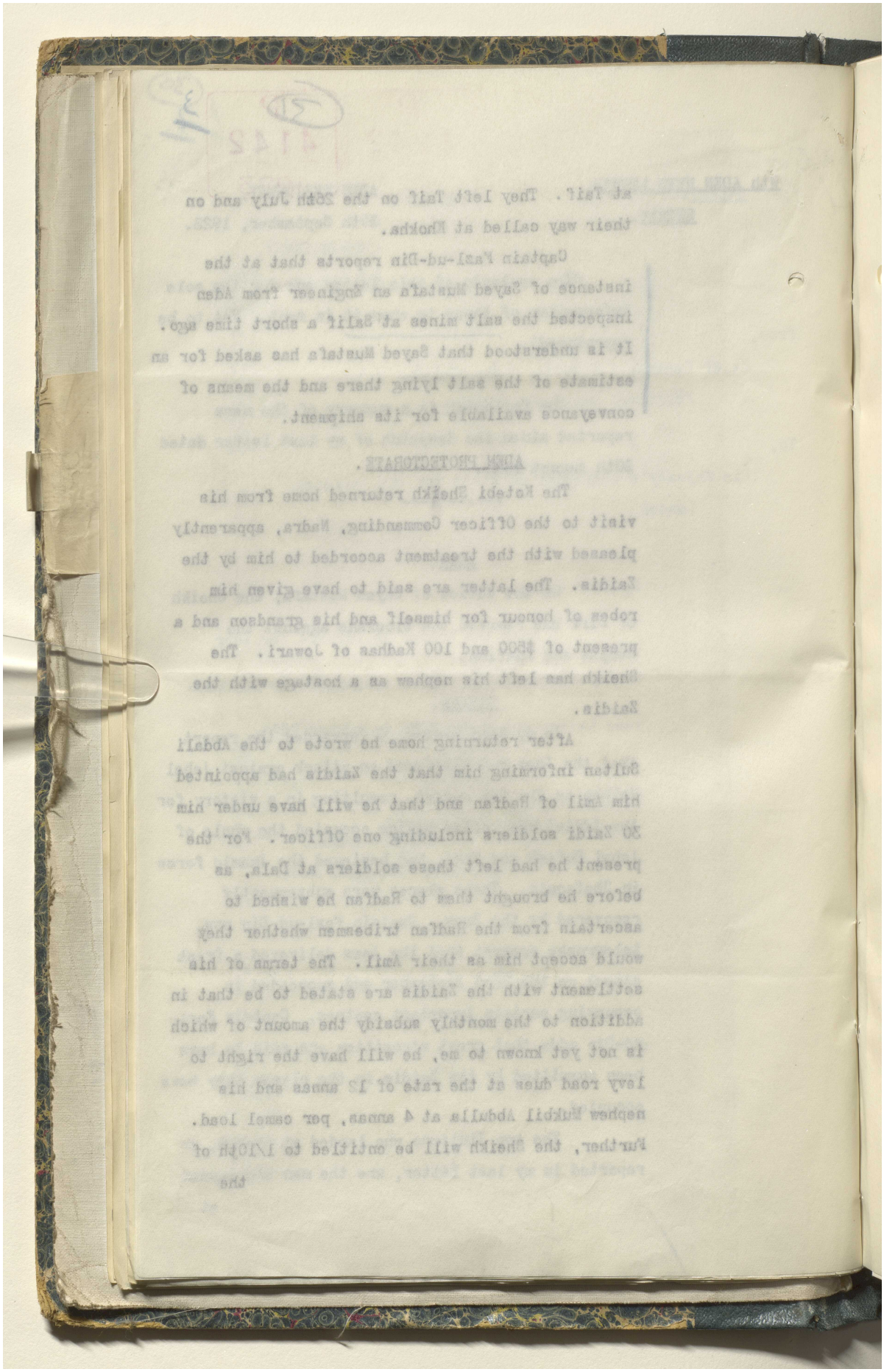

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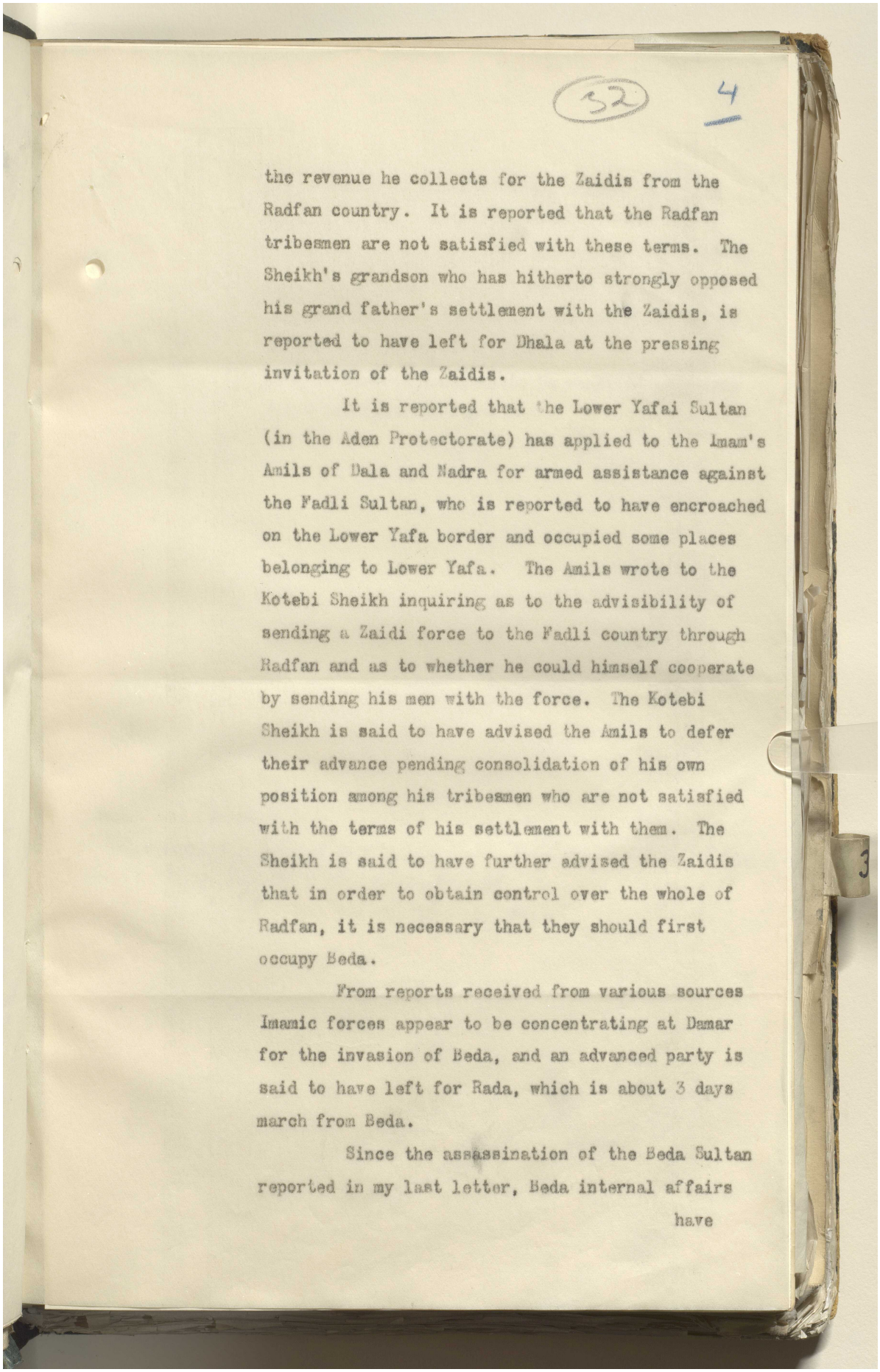

(32) 4

the revenue he collects for the Zaidis from the Radfan country. It is reported that the Radfan tribesmen are not satisfied with these terms. The Sheikh's grandson who has hitherto strongly opposed his grand father's settlement with the Zaidis, is reported to have left for Dhala at the pressing invitation of the Zaidis.

It is reported that the Lower Yafai Sultan (in the Aden Protectorate) has applied to the Imam's Amils of Dala and Nadra for armed assistance against the Fadli Sultan, who is reported to have encroached on the Lower Yafa border and occupied some places belonging to Lower Yafa. The Amils wrote to the Kotebi Sheikh inquiring as to the advisibility of sending a Zaidi force to the Fadli country through Radfan and as to whether he could himself cooperate by sending his men with the force. The Kotebi Sheikh is said to have advised the Amils to defer their advance pending consolidation of his own position among his tribesmen who are not satisfied with the terms of his settlement with them. The Sheikh is said to have further advised the Zaidis that in order to obtain control over the whole of Radfan, it is necessary that they should first occupy Beda.

From reports received from various sources Imamic forces appear to be concentrating at Damar for the invasion of Beda, and an advanced party is said to have left for Rada, which is about 3 days march from Beda.

Since the assassination of the Beda Sultan reported in my last letter, Beda internal affairs have

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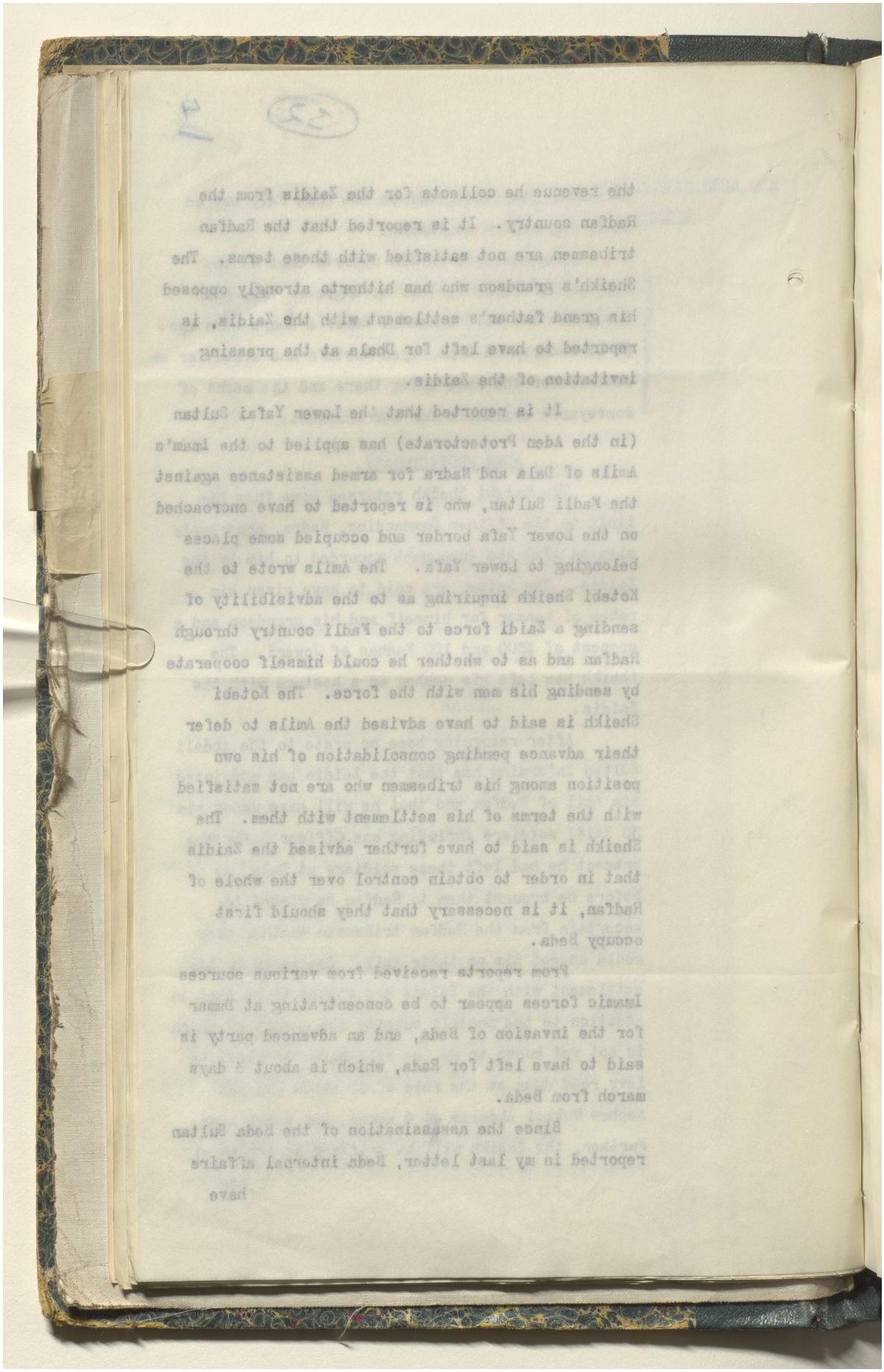

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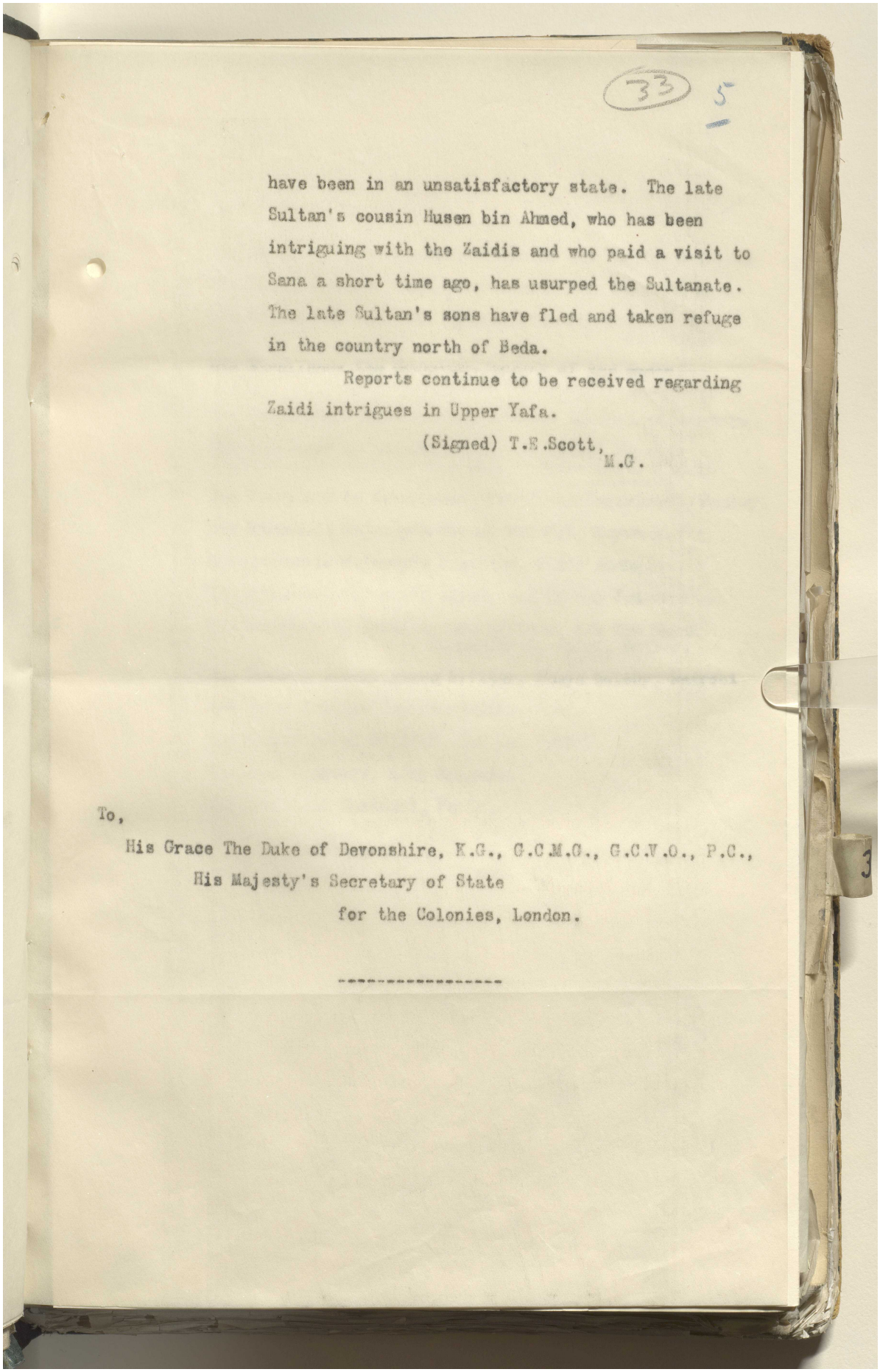

(33) 5

have been in an unsatisfactory state. The late Sultan's cousin Husen bin Ahmed, who has been intriguing with the Zaidis and who paid a visit to Sana a short time ago, has usurped the Sultanate. The late Sultan's sons have fled and taken refuge in the country north of Beda.

Reports continue to be received regarding Zaidi intrigues in Upper Yafa.

(Signed) T.E.Scott,
M.C.

To,

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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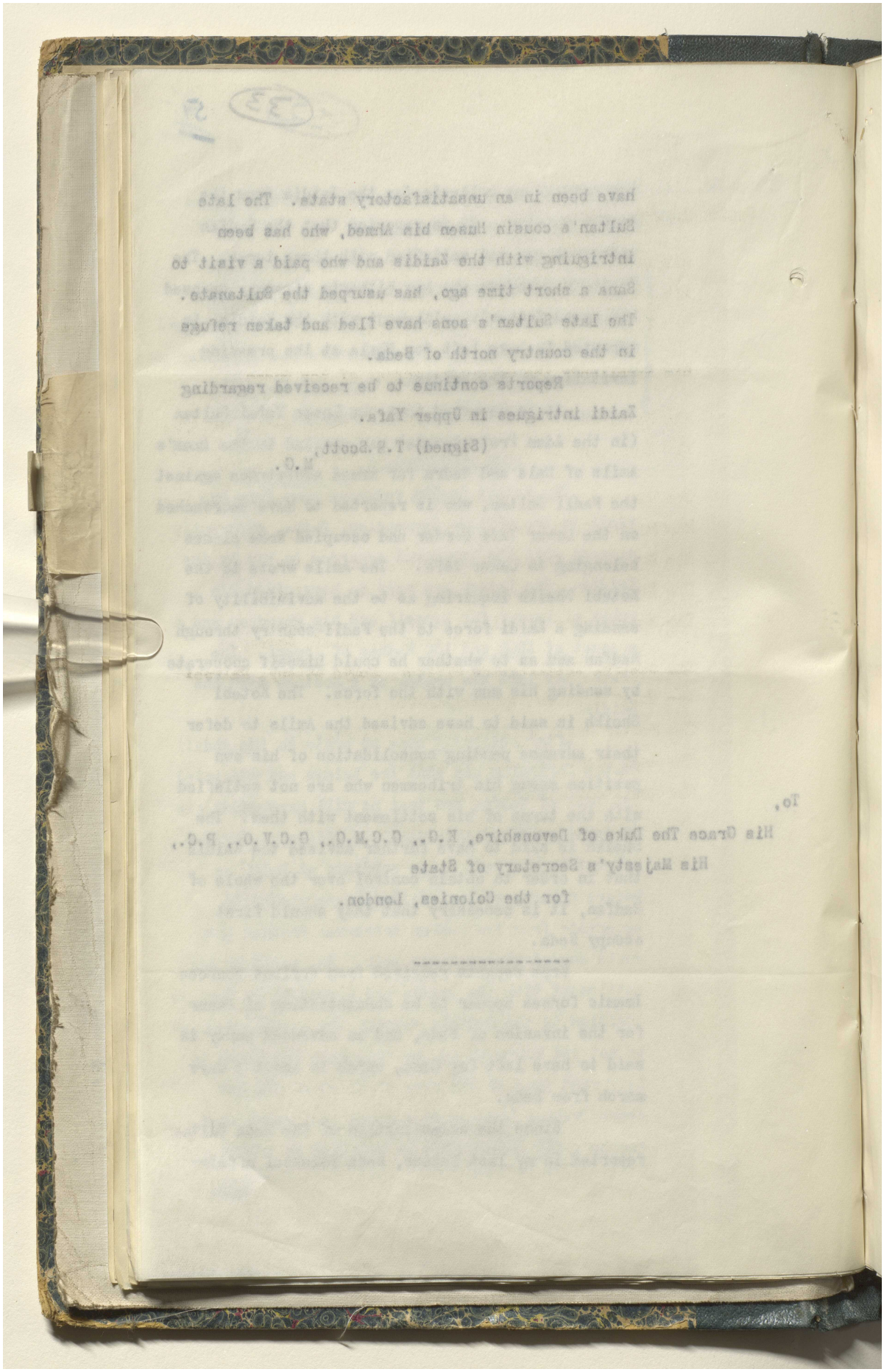

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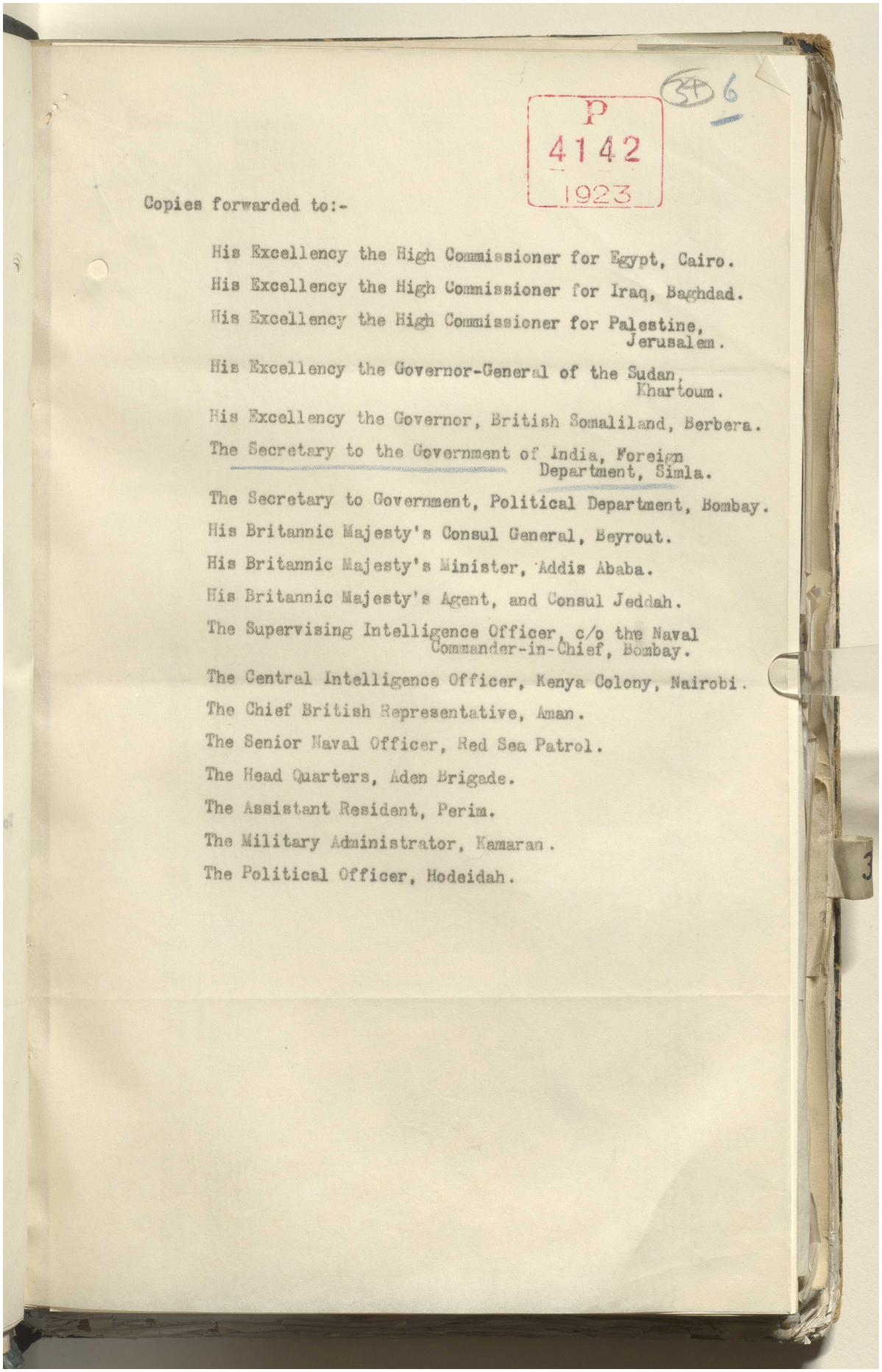

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4142
1923

34 6

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His Excellency the High Commissioner for Iraq, Baghdad.
His Excellency the High Commissioner for Palestine, Jerusalem.
His Excellency the Governor-General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.
The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa.
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, and Consul Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer, c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Patrol.
The Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamaran.
The Political Officer, Hodeidah.

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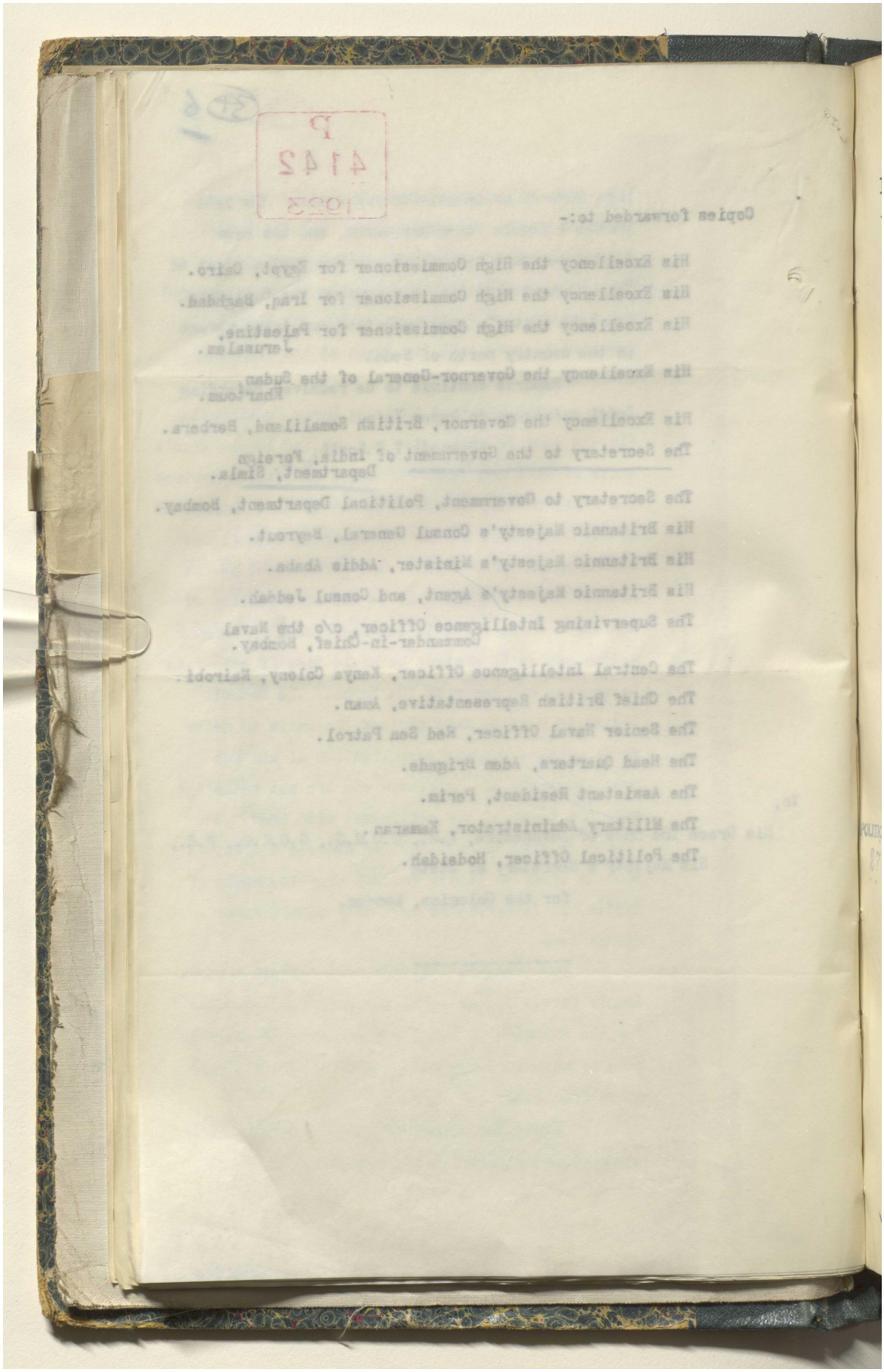

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(33)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 3553

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	20. 9	[illegible]	Arabia — Aden News Letter of 30 August
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	20	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

P.L.Baker
Asst
21/9

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
27 SEP 1923

Ellis
2579
EgB 21

FOR INFORMATION.

P.1. Wholesale slaughter of pilgrims by the Wahabees

P.3 Imam and the Yemen

P.4 Plans of the Imam for a confederation of Yemen Chiefs. (including those within the Aden Protectorate)

Previous Papers :—

6051 2000 1.23

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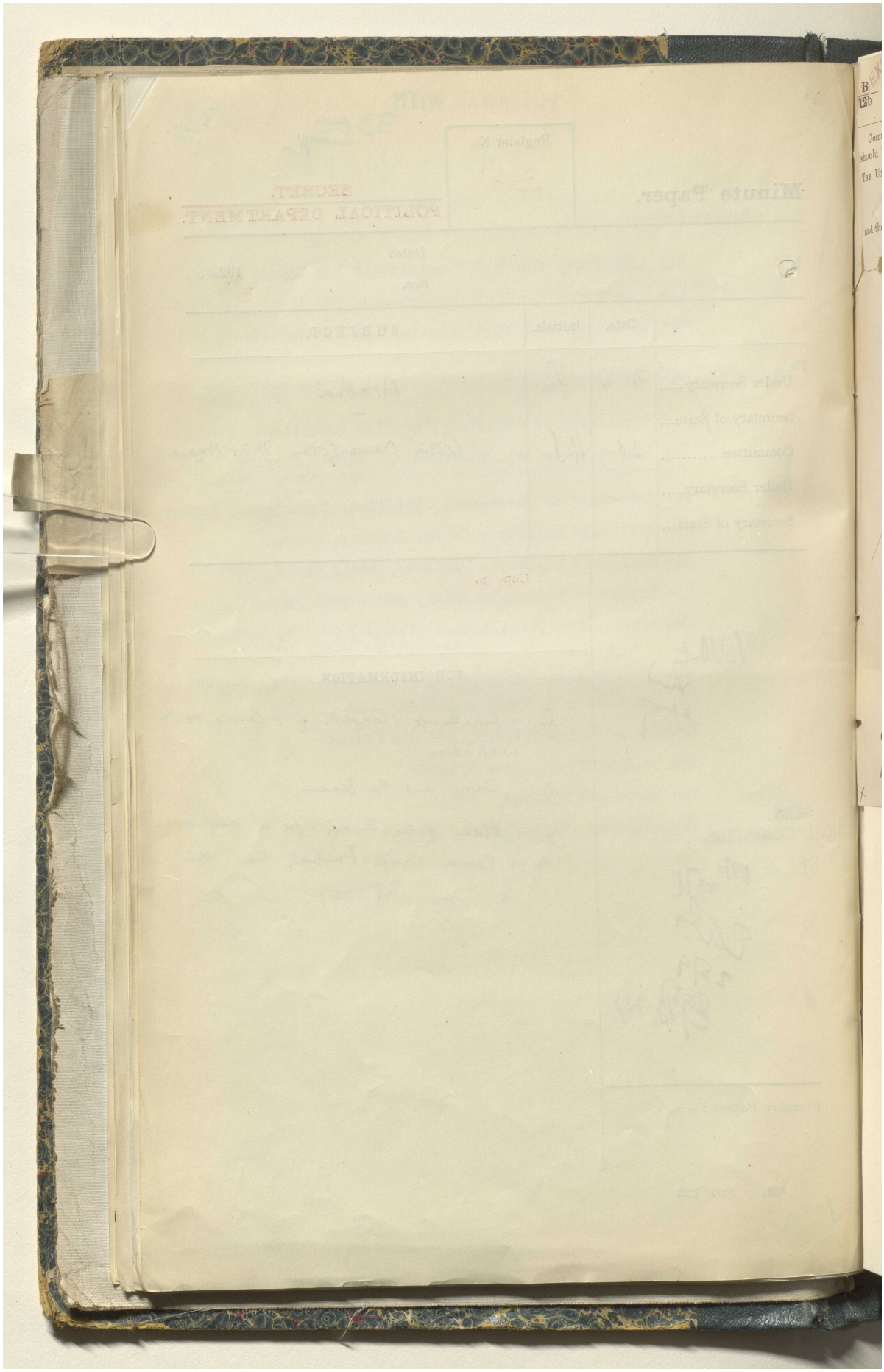

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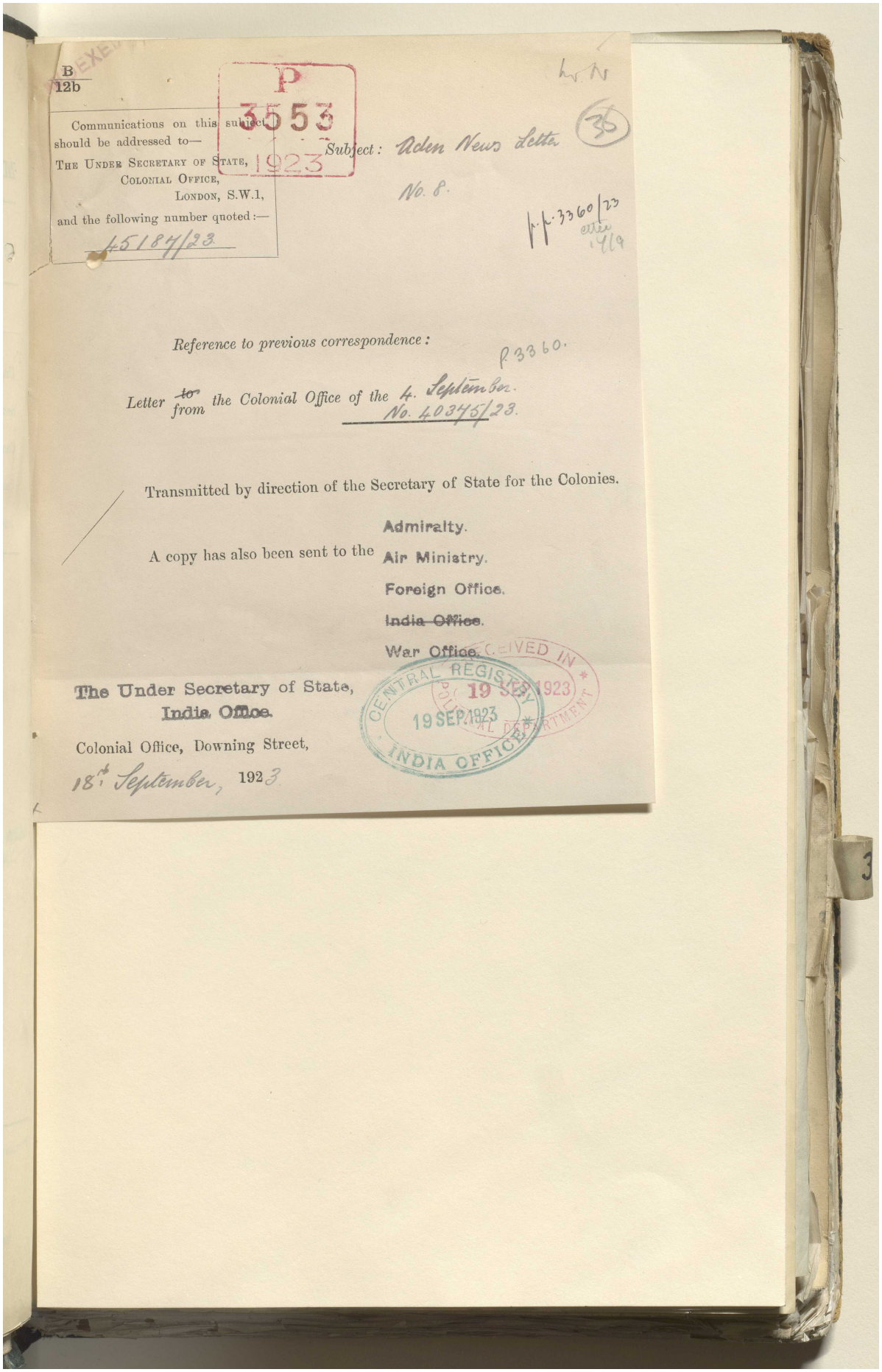

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3553
1923

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
45184/23.

Subject: Aden News Letter
No. 8.

P.3360/23

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 4. September.
No. 40345/23.
P 3360.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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~~India Office.~~
War Office.

RECEIVED IN CENTRAL REGISTRY 19 SEP 1923 INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
18th September, 1923.

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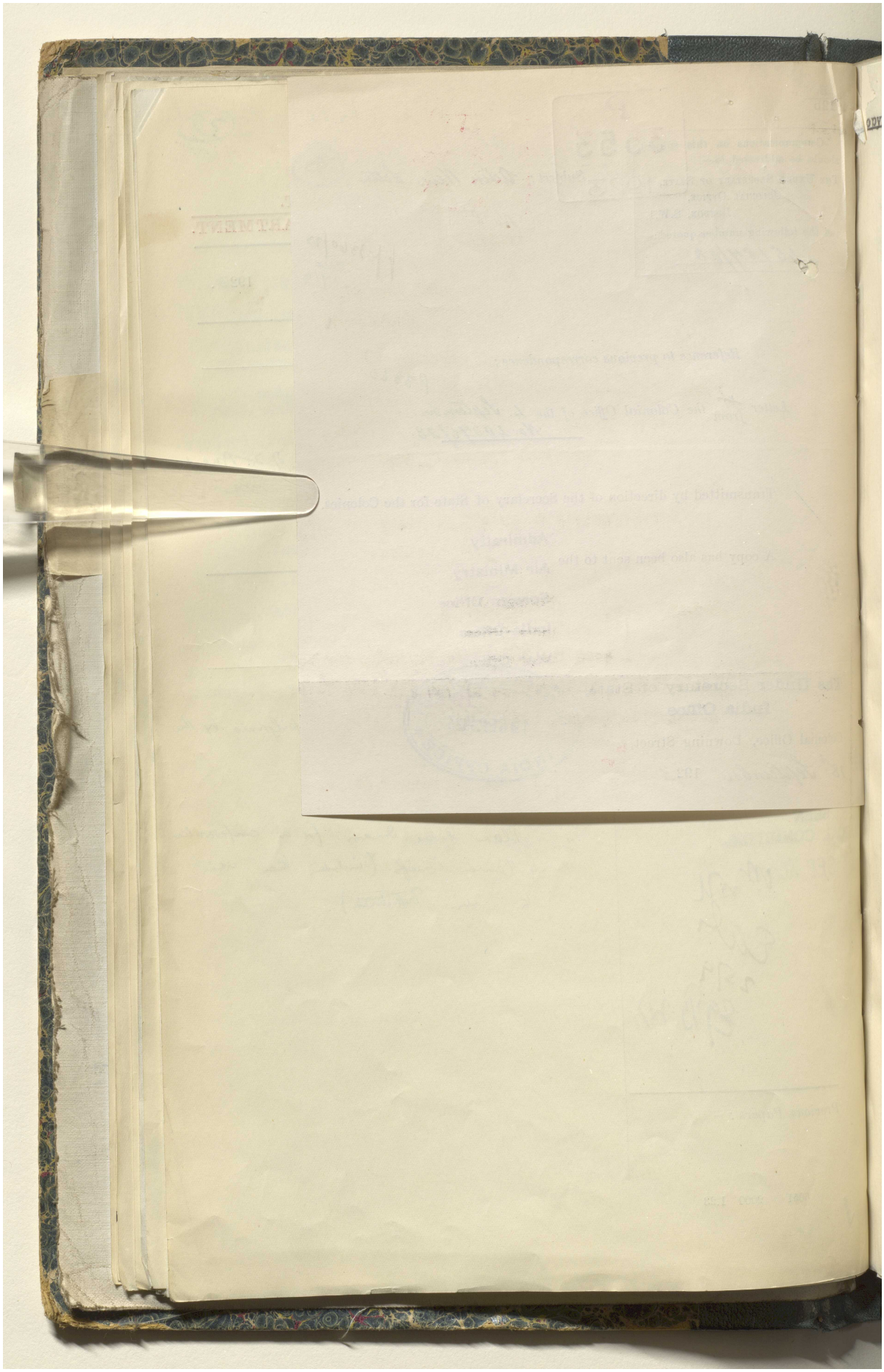

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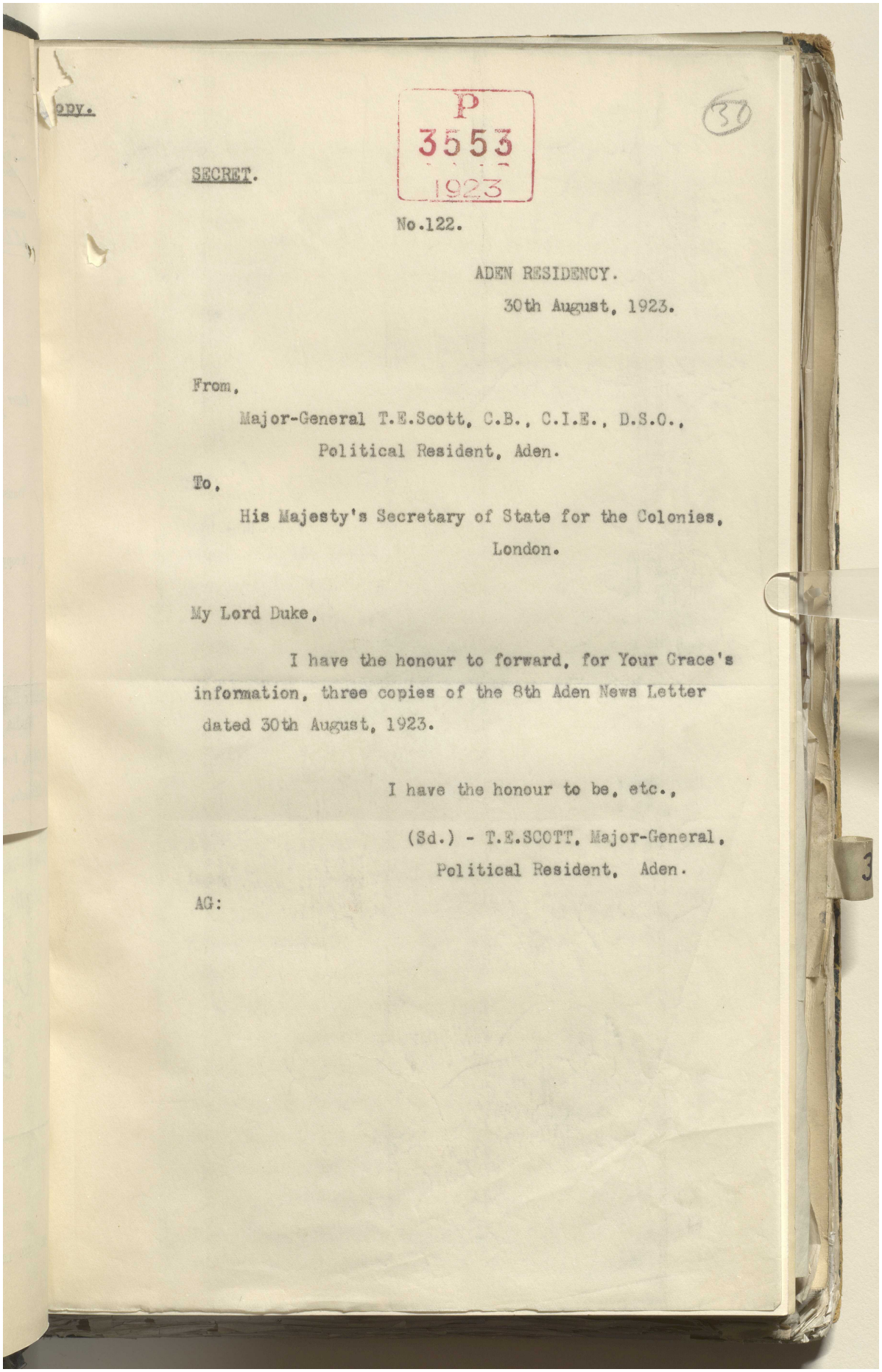

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P
3553
1923

(37)

SECRET.

No.122.

ADEN RESIDENCY.
30th August, 1923.

From,
Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 8th Aden News Letter dated 30th August, 1923.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Sd.) - T.E.SCOTT, Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

AG:

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8th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY.

30th August, 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 31st July, 1923.

ASIR.

The Sheikh of Birk has declared a blockade against Kunfida (King of Hedjaz's port) and the Hedjaz generally, The sea off Birk is patrolled by an armed dhow of the Sheikh and dhows bound to Jeddah and Kunfida are made to discharge their cargo at Birk. A notification of the blockade has been sent by the Sheikh to merchants in Hodeidah.

The cause of this high-handed action on the part of the Sheikh is stated to be the establishment of a new customs post at Hali by King Hussain and the imposition of taxes on goods coming from Birk.

The Hedjaz authorities have also confiscated specie belonging to certain merchants of Birk on the ground that the export of gold from the Hedjaz is prohibited.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that the Hashmite Government s.s. "Rushdi" arrived at Hodeidah on the 17th August, with 100 pilgrims on board belonging to the caravan of Zaida pilgrims, which the Wahabees attacked in Asir, in June last.

According to the account of these pilgrims the caravan composed of 3700 pilgrims,(not 500 as reported in my last letter) out of which only 200 escaped,

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escaped, the remainder having been killed by the Wahabees. These 200 men went to Mecca, where they were very kindly treated by King Hussain, who gave them 10 bags of rice and also 4 dollars each.

On the completion of their pilgrimage, 100 of the pilgrims left for their homes overland and the remaining 100 were sent to Hodeidah by the King on the "Rushdi" free of charge.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports a severe outbreak of small-pox at Medi and in its vicinity.

TIHAMA.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din telegraphs that the long-expected attack of the Imam against Jabel Malhan was delivered on the 6th August and that the Idrisi assisted by local tribes has occupied the whole of Jabel Hufash and Sari and has besieged Imamic force in Shafaqain. I am awaiting details.

Jabel Hufash is to the north of Bajil and Sari is to the north of Hufash and well to the east of Jabel Malhan, so, this news, if true, records a big Idrisi advance.

Fighting has also taken place on the Reima-Bura front, though on a small scale.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that two Italians with 3 native servants arrived at Taif in a dhow from Assab on the 25th July. They have with them for sale flour, rice, match-boxes and piece goods, and have applied to the local Sheikh for permission to open a trading house in Taif. They have been buying coffee and skins. They state that for the present they require only these two commodities, but that later on they will export every other commodity the Yemen produces. They also told the Sheikh that their Government was ready to extend their protection to him and that the firm to

which

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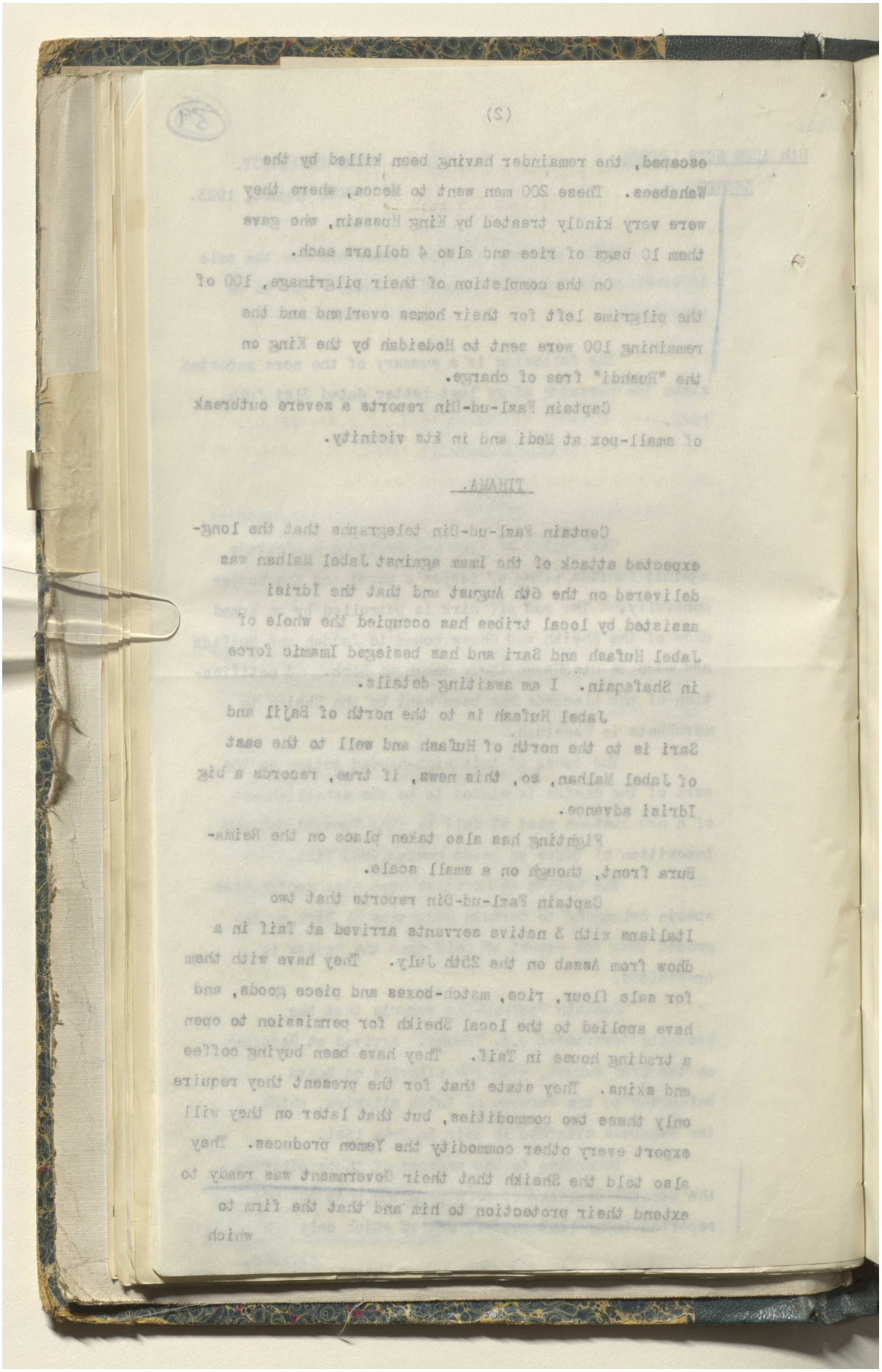

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which they belong could build a harbour at Taif.

These Italians are said to be those visited Hodeidah with a lady in March last and referred to in paragraph 6 of my letter of 10th April.

Two other Italians landed at Khokha on the 26th July from a dhow, and after spending about 4 hours on shore, left again in the same dhow.

A Turkish Colonel, Kinan Bey, who had been imprisoned by the Imam for attempting to escape from the Yemen last year, has been released, and has arrived at Hodeidah en-route for Constantinople.

YEMEN (UPPER AND LOWER).

Captain Fazl-ud-Din informs me that the Turkish newspaper "Tauhid Afkar" has, in its issue of the 11th Zulhajjah 1341, A.H. (25th July, 1923), published a map which shows Yemen as within the boundaries of Turkey as settled by the recent Treaty of Lausanne, with a big mark of interrogation on it.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Kotebi Sheikh left for Nadra on the 5th August to see the Officer Commanding there.

In discussing peace terms with the Amil of Dhala, the Kotebi Sheikh is said to have expressed his desire to be appointed Zaidi Amil of Radfan and to be allowed to retain for himself 1/10th of the revenue collection he makes for the Zaidis.

The Zaidis sent an invitation to the Ahl Abdulla Sheikh (referred to in my last letter) and another, a relative of the Kotebi Sheikh, to come to Dhala. The latter replied that they could not do so, as they were friends of the British Government. A rumour states that the Officer Commanding, Nadra contemplates sending a force under the command of

the

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(3)

which they belong could build a harbour at Taiz.

These Italians are said to be those visited Hodeidah with a lady in March last and referred to in paragraph 6 of my letter of 10th April.

Two other Italians landed at Khokha on the 26th July from a dhow, and after spending about 4 hours on shore, left again in the same dhow.

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the Kotebi Sheikh against them and other Radfanis who have not yet submitted to the Zaidis.

The Alawi Sheikh is reported to have been sent back to Dhala from Nadra.

The Abdali Sultan informs me that Ali Ba Sallam has received no presents of sheep, goats, etc., from Ibn el Wazir, as reported in my last letter, but that Ali Ba Sallam who married recently the mother of the young Haushabi Sultan received $150 from Sheikh Qaid Saleh, the Amil of Maviya, as a wedding present.

It is reported that a Zaidi forse which was advancing against Beda and other tribes in our Protectorate has been recalled by the Imam on receiving the news of the attack by Ibn Saud on the Zaidi pilgrims in Asir.

The Beda Sultan is reported to have been killed in a family quarrel.

The Sharif of Behan left for his country. He has been given an additional 10,000 rounds of ammunition to assist him to resist the Zaidis, should they advance against his country.

Captain Fazk-ud-Din has received information from Sana, through Jamel Bey, nephew of the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadhim, that Beda and Behan have tendered their hostages to the Imam through the agency of a Sayed who is aiming at a confederation of Yemen Chiefs under the hegemony of the Imam of Sana. Two Hadramaut Sayeds, Abdur Rahman ibn Obaidulla Es-Saqqaf and Mahomed Akeel, are said to be active propagators of this cause. The latter has gone to Transjordinia via Egypt for the purpose of spreading a pro-Imamic propaganda in Arab countries. The Imam's envoy in Aden, the Qadhi Abdulla al Arashi, is said to be the real author of the scheme.

The Imam has issued a general invitation to all chiefs in the Aden Protectorate, including Mokalla to

unite

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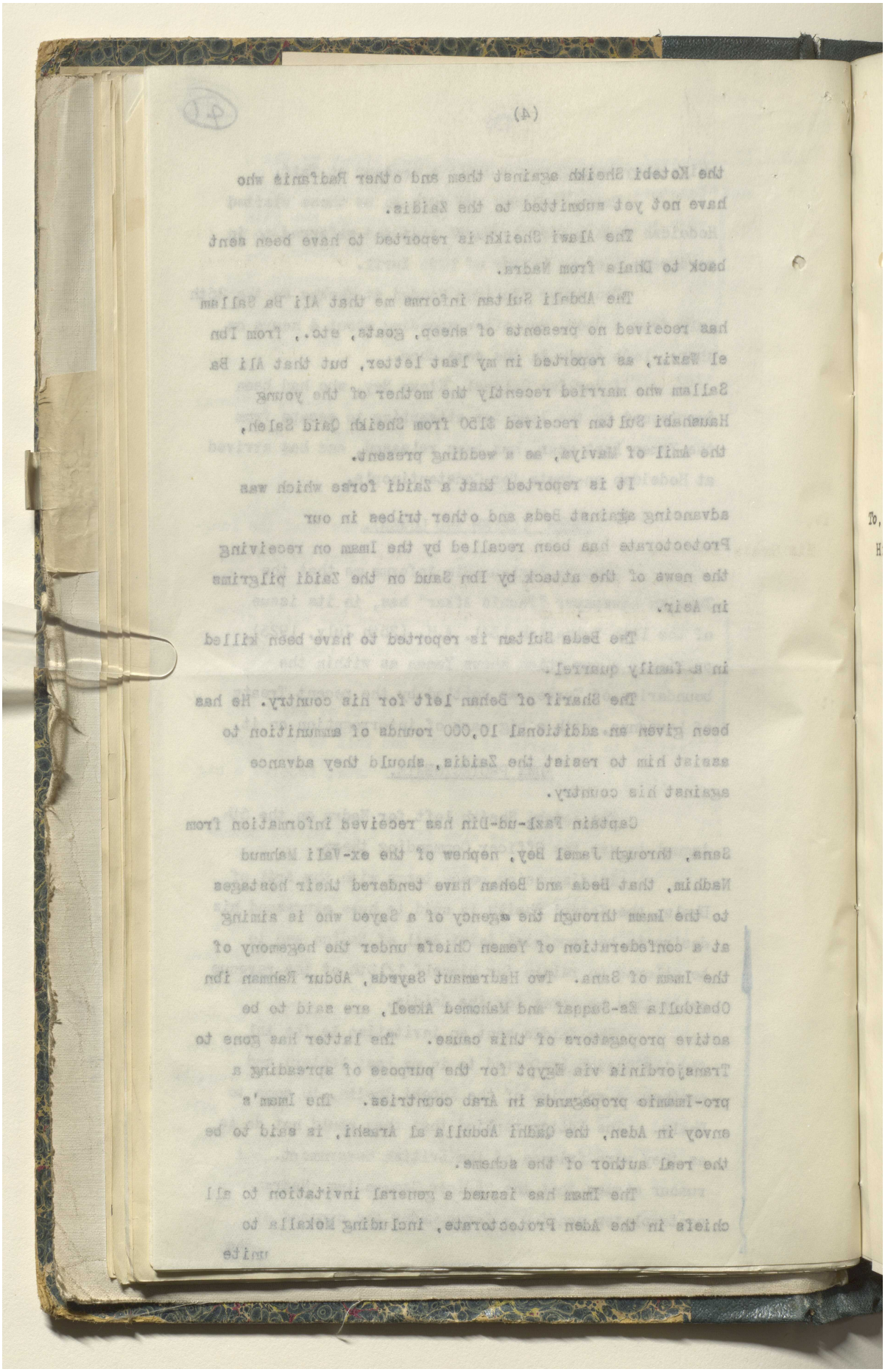

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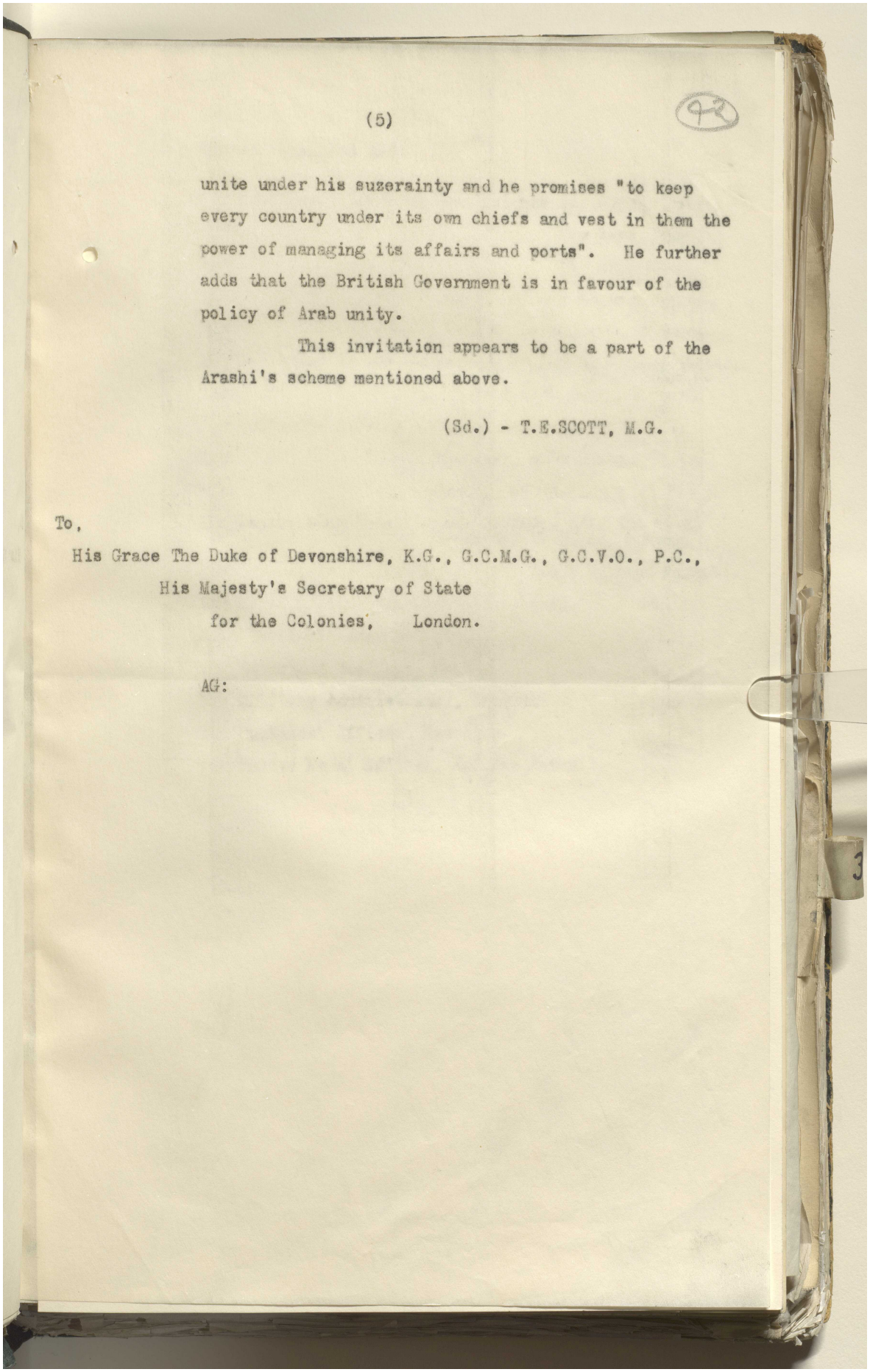

unite under his suzerainty and he promises "to keep every country under its own chiefs and vest in them the power of managing its affairs and ports". He further adds that the British Government is in favour of the policy of Arab unity.

This invitation appears to be a part of the Arashi's scheme mentioned above.

(Sd.) - T.E.SCOTT, M.G.

To,

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

AG:

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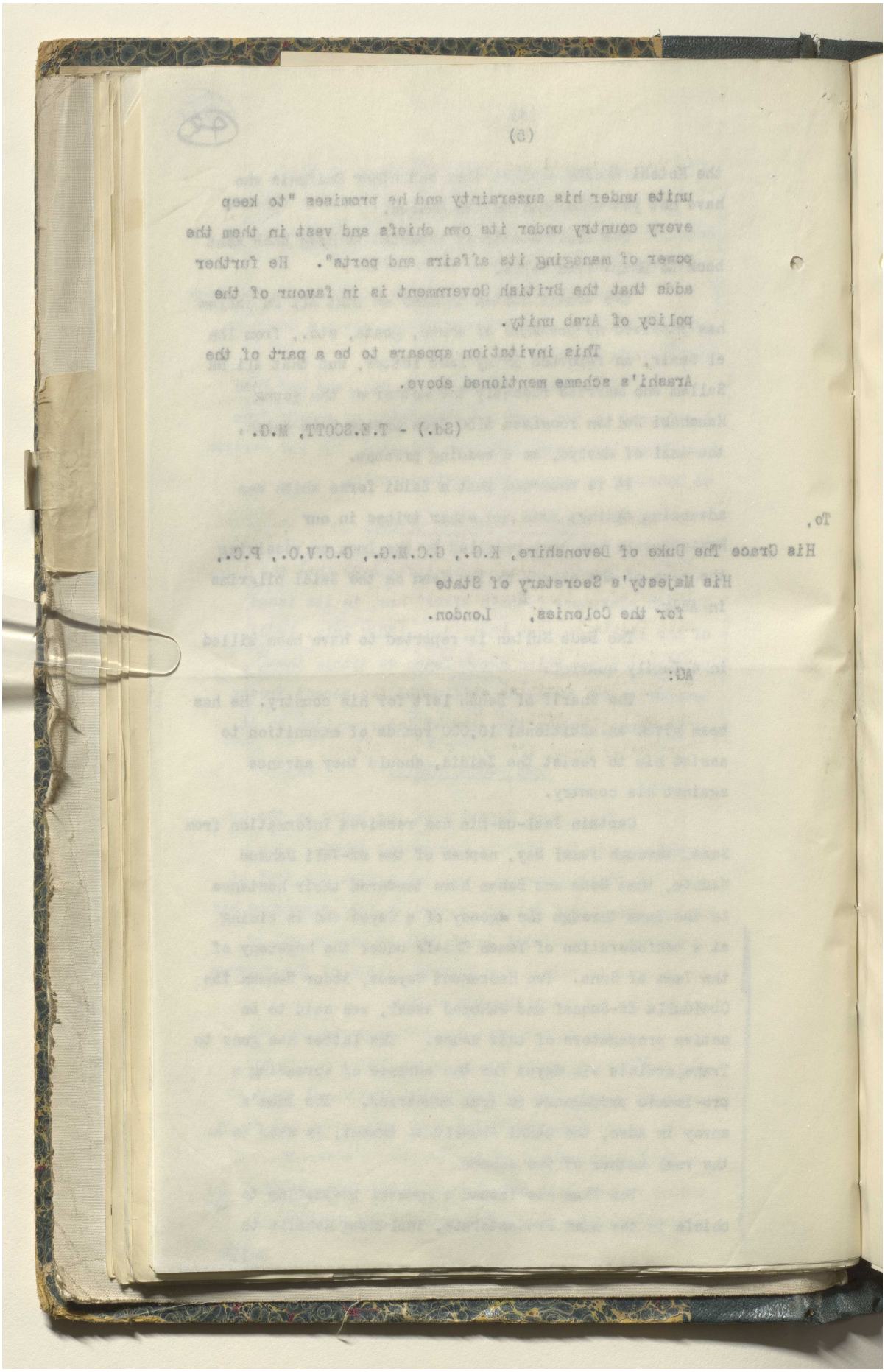

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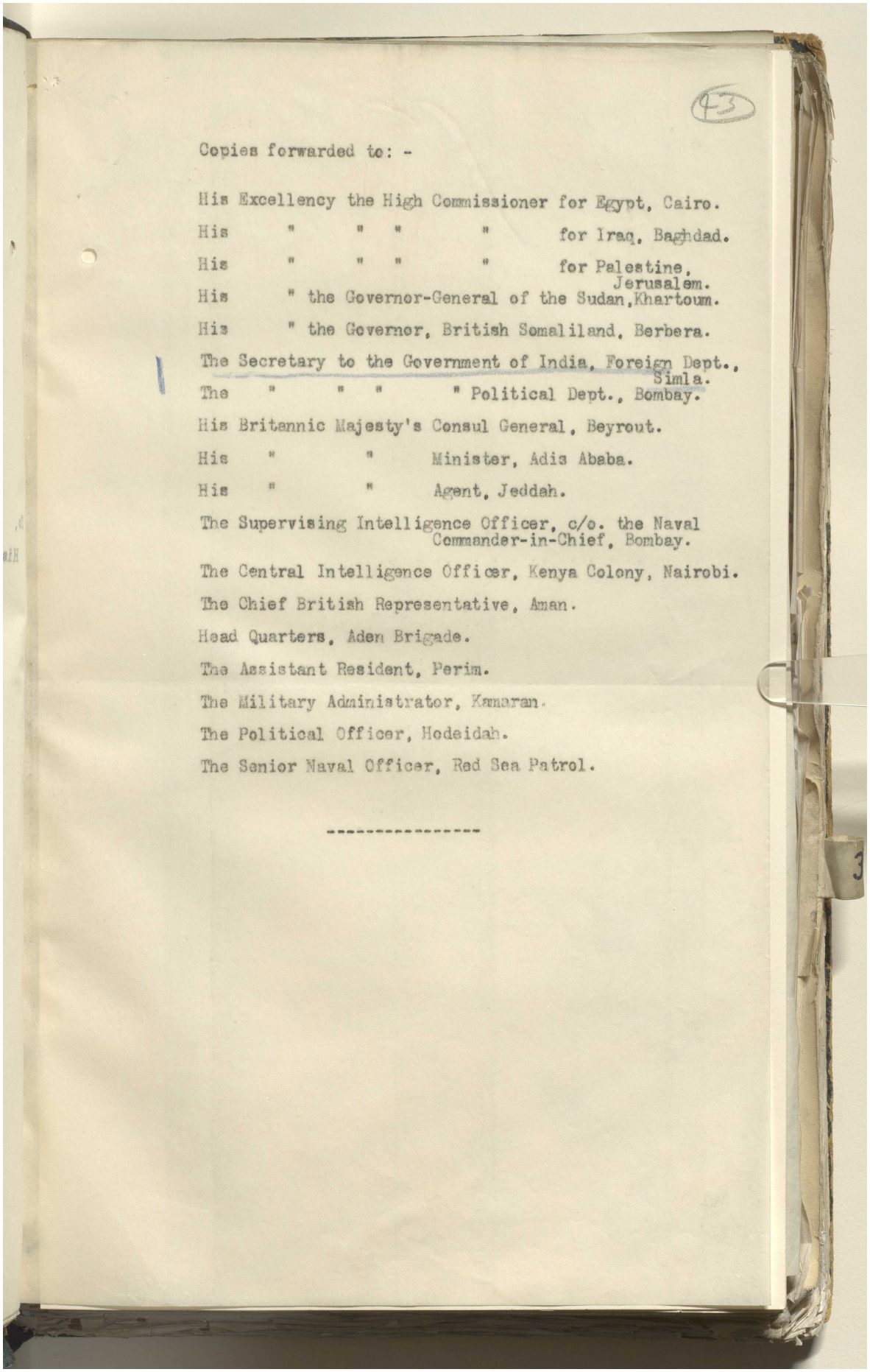

(43)

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His Excellency the High Commissioner for Egypt, Cairo.
His " " " " for Iraq, Baghdad.
His " " " " for Palestine, Jerusalem.
His " the Governor-General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His " the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Dept., Simla.
The " " " " Political Dept., Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His " " Minister, Adis Ababa.
His " " Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer, c/o. the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamaran.
The Political Officer, Hodeidah.
The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Patrol.

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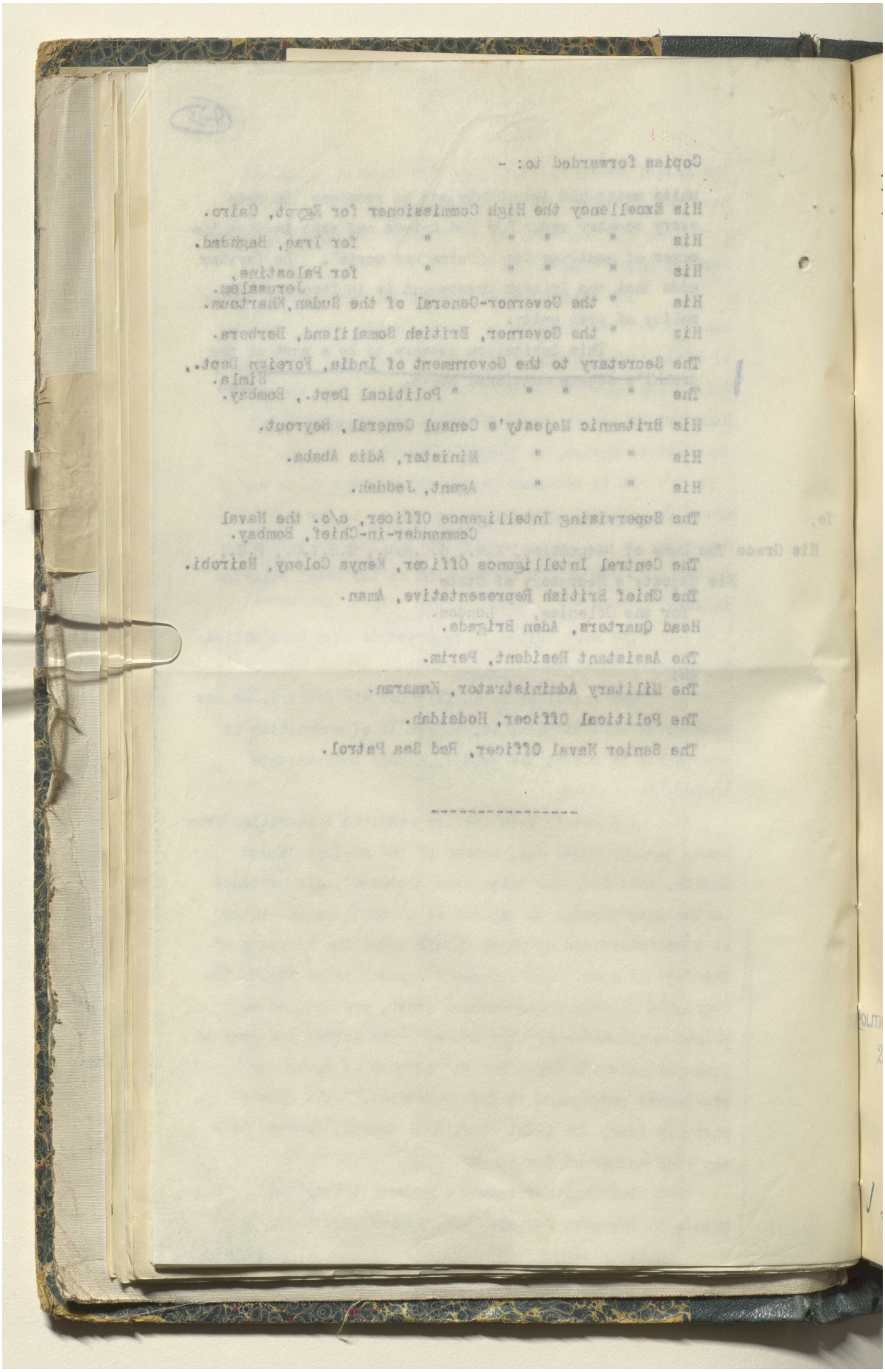

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3300/16

(99)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 3300

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	14.9.23	[illegible]	Arabia
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	15	[illegible]	Aden News Letter of 31 July
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

P. 2. A considerable influx of arms and ammunition into S.W. Arabia is reported.

P. 3 & 4. The Italians are persistent in their efforts to establish a Consulate at Hodeida but the Idrisi continues firm in his opposition. It is hardly likely they will go to the length of bombarding the town to attain their object as feared by Sayed Mustapha

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SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
20 SEP 1923

Previous Papers : —

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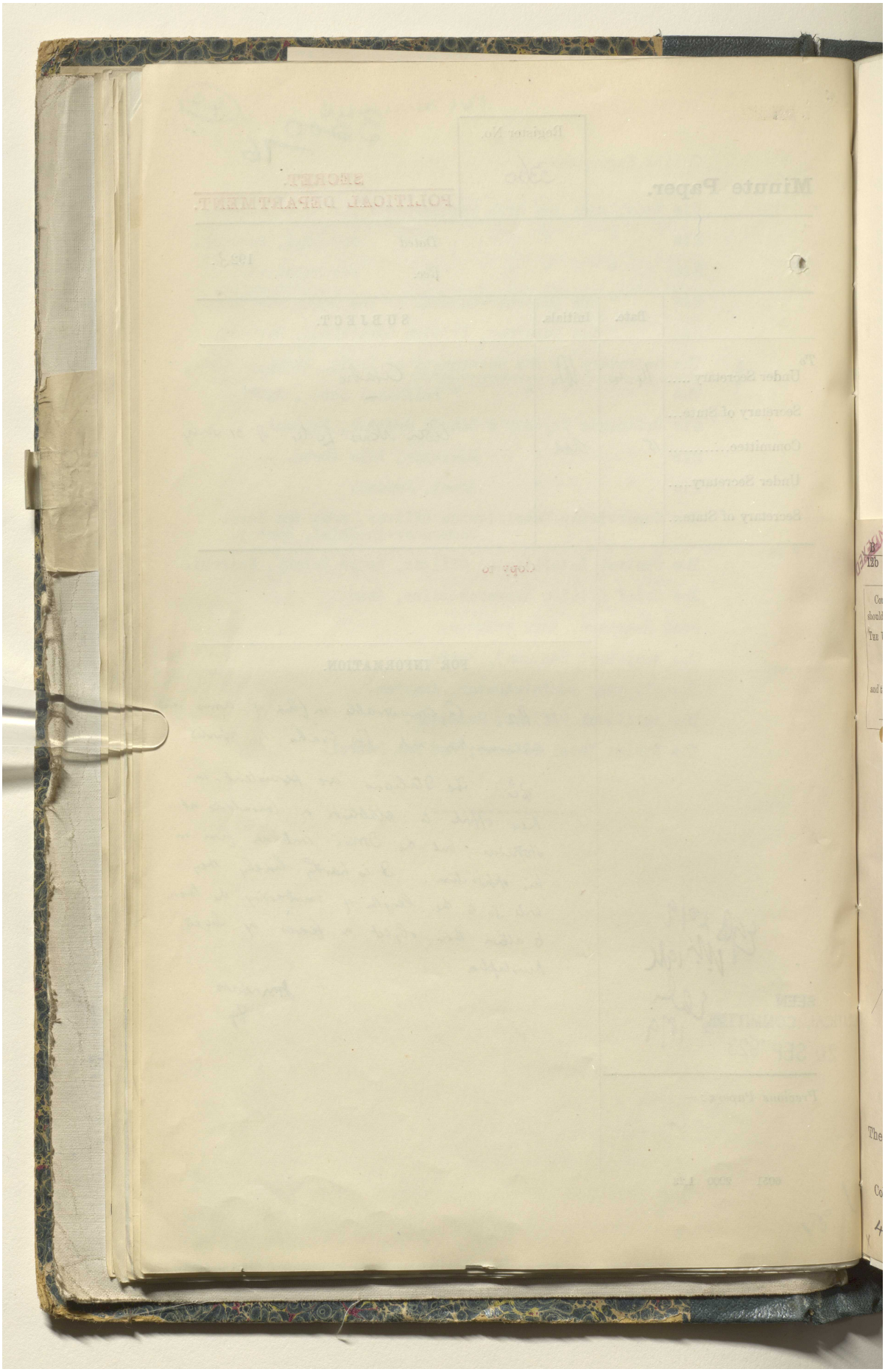

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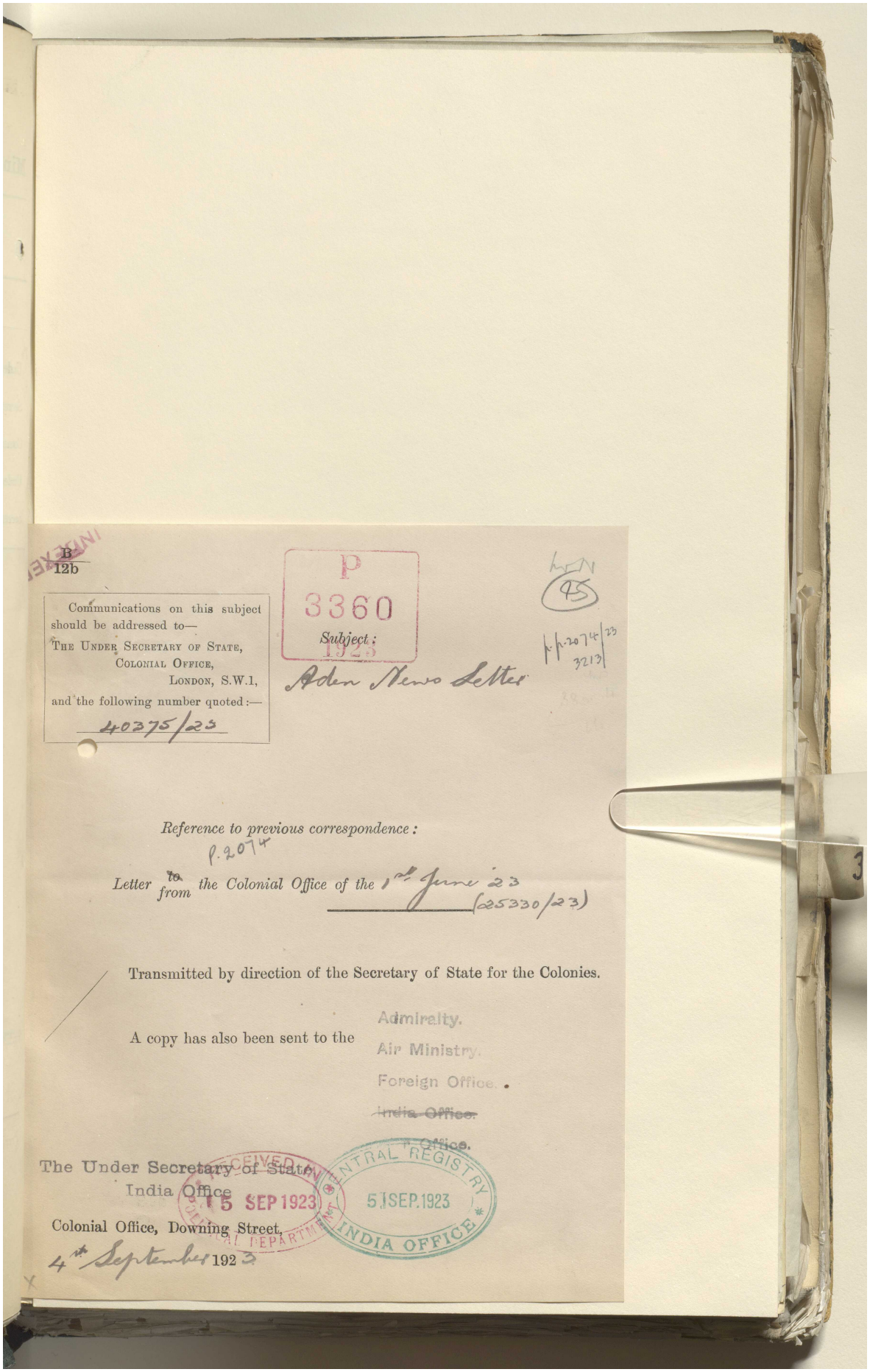

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12b

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
40375/23

P
3360
Subject:
1923
Aden News Letter

45

P.2074/23
3213

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 1st June 23 (25330/23)
P.2074

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

RECEIVED 15 SEP 1923 CENTRAL DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL REGISTRY 5 SEP 1923 INDIA OFFICE

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
4th September 1923

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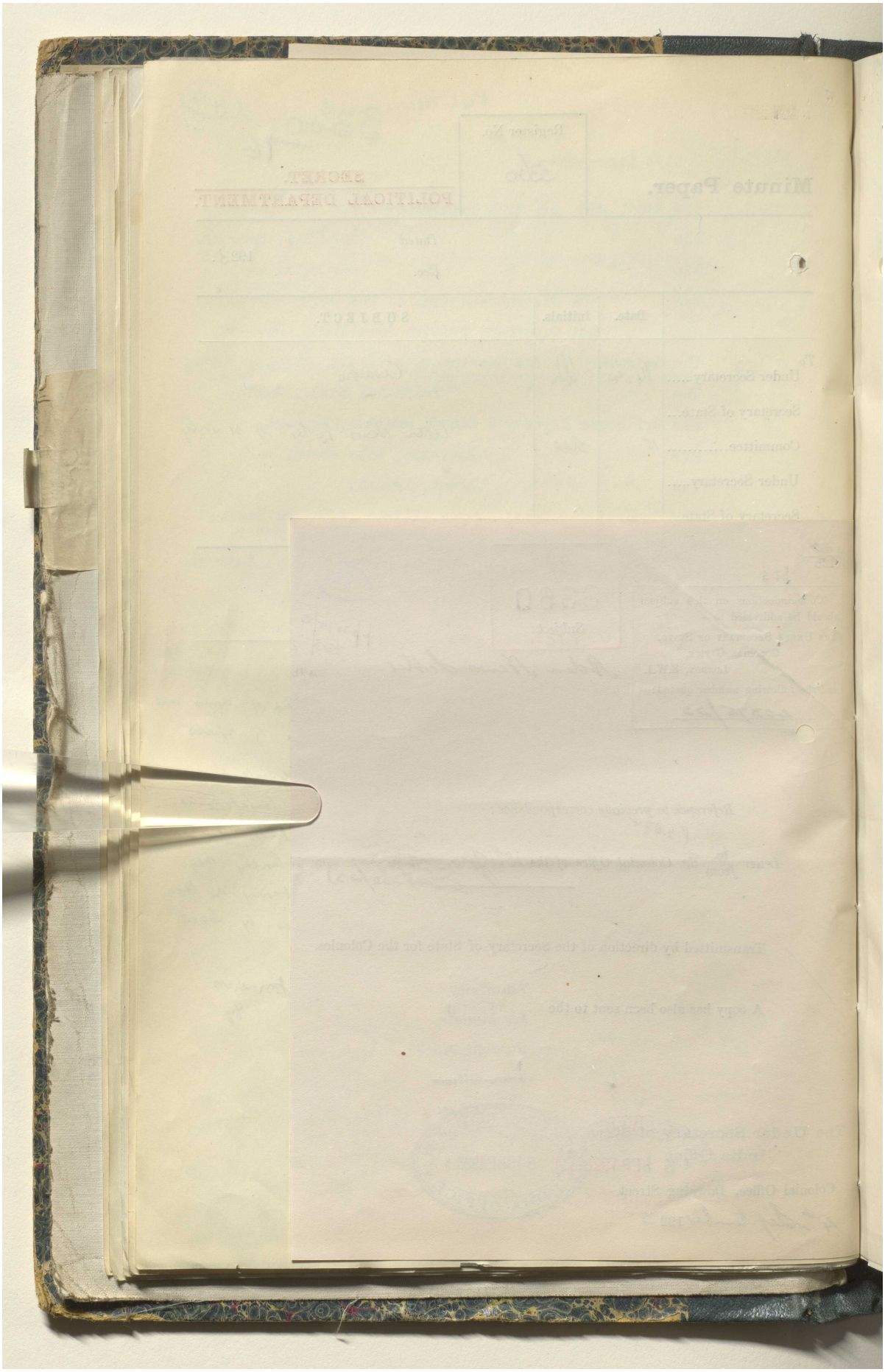

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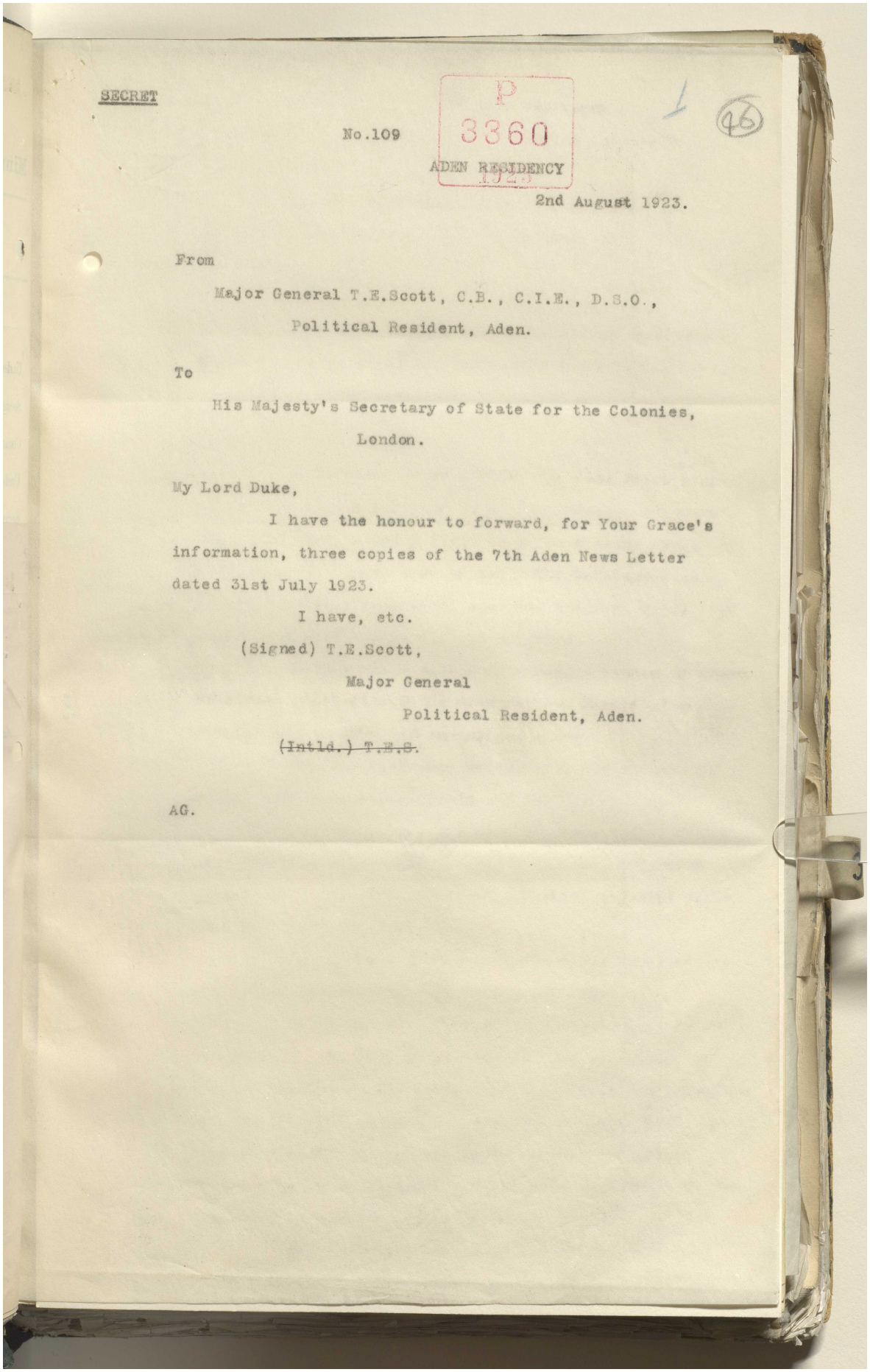

SECRET

No.109

P
3360
ADEN RESIDENCY
1923

1 (46)

2nd August 1923.

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 7th Aden News Letter dated 31st July 1923.

I have, etc.

(Signed) T.E.Scott,
Major General
Political Resident, Aden.

~~(Intld.) T.E.S.~~

AG.

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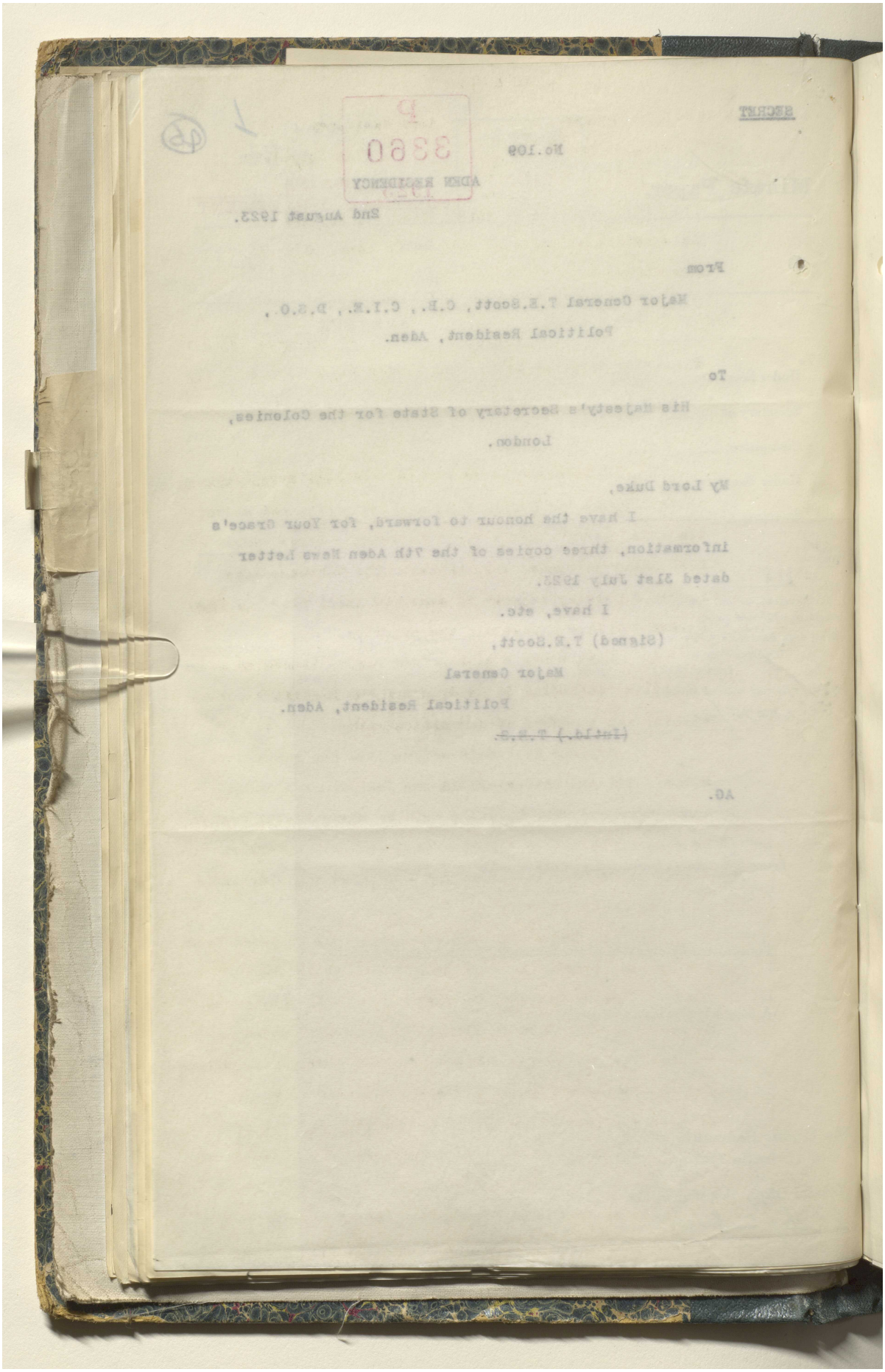

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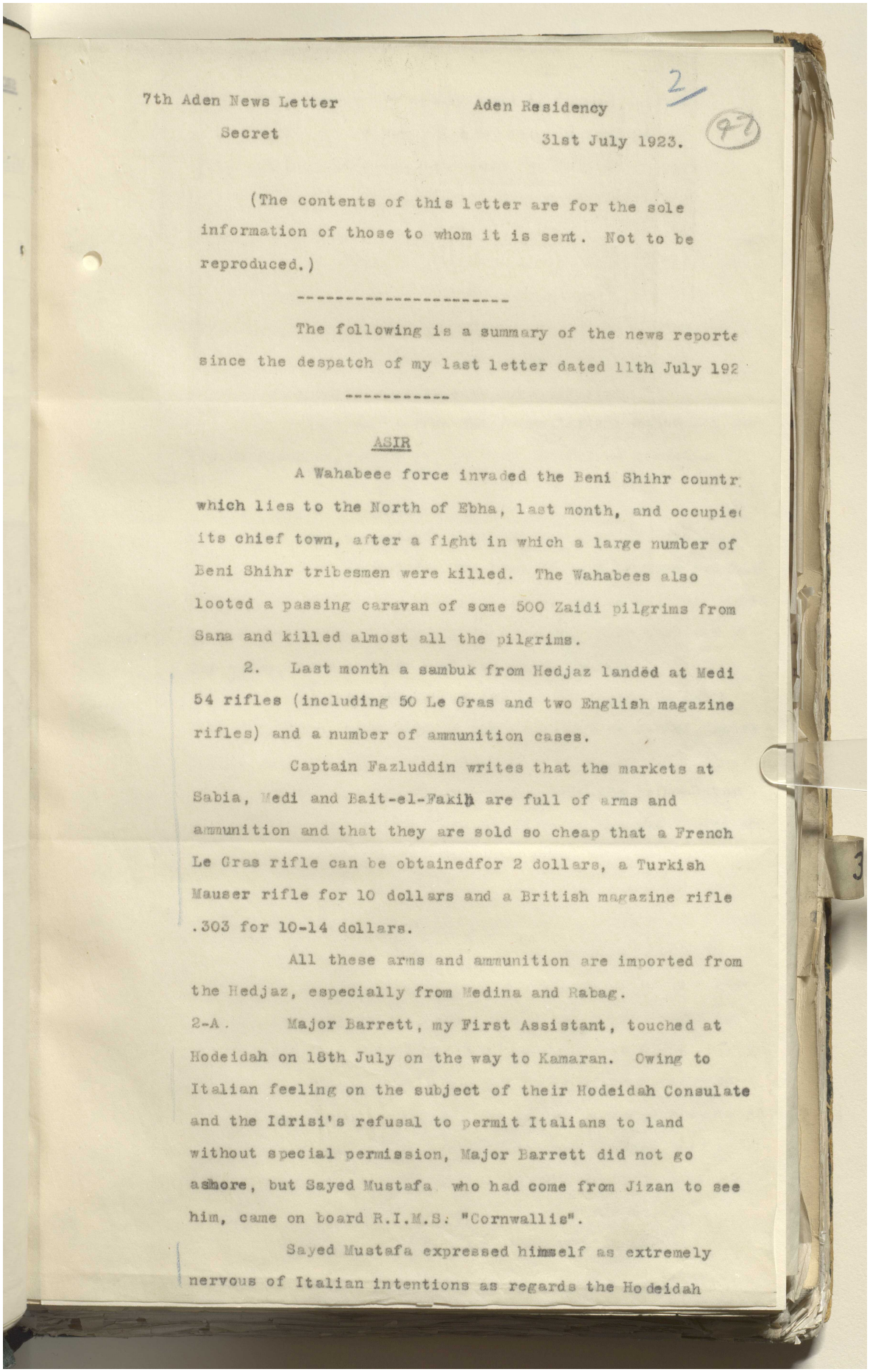

7th Aden News Letter — Aden Residency

Secret — 31st July 1923.

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97

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reporte since the despatch of my last letter dated 11th July 192

ASIR

A Wahabeee force invaded the Beni Shihr countr which lies to the North of Ebha, last month, and occupie its chief town, after a fight in which a large number of Beni Shihr tribesmen were killed. The Wahabees also looted a passing caravan of some 500 Zaidi pilgrims from Sana and killed almost all the pilgrims.

2. Last month a sambuk from Hedjaz landed at Medi 54 rifles (including 50 Le Gras and two English magazine rifles) and a number of ammunition cases.

Captain Fazluddin writes that the markets at Sabia, Medi and Bait-el-Fakih are full of arms and ammunition and that they are sold so cheap that a French Le Gras rifle can be obtainedfor 2 dollars, a Turkish Mauser rifle for 10 dollars and a British magazine rifle .303 for 10-14 dollars.

All these arms and ammunition are imported from the Hedjaz, especially from Medina and Rabag.

2-A. Major Barrett, my First Assistant, touched at Hodeidah on 18th July on the way to Kamaran. Owing to Italian feeling on the subject of their Hodeidah Consulate and the Idrisi's refusal to permit Italians to land without special permission, Major Barrett did not go ashore, but Sayed Mustafa who had come from Jizan to see him, came on board R.I.M.S. "Cornwallis".

Sayed Mustafa expressed himself as extremely nervous of Italian intentions as regards the Hodeidah

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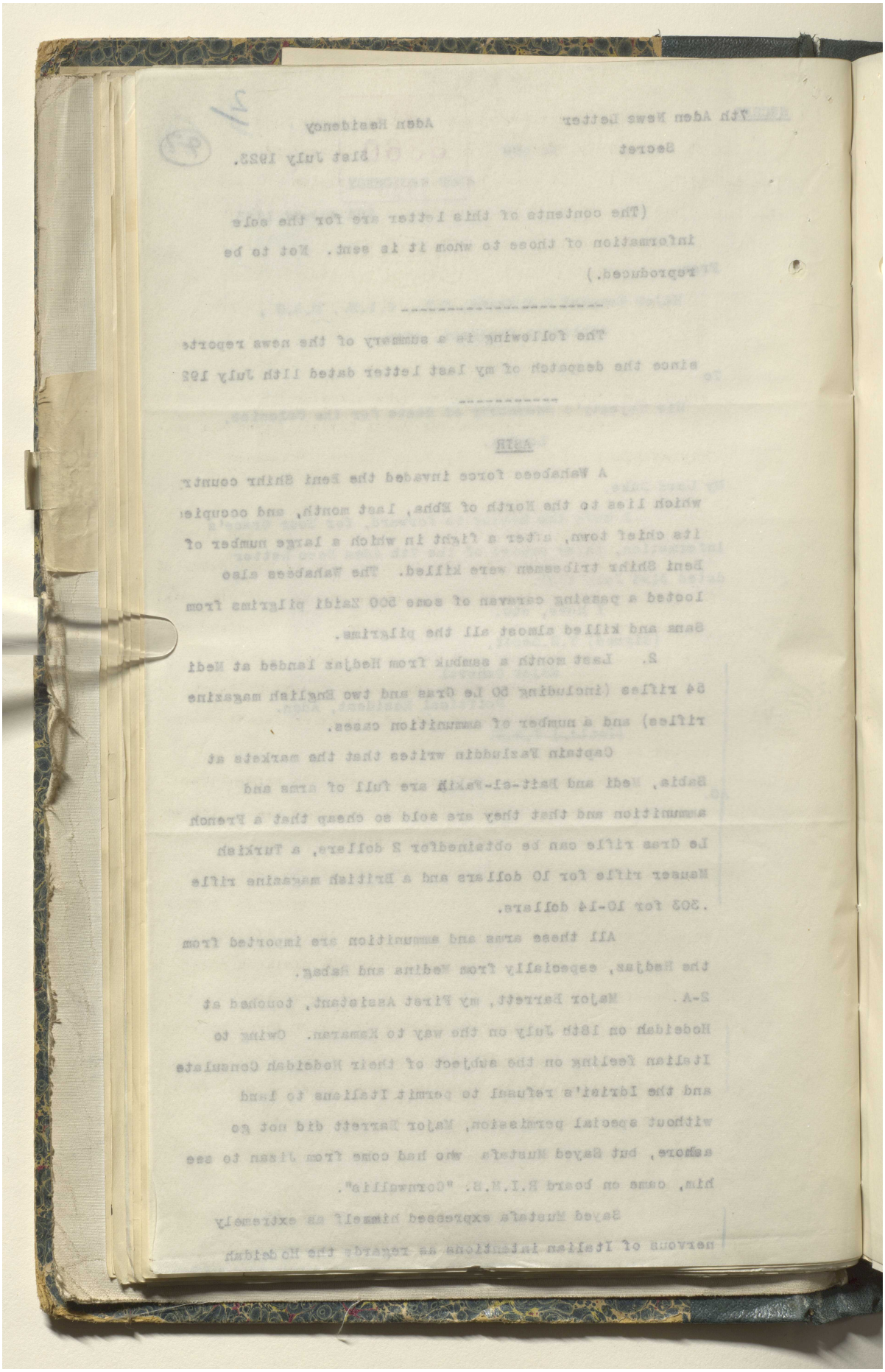

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Hodeidah Consulate and stated that he feared they might go to the length of sending a warship to bombard the town, and in that event he looked for British protection. He was assured by Major Barrett that such a move was hardly conceivable.

Sayed Mustafa stated that the Idrisi was not in any way perturbed by the Imam's preparations to invade the Tihama, but asked for a supply of arms and ammunition.

He was told to write to the Aden Residency, where his request would receive consideration.

Relations between the young Idrisi, Sayed Ali and his advisers appear to be far from cordial at present.

TIHAMA

3. The much-talked-of attack of the Imam against Jabel Malhan is still expected. The Imam is said to have detailed 10,000 troops for this offensive alone and to have disbursed to the troops two months pay in advance. Five thousand of the troops have already left for Jabel Malhan.

The total number of the Idrisi troops in Jabel Malhan is 3000, exclusive of the tribesmen of Malhan, whose number is not known.

The Imam has further reinforced the Reima-Buraa front with 2000men. His object is to engage the Idrisi on all the fronts at one and the same time.

4. Captain Fazluddin informs me that on the 22nd July, he received a visit from the important Quhra Sheikh, Ismail, Baghwi, referred to in para. 4 of my letter of 7th June. The Sheikh told Captain Fazluddin that the Idrisi's death had considerably altered the views of the Quhra people about the Idrisi Government and the future of their country. He said that he and Sayed Abdul Kader (referred to in my last letter) wish to discuss the latter question with Sayed Mustafa and that the latter had promised to meet them in August, when he intends to come to Hodeidah on a prolonged visit.

Captain Fazluddin says that Sheikh Baghwi is not

nervous

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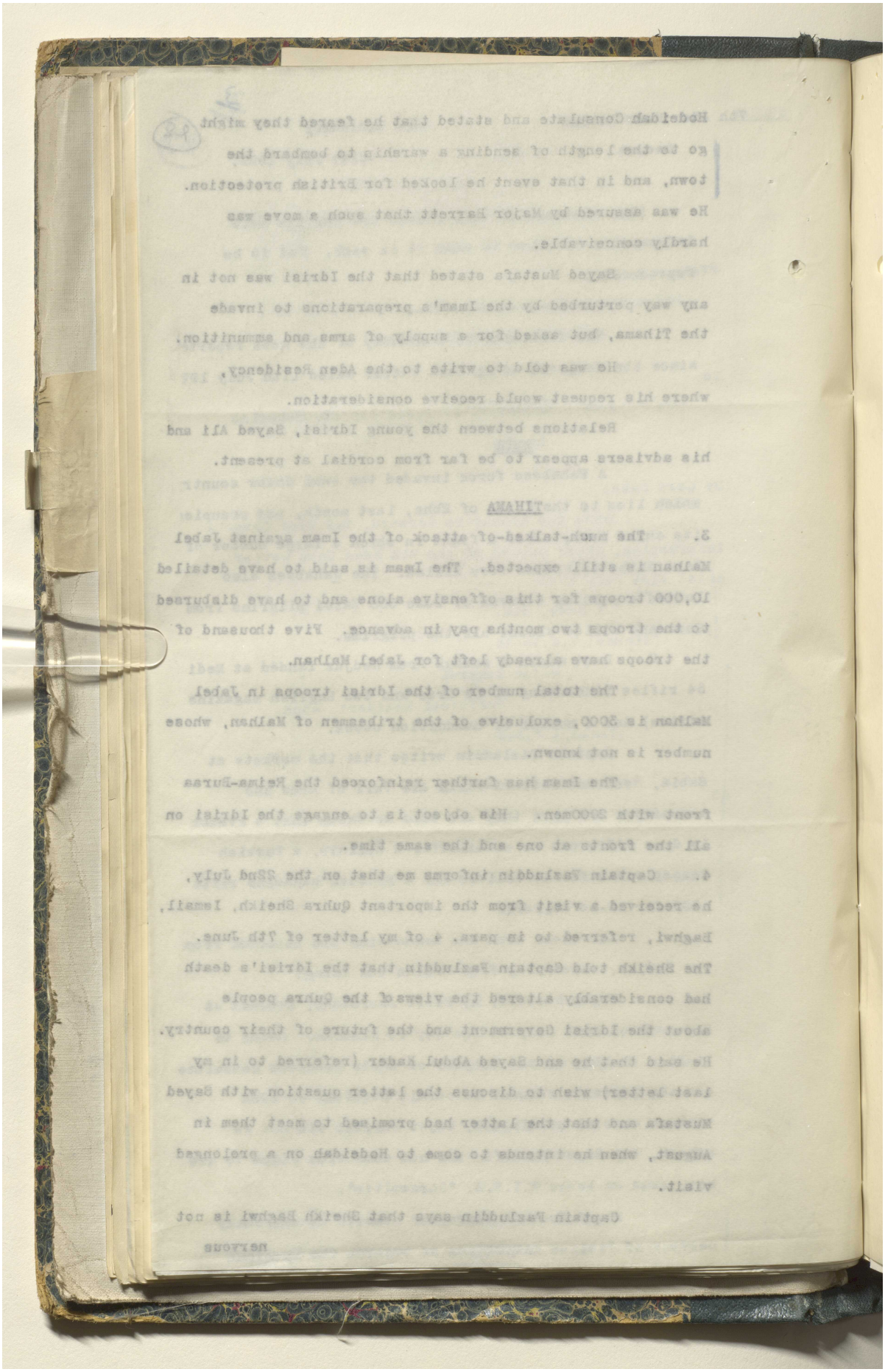

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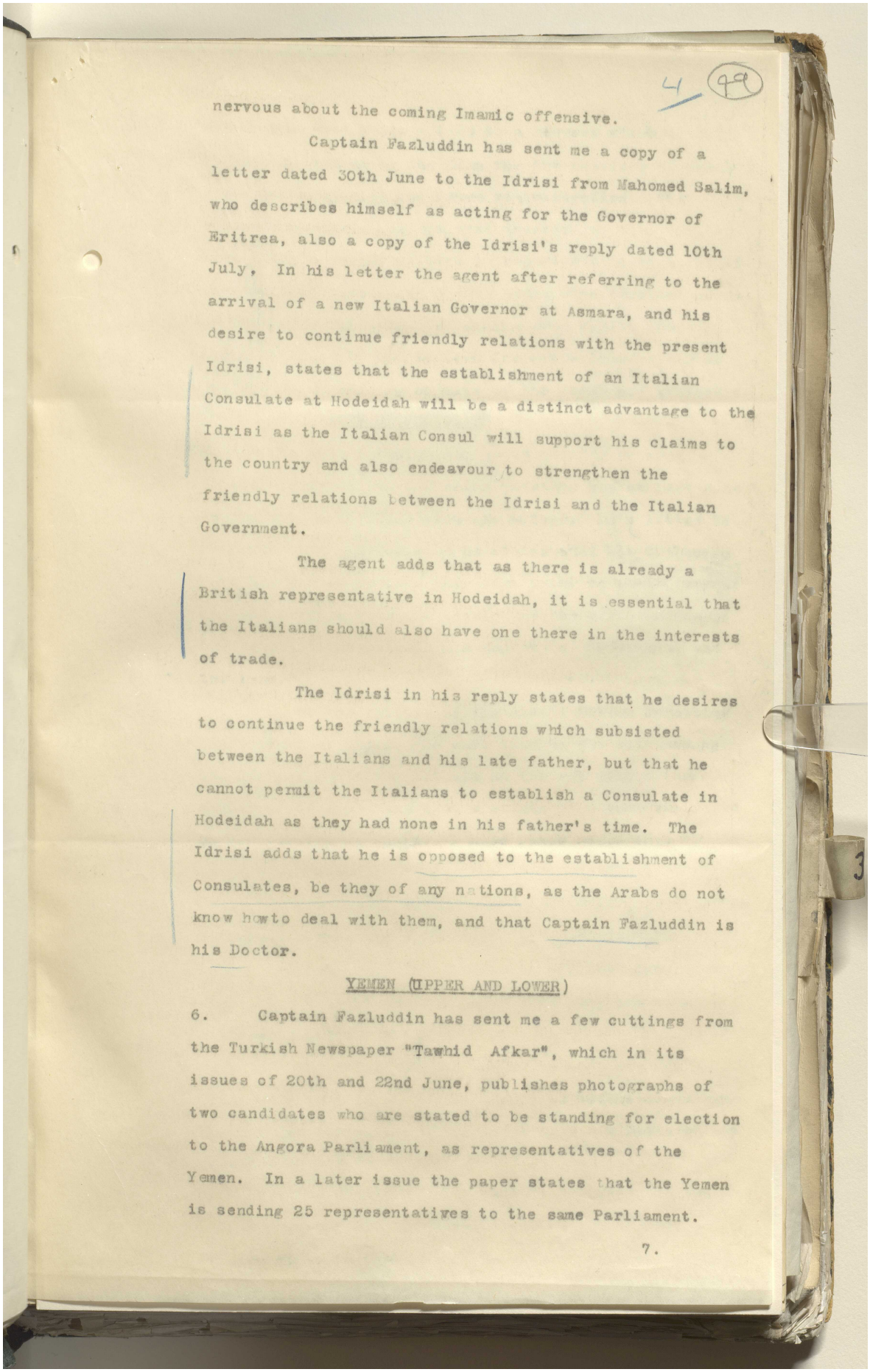

4 (99)

nervous about the coming Imamic offensive.

Captain Fazluddin has sent me a copy of a letter dated 30th June to the Idrisi from Mahomed Salim, who describes himself as acting for the Governor of Eritrea, also a copy of the Idrisi's reply dated 10th July. In his letter the agent after referring to the arrival of a new Italian Governor at Asmara, and his desire to continue friendly relations with the present Idrisi, states that the establishment of an Italian Consulate at Hodeidah will be a distinct advantage to the Idrisi as the Italian Consul will support his claims to the country and also endeavour to strengthen the friendly relations between the Idrisi and the Italian Government.

The agent adds that as there is already a British representative in Hodeidah, it is essential that the Italians should also have one there in the interests of trade.

The Idrisi in his reply states that he desires to continue the friendly relations which subsisted between the Italians and his late father, but that he cannot permit the Italians to establish a Consulate in Hodeidah as they had none in his father's time. The Idrisi adds that he is opposed to the establishment of Consulates, be they of any nations, as the Arabs do not know howto deal with them, and that Captain Fazluddin is his Doctor.

YEMEN (UPPER AND LOWER)

6. Captain Fazluddin has sent me a few cuttings from the Turkish Newspaper "Tawhid Afkar", which in its issues of 20th and 22nd June, publishes photographs of two candidates who are stated to be standing for election to the Angora Parliament, as representatives of the Yemen. In a later issue the paper states that the Yemen is sending 25 representatives to the same Parliament.

7.

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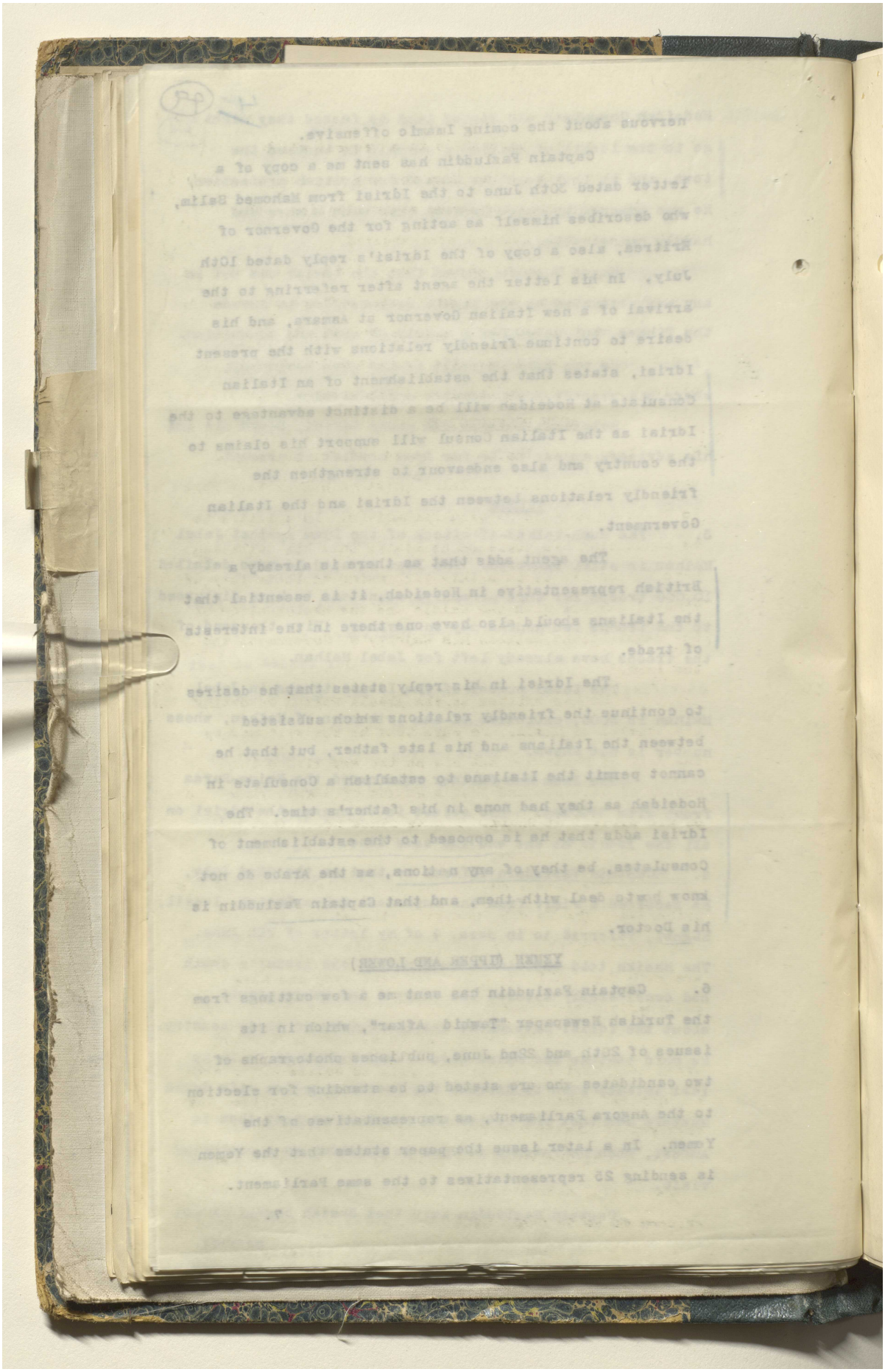

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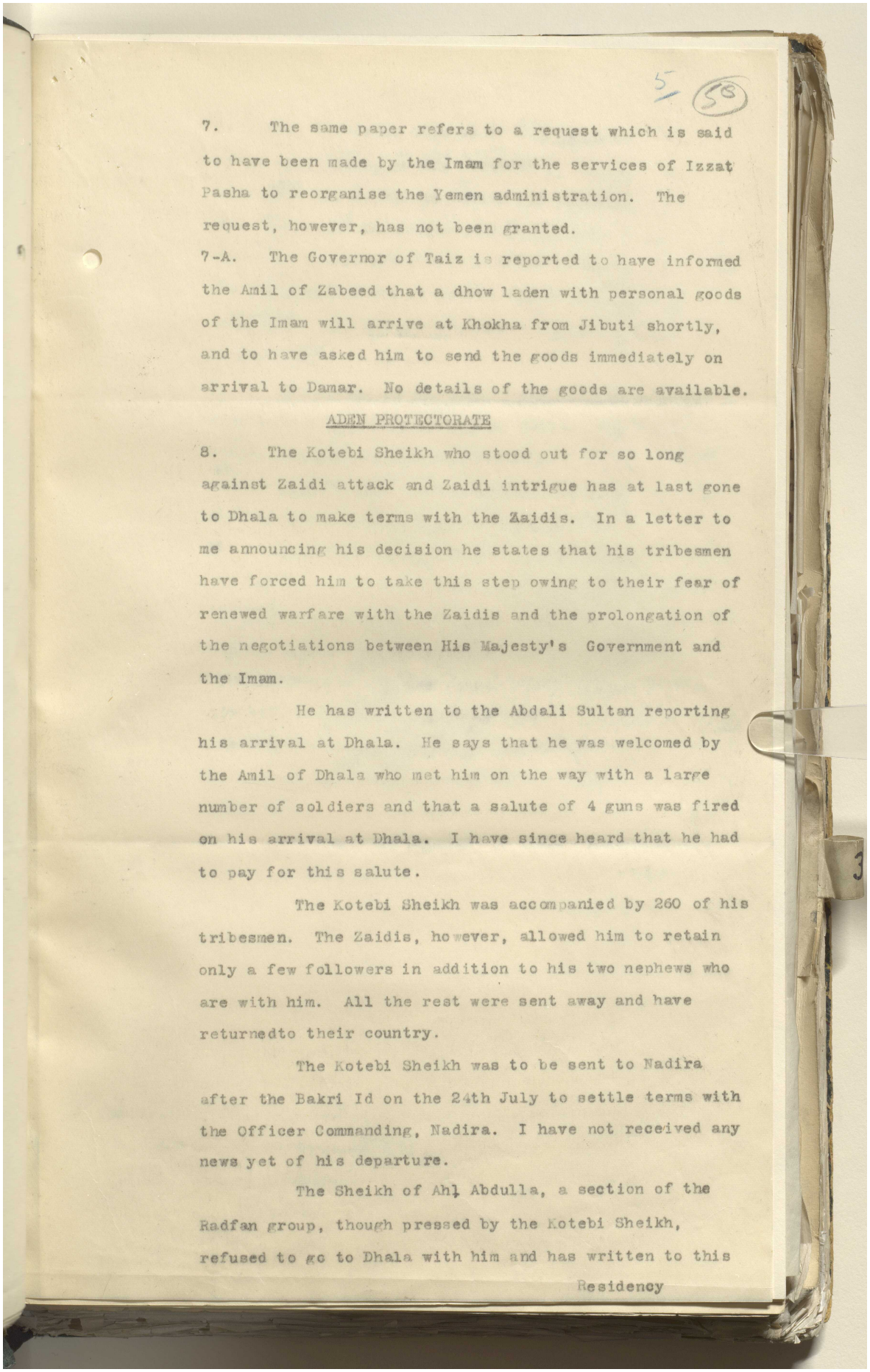

5 (59)

7. The same paper refers to a request which is said to have been made by the Imam for the services of Izzat Pasha to reorganise the Yemen administration. The request, however, has not been granted.

7-A. The Governor of Taiz is reported to have informed the Amil of Zabeed that a dhow laden with personal goods of the Imam will arrive at Khokha from Jibuti shortly, and to have asked him to send the goods immediately on arrival to Damar. No details of the goods are available.

ADEN PROTECTORATE

8. The Kotebi Sheikh who stood out for so long against Zaidi attack and Zaidi intrigue has at last gone to Dhala to make terms with the Zaidis. In a letter to me announcing his decision he states that his tribesmen have forced him to take this step owing to their fear of renewed warfare with the Zaidis and the prolongation of the negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the Imam.

He has written to the Abdali Sultan reporting his arrival at Dhala. He says that he was welcomed by the Amil of Dhala who met him on the way with a large number of soldiers and that a salute of 4 guns was fired on his arrival at Dhala. I have since heard that he had to pay for this salute.

The Kotebi Sheikh was accompanied by 260 of his tribesmen. The Zaidis, however, allowed him to retain only a few followers in addition to his two nephews who are with him. All the rest were sent away and have returnedto their country.

The Kotebi Sheikh was to be sent to Nadira after the Bakri Id on the 24th July to settle terms with the Officer Commanding, Nadira. I have not received any news yet of his departure.

The Sheikh of Ahl Abdulla, a section of the Radfan group, though pressed by the Kotebi Sheikh, refused to go to Dhala with him and has written to this

Residency

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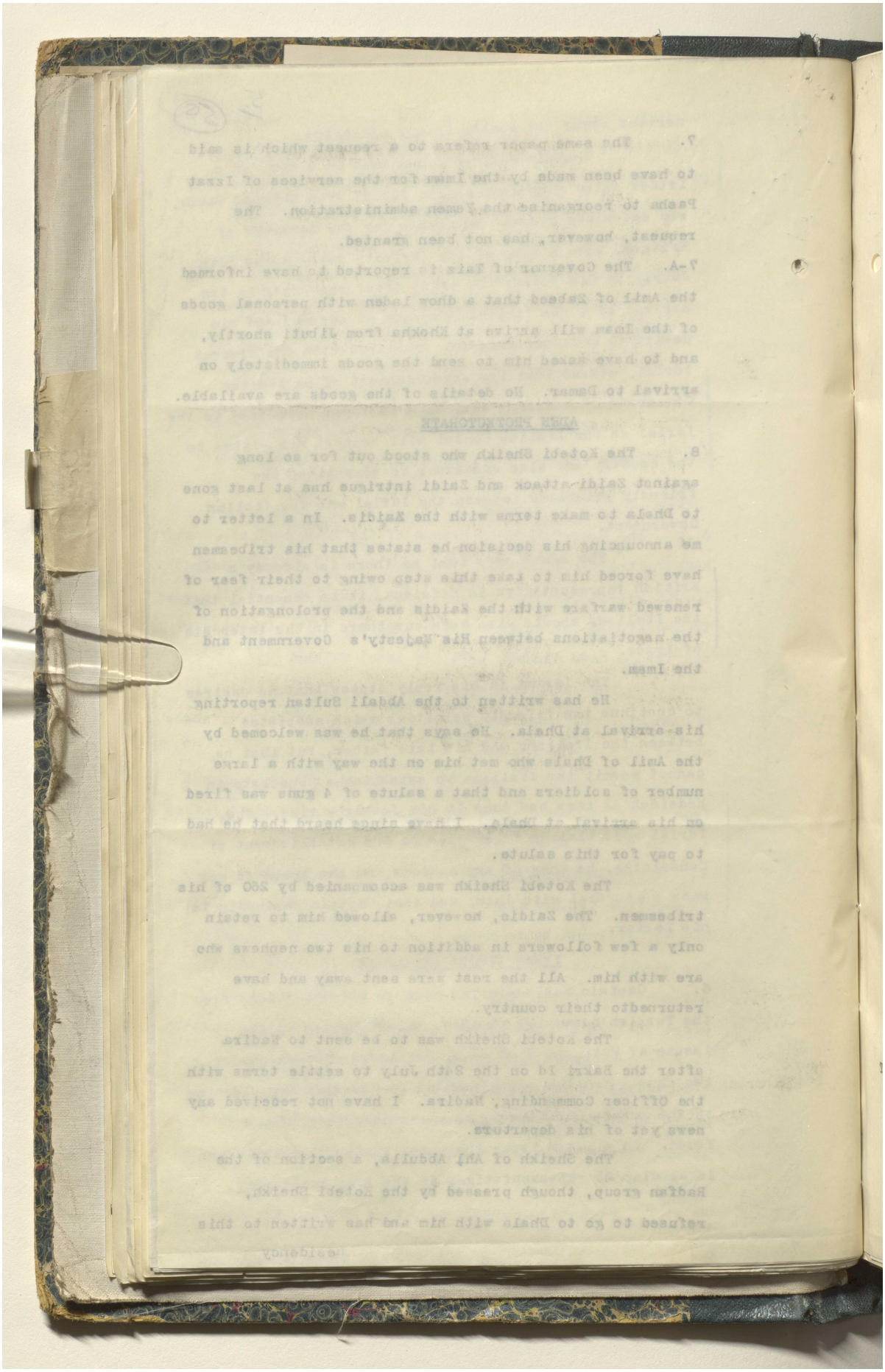

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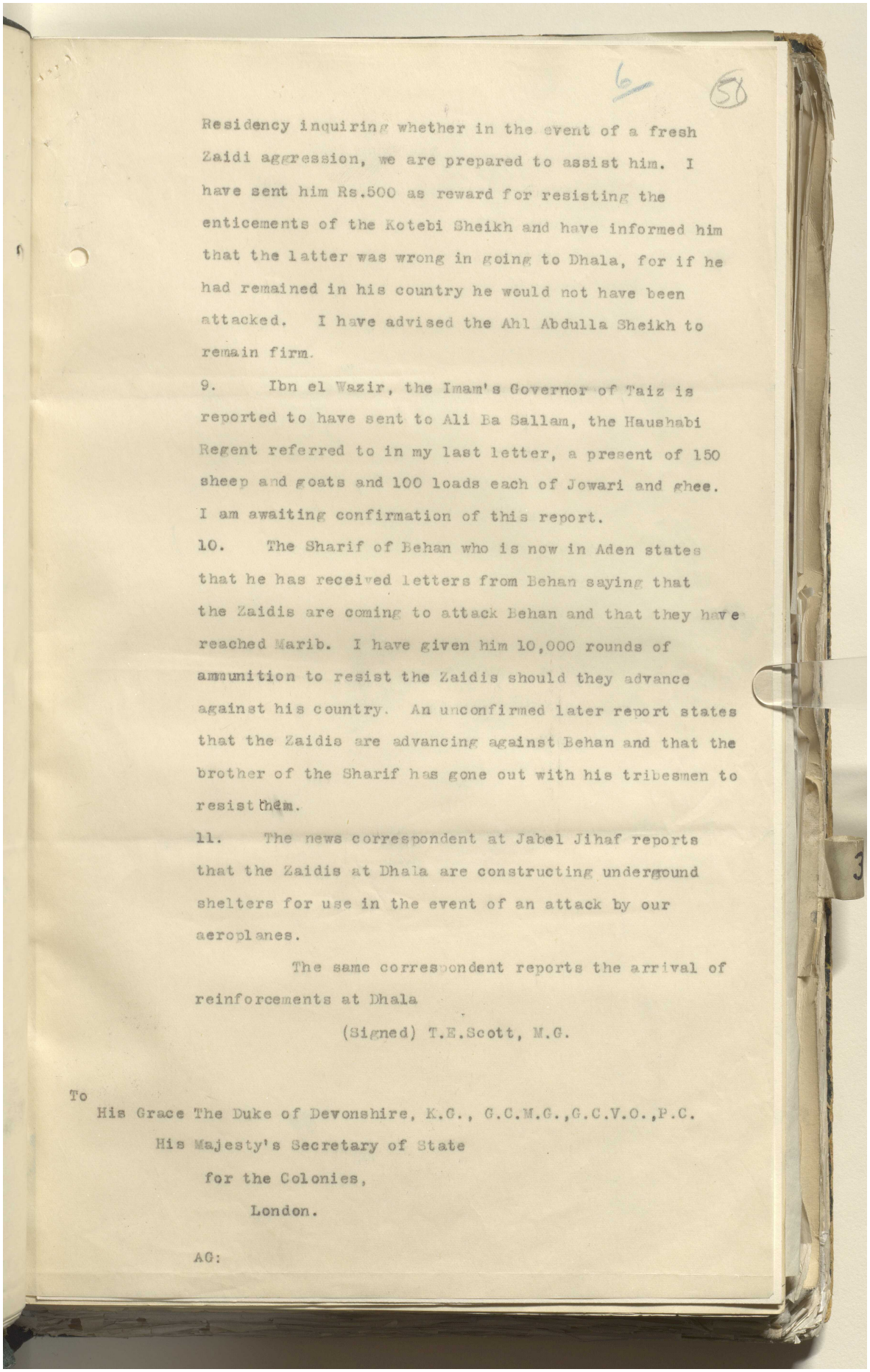

Residency inquiring whether in the event of a fresh Zaidi aggression, we are prepared to assist him. I have sent him Rs.500 as reward for resisting the enticements of the Kotebi Sheikh and have informed him that the latter was wrong in going to Dhala, for if he had remained in his country he would not have been attacked. I have advised the Ahl Abdulla Sheikh to remain firm.

9. Ibn el Wazir, the Imam's Governor of Taiz is reported to have sent to Ali Ba Sallam, the Haushabi Regent referred to in my last letter, a present of 150 sheep and goats and 100 loads each of Jowari and ghee. I am awaiting confirmation of this report.

10. The Sharif of Behan who is now in Aden states that he has received letters from Behan saying that the Zaidis are coming to attack Behan and that they have reached Marib. I have given him 10,000 rounds of ammunition to resist the Zaidis should they advance against his country. An unconfirmed later report states that the Zaidis are advancing against Behan and that the brother of the Sharif has gone out with his tribesmen to resist them.

11. The news correspondent at Jabel Jihaf reports that the Zaidis at Dhala are constructing underground shelters for use in the event of an attack by our aeroplanes.

The same correspondent reports the arrival of reinforcements at Dhala

(Signed) T.E.Scott, M.C.

To
His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.C., G.C.M.G.,G.C.V.O.,P.C.
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
London.

AC:

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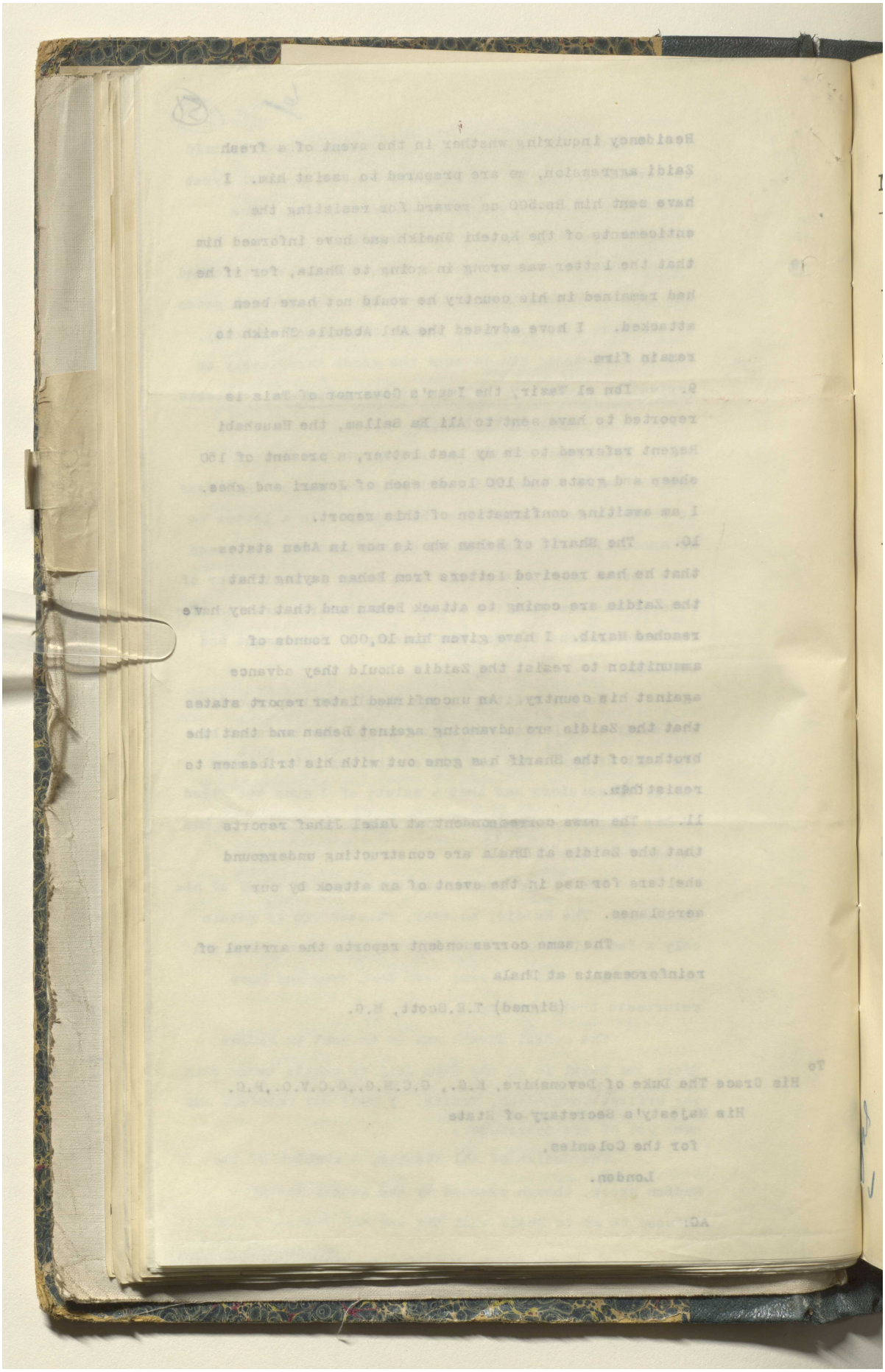

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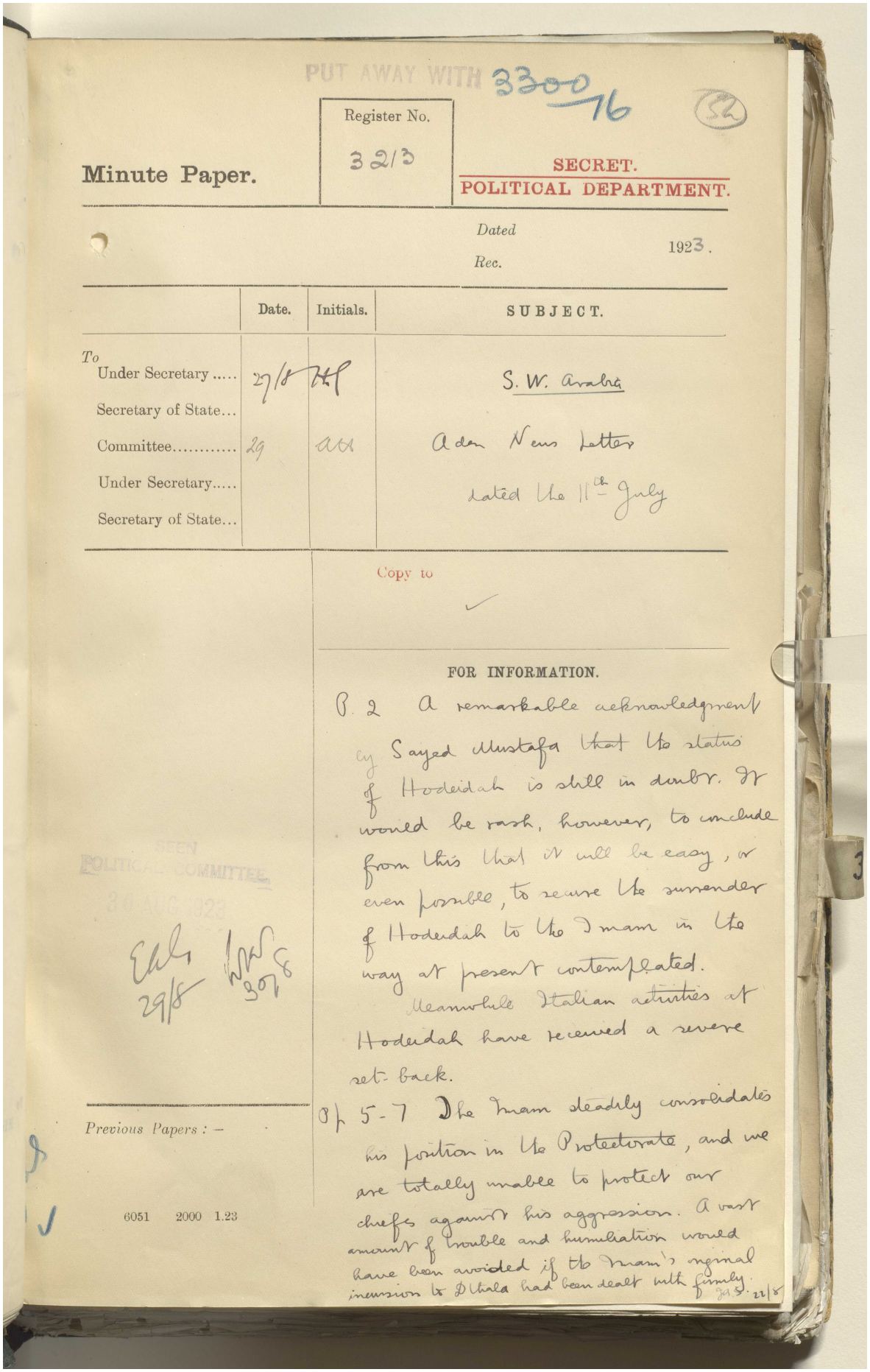

PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16 (52)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 3213

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	27/8	HF	S. W. Arabia
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	29	AH	Aden News Letter dated the 11th July
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to ✓

FOR INFORMATION.

P. 2 A remarkable acknowledgment by Sayed Mustafa that the status of Hodeidah is still in doubt. It would be rash, however, to conclude from this that it will be easy, or even possible, to secure the surrender of Hodeidah to the Imam in the way at present contemplated.

Meanwhile Italian activities at Hodeidah have received a severe set-back.

P. 5-7 The Imam steadily consolidates his position in the Protectorate, and we are totally unable to protect our chiefs against his aggression. A vast amount of trouble and humiliation would have been avoided if the Imam's original incursion to Dhala had been dealt with firmly. JH 22/8

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE 30 AUG 1923

EHL 29/8 WHF 30/8

Previous Papers :—

6051 2000 1.23

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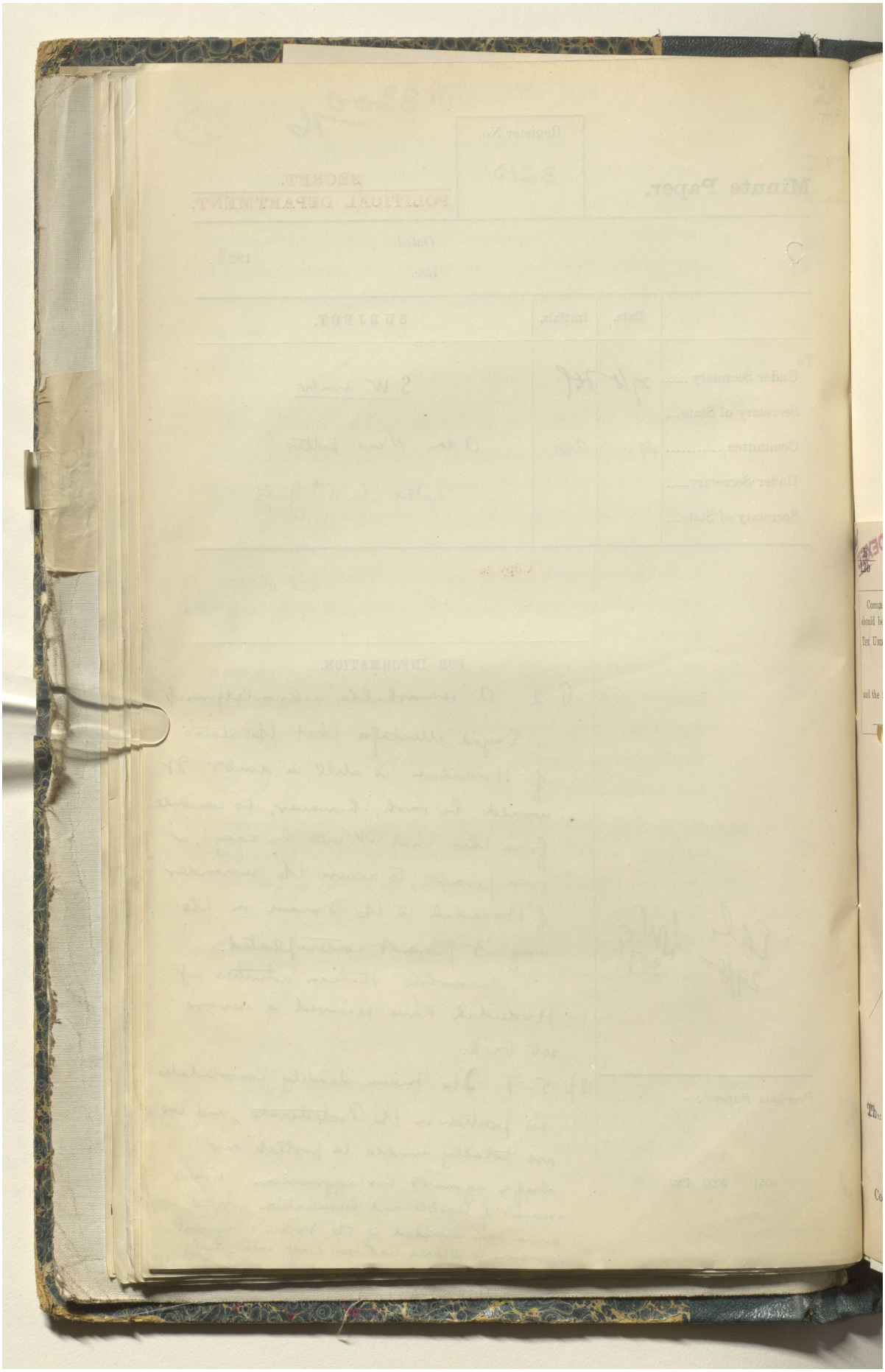

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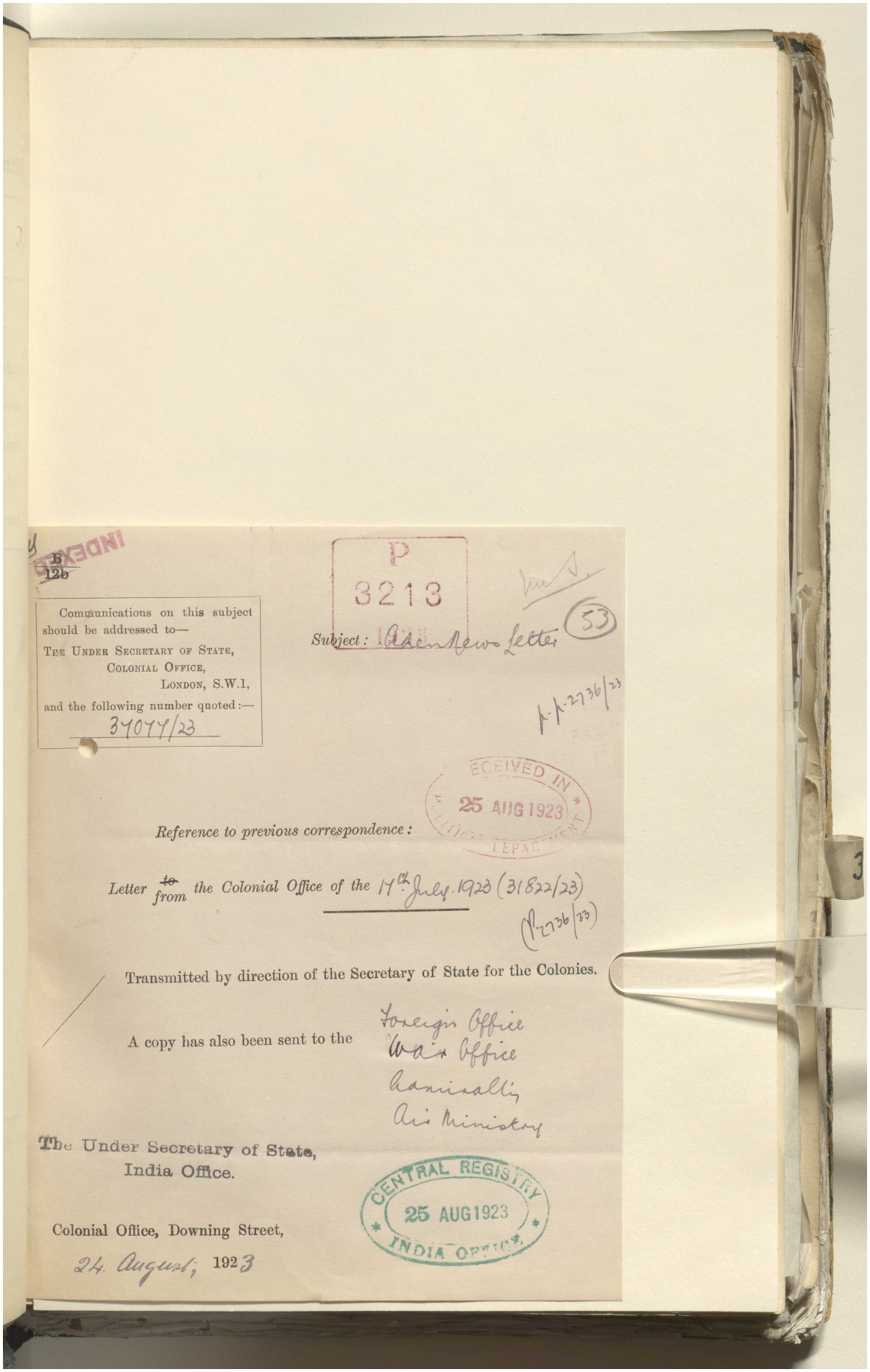

INDEXED
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P
3213

Subject: Aden News-Letter (53)

A.A.2736/23

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
37077/23

RECEIVED IN
25 AUG 1923
INDIA OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 14th July 1923 (31822/23)
(P.2736/23)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
Foreign Office
War Office
Admiralty
Air Ministry

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
25 AUG 1923
INDIA OFFICE

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
24 August, 1923

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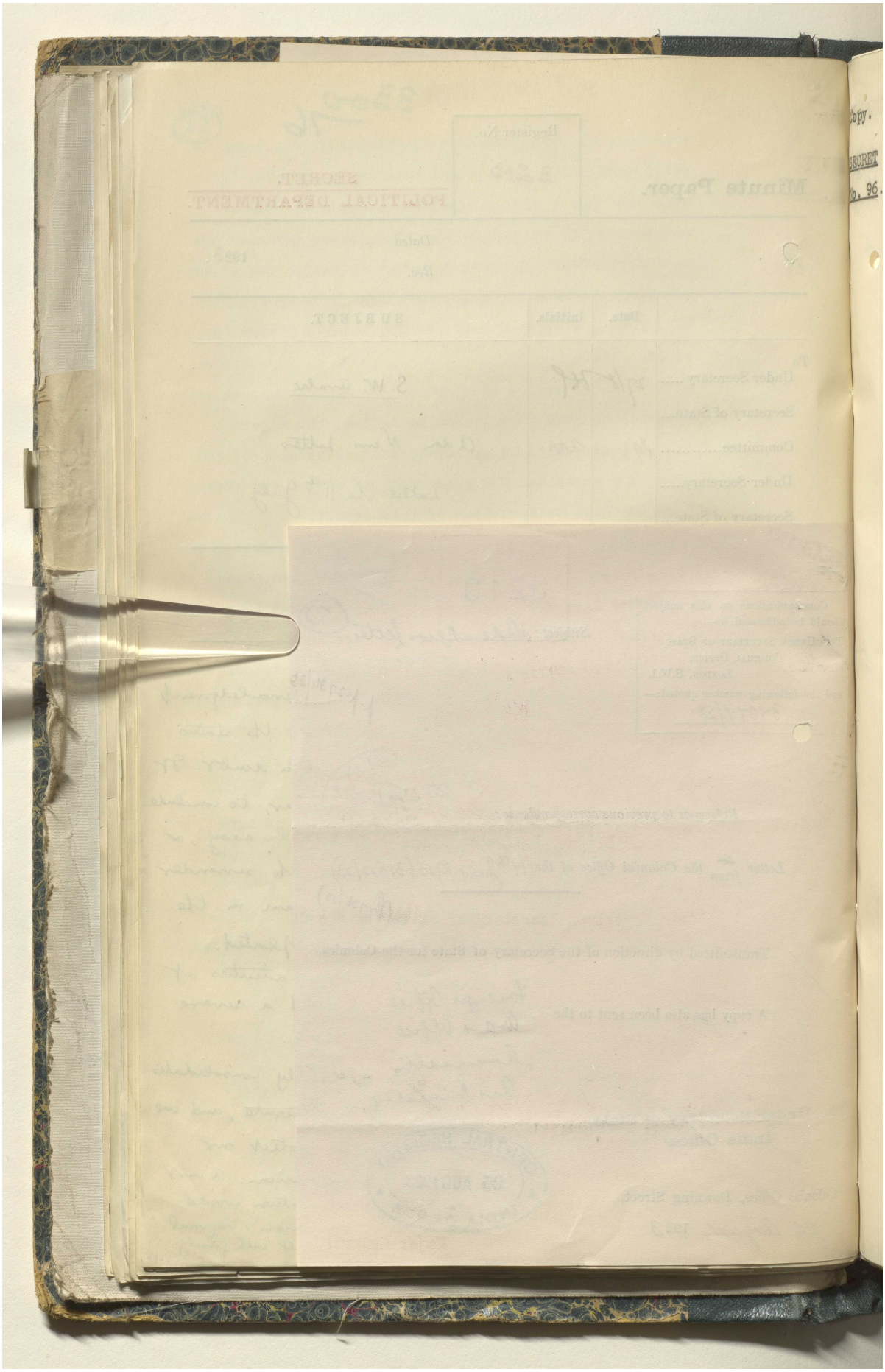

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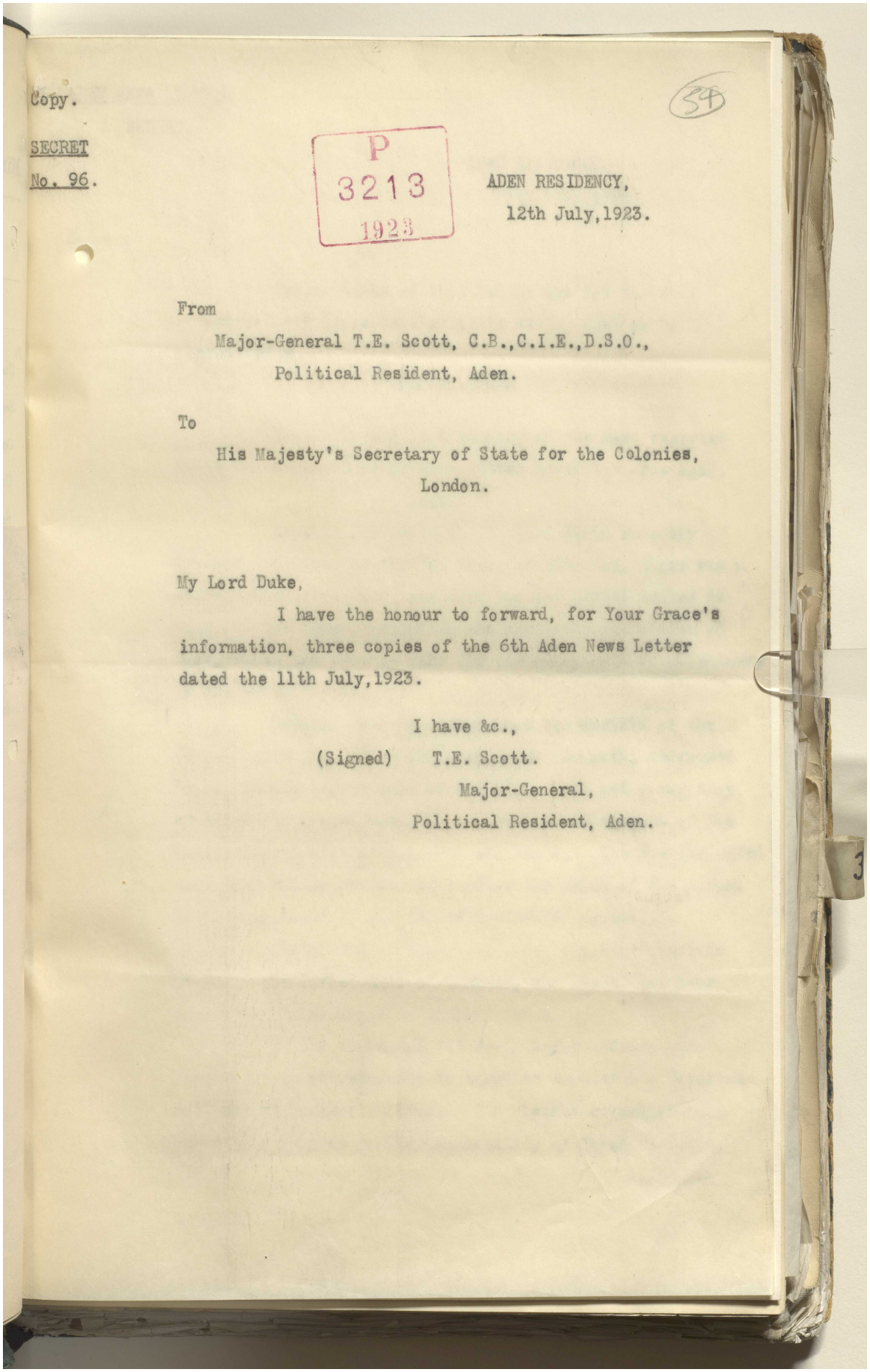

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SECRET

No. 96.

P
3213
1923

ADEN RESIDENCY,
12th July, 1923.

From

Major-General T.E. Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 6th Aden News Letter dated the 11th July, 1923.

I have &c.,

(Signed) T.E. Scott.
Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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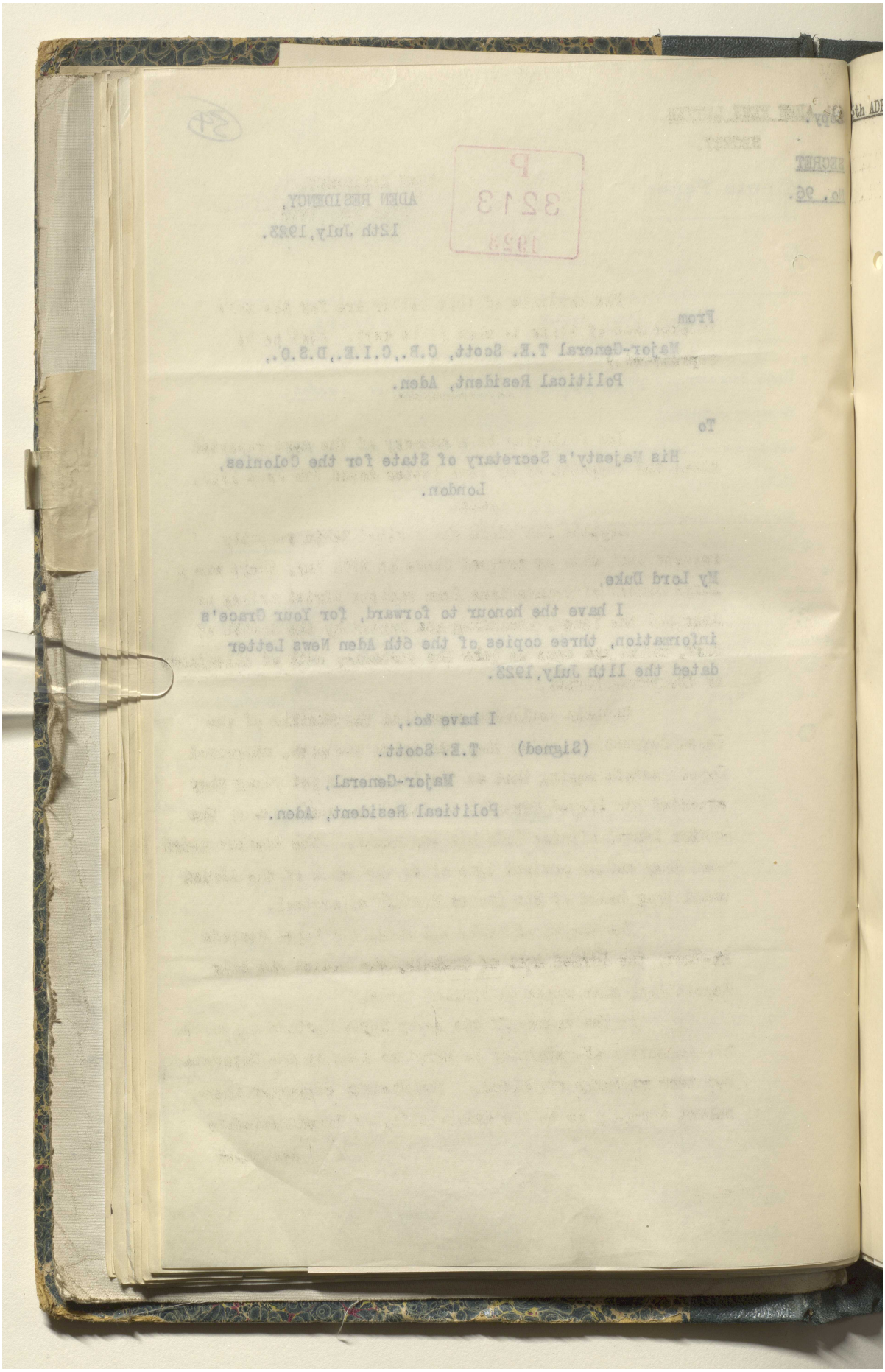

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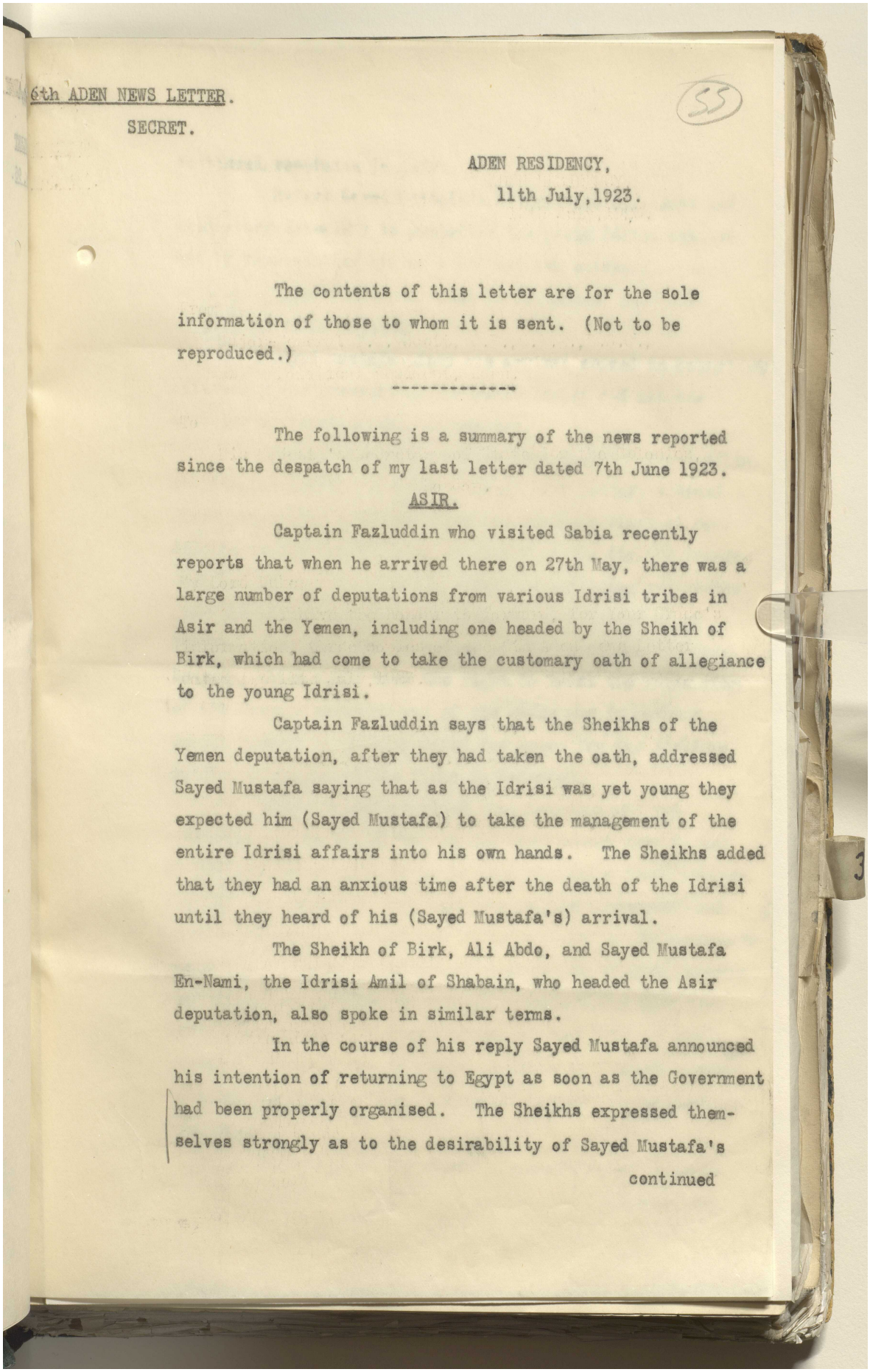

6th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

55

ADEN RESIDENCY,
11th July,1923.

The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. (Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 7th June 1923.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin who visited Sabia recently reports that when he arrived there on 27th May, there was a large number of deputations from various Idrisi tribes in Asir and the Yemen, including one headed by the Sheikh of Birk, which had come to take the customary oath of allegiance to the young Idrisi.

Captain Fazluddin says that the Sheikhs of the Yemen deputation, after they had taken the oath, addressed Sayed Mustafa saying that as the Idrisi was yet young they expected him (Sayed Mustafa) to take the management of the entire Idrisi affairs into his own hands. The Sheikhs added that they had an anxious time after the death of the Idrisi until they heard of his (Sayed Mustafa's) arrival.

The Sheikh of Birk, Ali Abdo, and Sayed Mustafa En-Nami, the Idrisi Amil of Shabain, who headed the Asir deputation, also spoke in similar terms.

In the course of his reply Sayed Mustafa announced his intention of returning to Egypt as soon as the Government had been properly organised. The Sheikhs expressed themselves strongly as to the desirability of Sayed Mustafa's

continued

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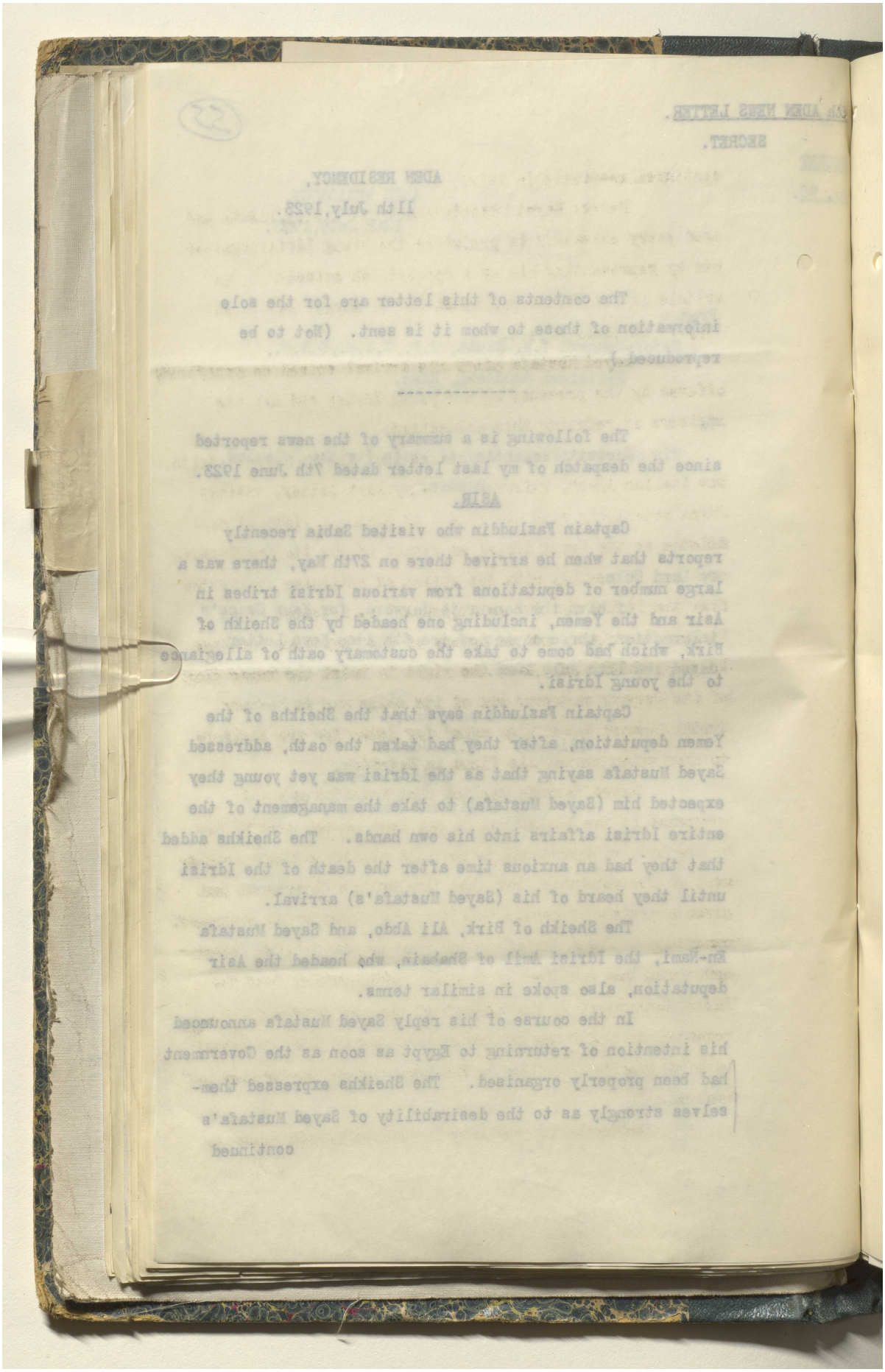

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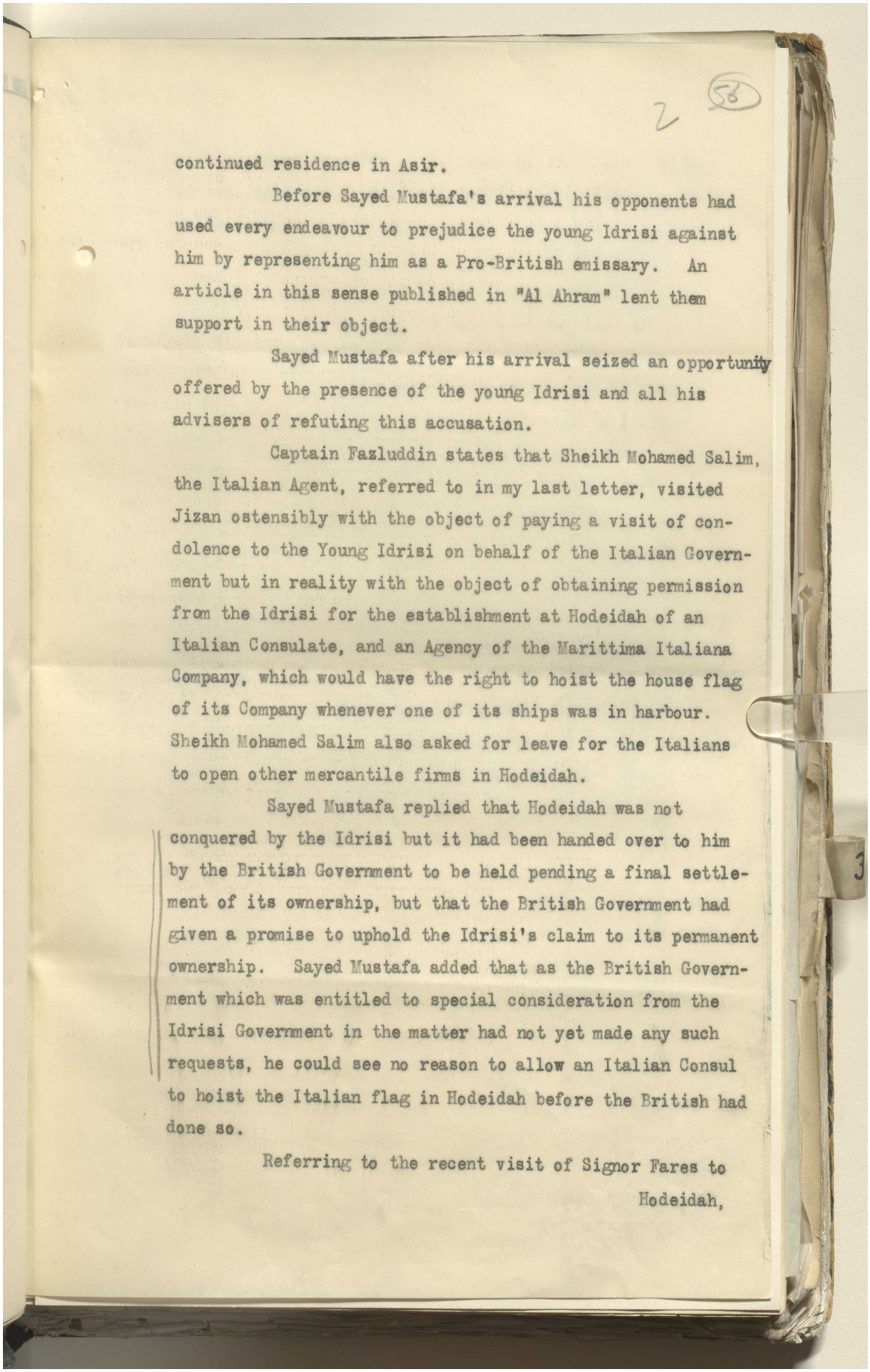

2 (56)

continued residence in Asir.

Before Sayed Mustafa's arrival his opponents had used every endeavour to prejudice the young Idrisi against him by representing him as a Pro-British emissary. An article in this sense published in "Al Ahram" lent them support in their object.

Sayed Mustafa after his arrival seized an opportunity offered by the presence of the young Idrisi and all his advisers of refuting this accusation.

Captain Fazluddin states that Sheikh Mohamed Salim, the Italian Agent, referred to in my last letter, visited Jizan ostensibly with the object of paying a visit of condolence to the Young Idrisi on behalf of the Italian Government but in reality with the object of obtaining permission from the Idrisi for the establishment at Hodeidah of an Italian Consulate, and an Agency of the Marittima Italiana Company, which would have the right to hoist the house flag of its Company whenever one of its ships was in harbour. Sheikh Mohamed Salim also asked for leave for the Italians to open other mercantile firms in Hodeidah.

Sayed Mustafa replied that Hodeidah was not conquered by the Idrisi but it had been handed over to him by the British Government to be held pending a final settlement of its ownership, but that the British Government had given a promise to uphold the Idrisi's claim to its permanent ownership. Sayed Mustafa added that as the British Government which was entitled to special consideration from the Idrisi Government in the matter had not yet made any such requests, he could see no reason to allow an Italian Consul to hoist the Italian flag in Hodeidah before the British had done so.

Referring to the recent visit of Signor Fares to

Hodeidah,

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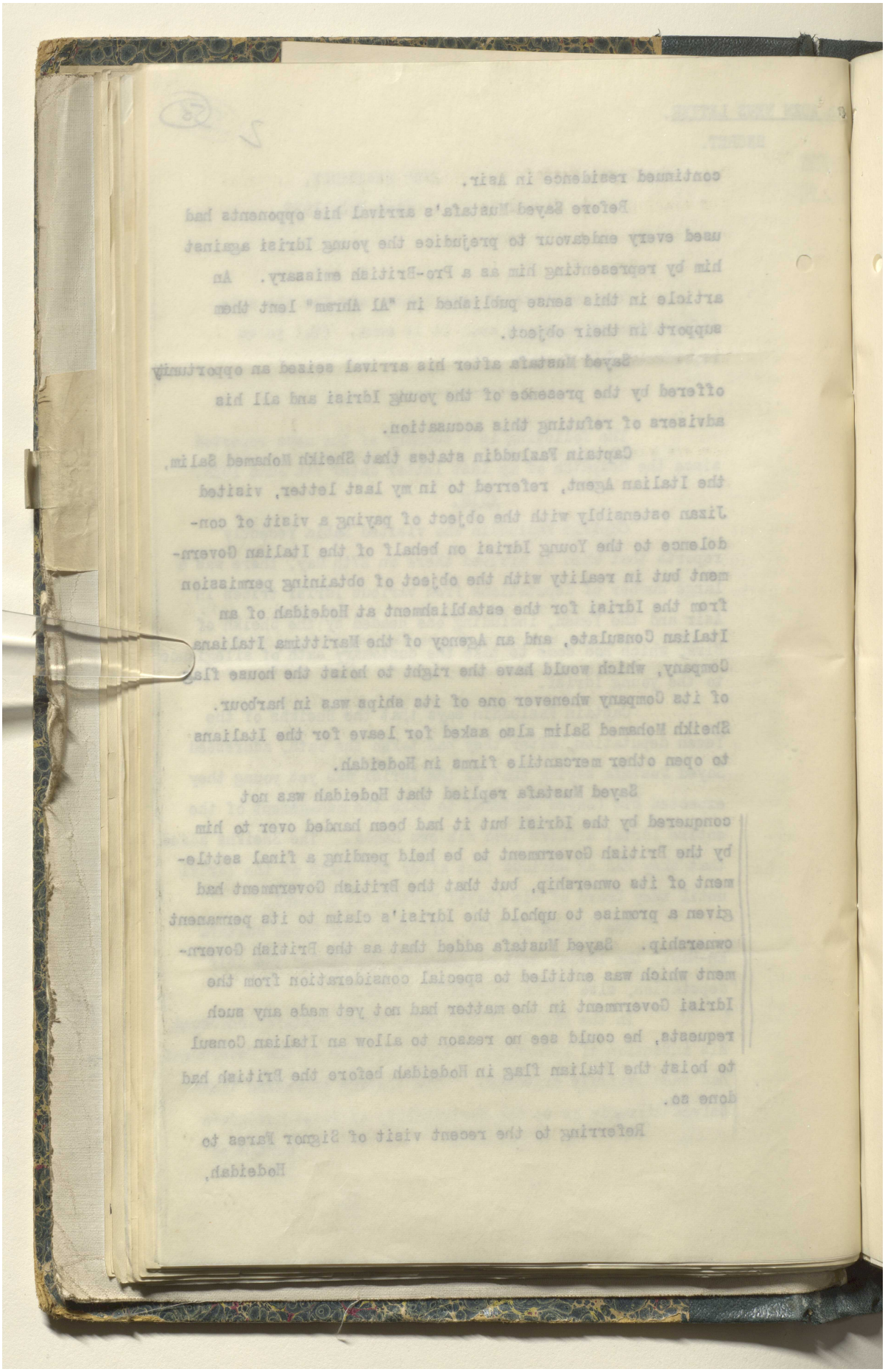

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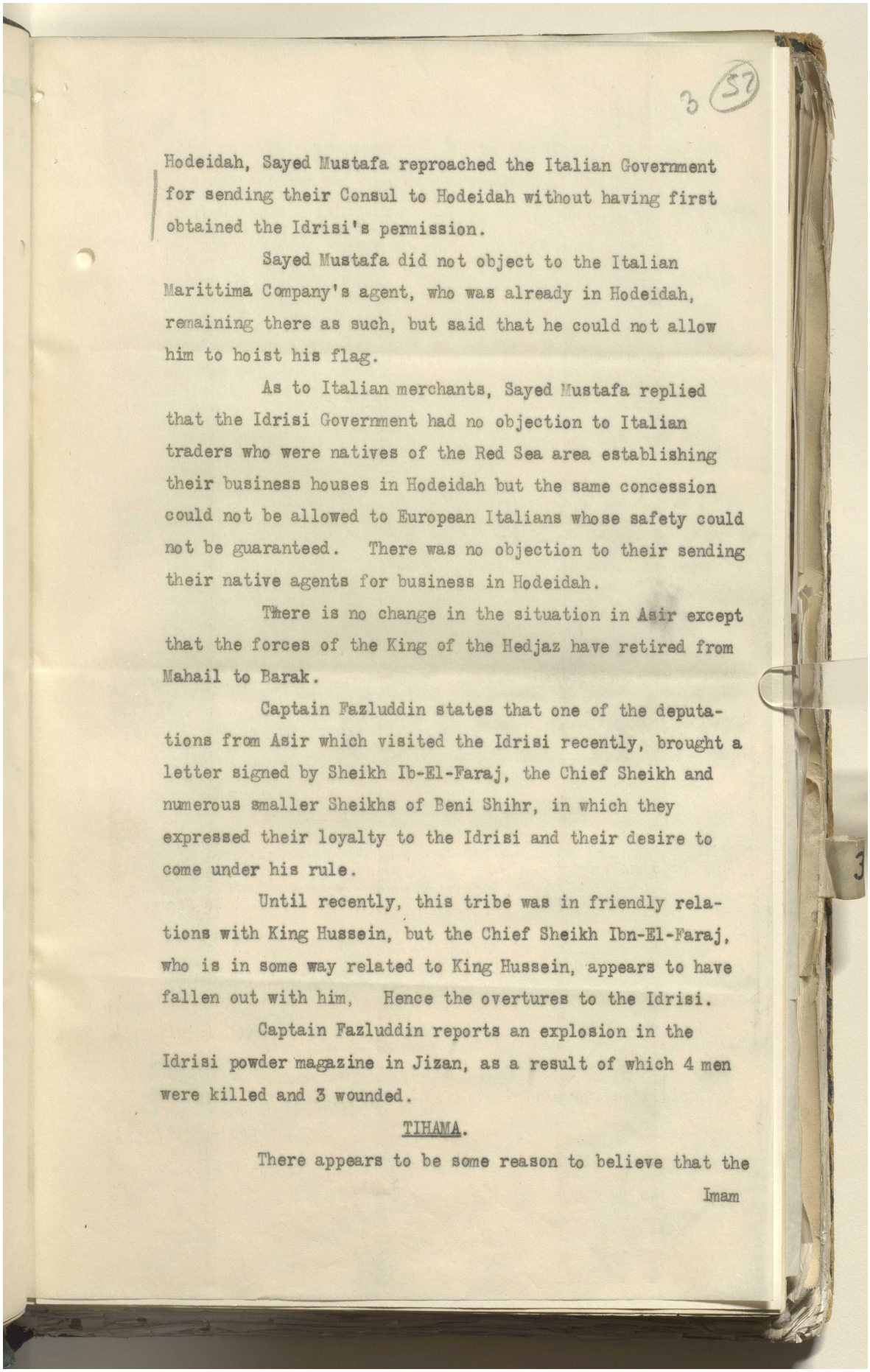

3 (57)

Hodeidah, Sayed Mustafa reproached the Italian Government for sending their Consul to Hodeidah without having first obtained the Idrisi's permission.

Sayed Mustafa did not object to the Italian Marittima Company's agent, who was already in Hodeidah, remaining there as such, but said that he could not allow him to hoist his flag.

As to Italian merchants, Sayed Mustafa replied that the Idrisi Government had no objection to Italian traders who were natives of the Red Sea area establishing their business houses in Hodeidah but the same concession could not be allowed to European Italians whose safety could not be guaranteed. There was no objection to their sending their native agents for business in Hodeidah.

There is no change in the situation in Asir except that the forces of the King of the Hedjaz have retired from Mahail to Barak.

Captain Fazluddin states that one of the deputations from Asir which visited the Idrisi recently, brought a letter signed by Sheikh Ib-El-Faraj, the Chief Sheikh and numerous smaller Sheikhs of Beni Shihr, in which they expressed their loyalty to the Idrisi and their desire to come under his rule.

Until recently, this tribe was in friendly relations with King Hussein, but the Chief Sheikh Ibn-El-Faraj, who is in some way related to King Hussein, appears to have fallen out with him, Hence the overtures to the Idrisi.

Captain Fazluddin reports an explosion in the Idrisi powder magazine in Jizan, as a result of which 4 men were killed and 3 wounded.

TIHAMA.

There appears to be some reason to believe that the

Imam

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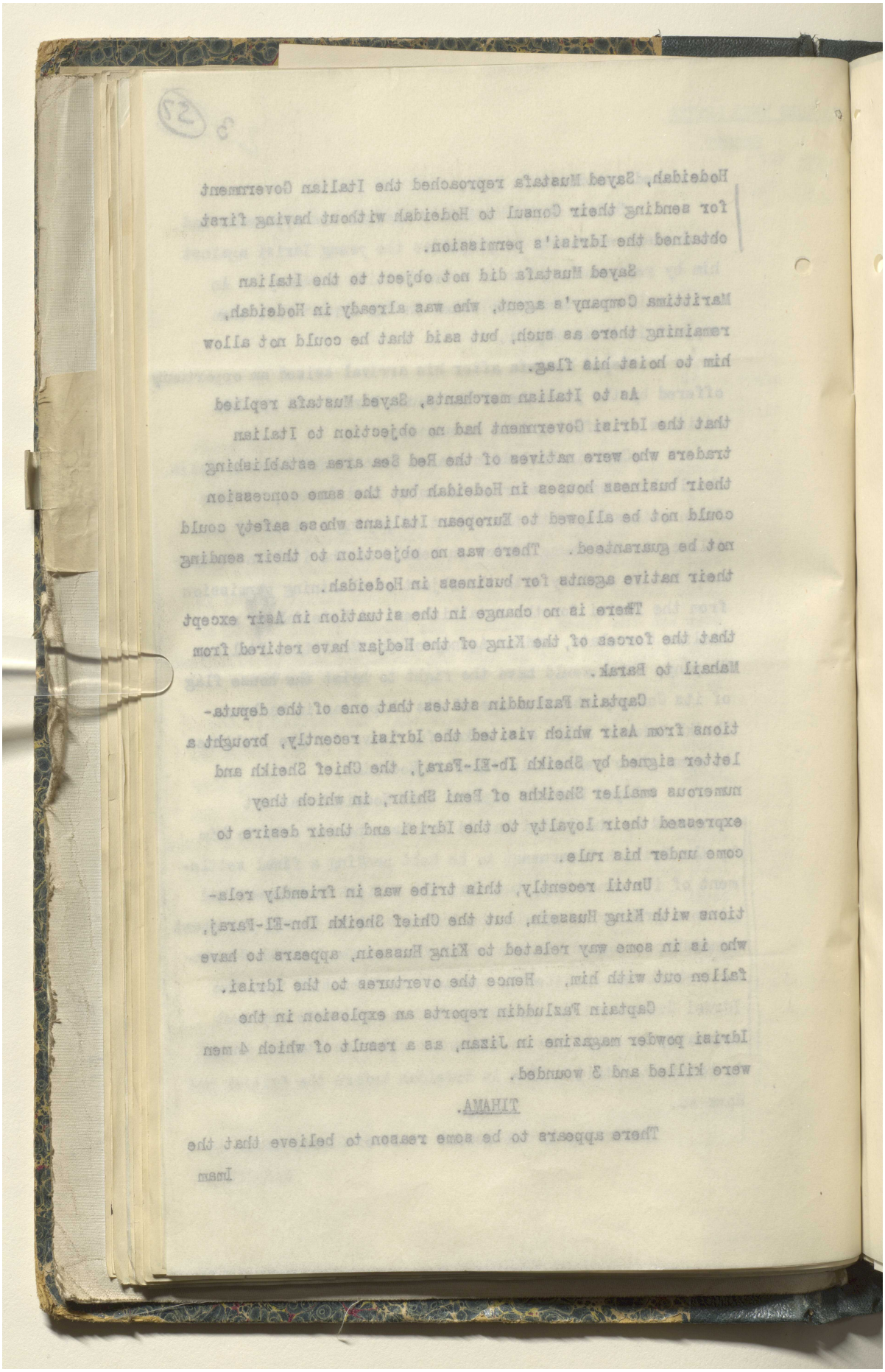

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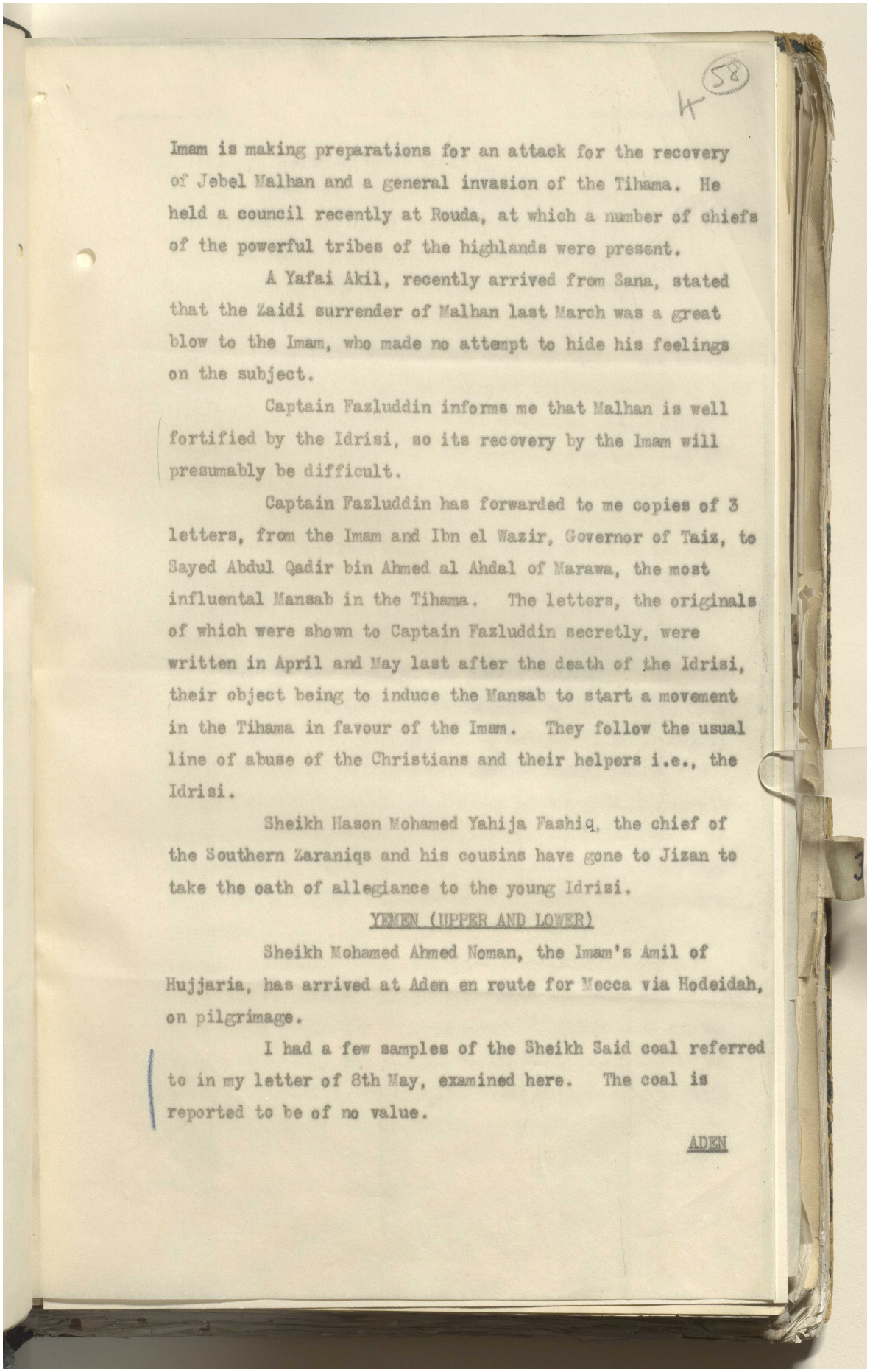

4 (58)

Imam is making preparations for an attack for the recovery of Jebel Malhan and a general invasion of the Tihama. He held a council recently at Rouda, at which a number of chiefs of the powerful tribes of the highlands were present.

A Yafai Akil, recently arrived from Sana, stated that the Zaidi surrender of Malhan last March was a great blow to the Imam, who made no attempt to hide his feelings on the subject.

Captain Fazluddin informs me that Malhan is well fortified by the Idrisi, so its recovery by the Imam will presumably be difficult.

Captain Fazluddin has forwarded to me copies of 3 letters, from the Imam and Ibn el Wazir, Governor of Taiz, to Sayed Abdul Qadir bin Ahmed al Ahdal of Marawa, the most influental Mansab in the Tihama. The letters, the originals of which were shown to Captain Fazluddin secretly, were written in April and May last after the death of the Idrisi, their object being to induce the Mansab to start a movement in the Tihama in favour of the Imam. They follow the usual line of abuse of the Christians and their helpers i.e., the Idrisi.

Sheikh Hason Mohamed Yahija Fashiq, the chief of the Southern Zaraniqs and his cousins have gone to Jizan to take the oath of allegiance to the young Idrisi.

YEMEN (UPPER AND LOWER)

Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed Noman, the Imam's Amil of Hujjaria, has arrived at Aden en route for Mecca via Hodeidah, on pilgrimage.

I had a few samples of the Sheikh Said coal referred to in my letter of 8th May, examined here. The coal is reported to be of no value.

ADEN

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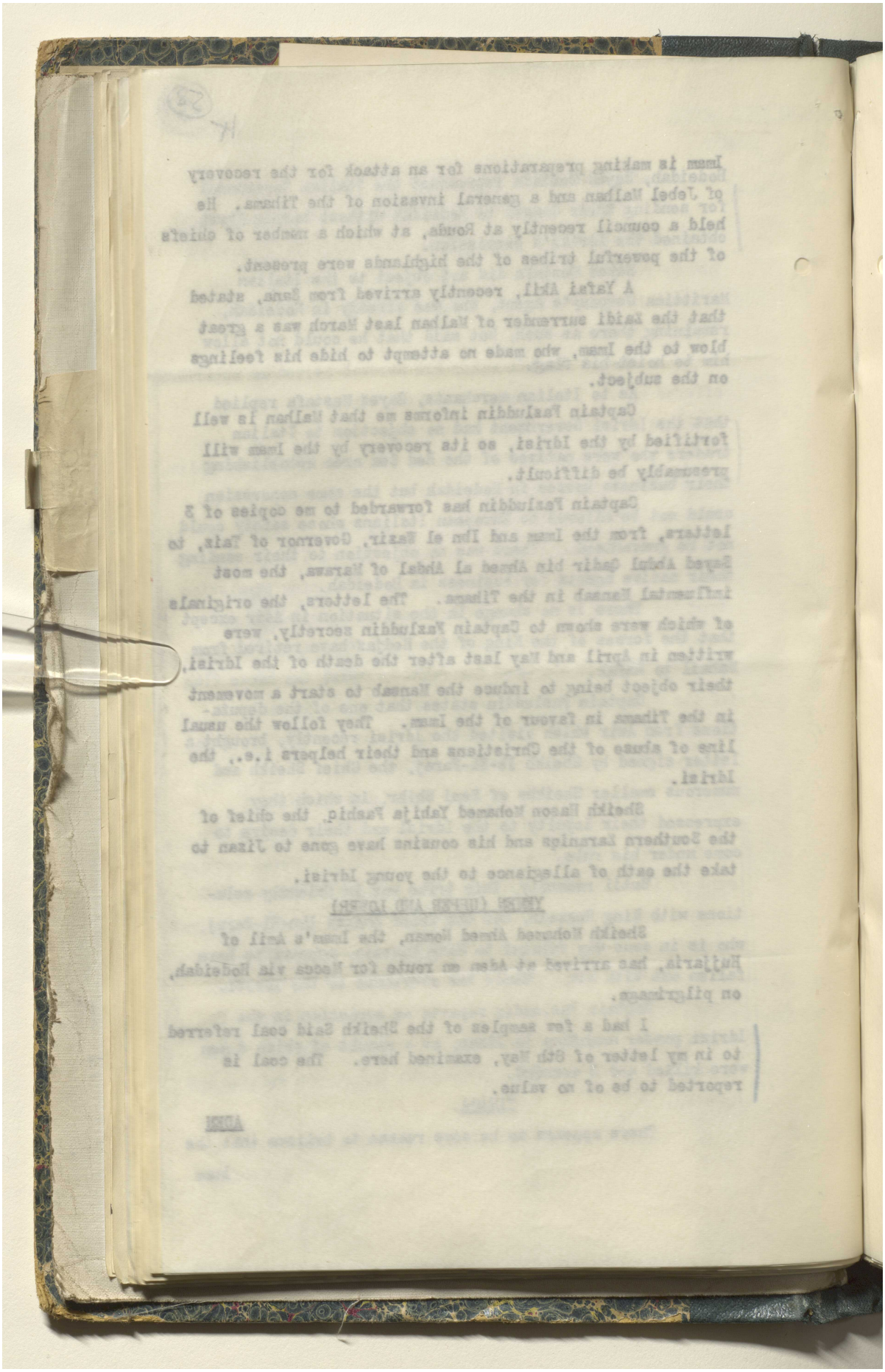

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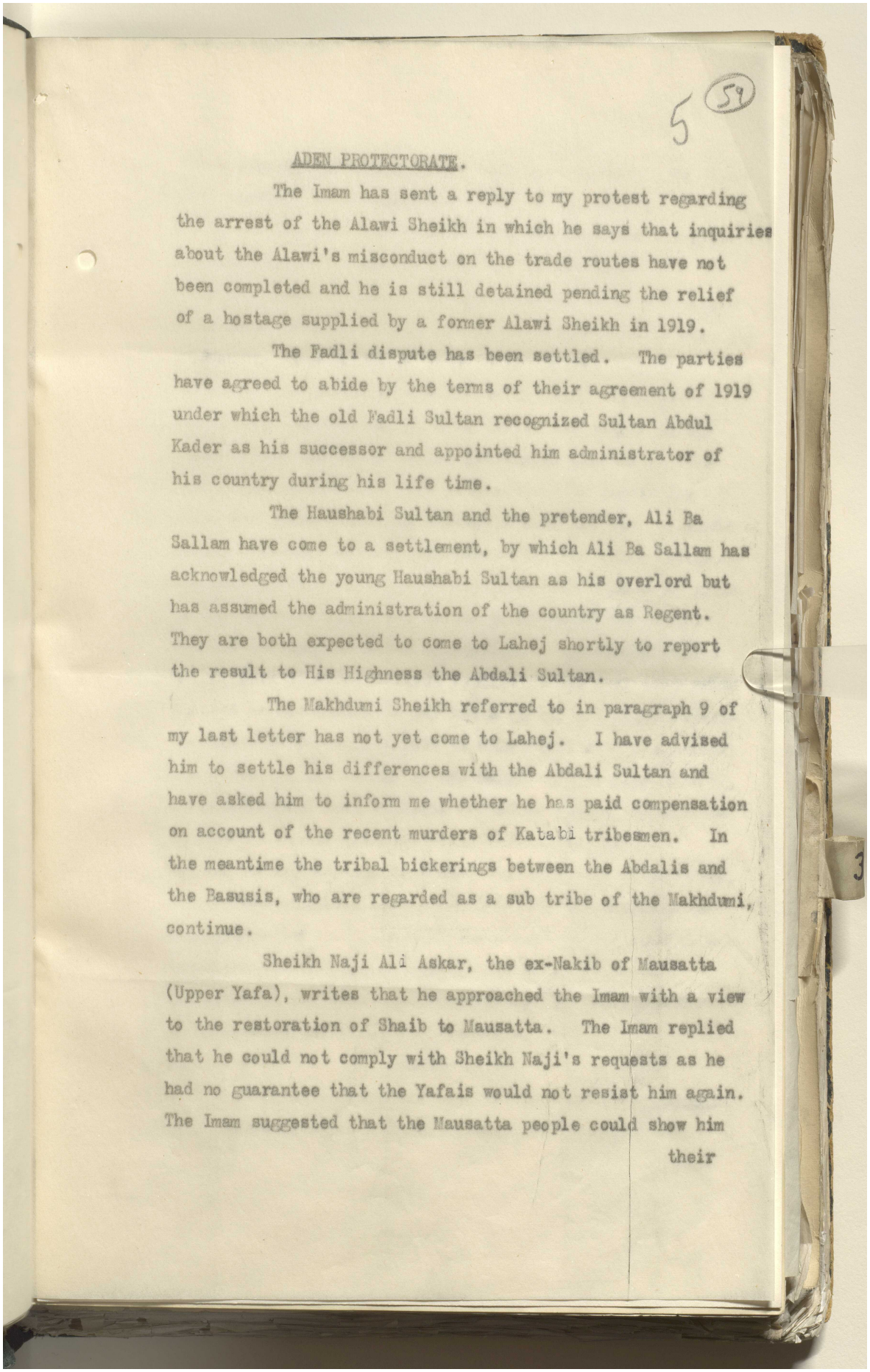

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ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Imam has sent a reply to my protest regarding the arrest of the Alawi Sheikh in which he says that inquiries about the Alawi's misconduct on the trade routes have not been completed and he is still detained pending the relief of a hostage supplied by a former Alawi Sheikh in 1919.

The Fadli dispute has been settled. The parties have agreed to abide by the terms of their agreement of 1919 under which the old Fadli Sultan recognized Sultan Abdul Kader as his successor and appointed him administrator of his country during his life time.

The Haushabi Sultan and the pretender, Ali Ba Sallam have come to a settlement, by which Ali Ba Sallam has acknowledged the young Haushabi Sultan as his overlord but has assumed the administration of the country as Regent. They are both expected to come to Lahej shortly to report the result to His Highness the Abdali Sultan.

The Makhdumi Sheikh referred to in paragraph 9 of my last letter has not yet come to Lahej. I have advised him to settle his differences with the Abdali Sultan and have asked him to inform me whether he has paid compensation on account of the recent murders of Katabi tribesmen. In the meantime the tribal bickerings between the Abdalis and the Basusis, who are regarded as a sub tribe of the Makhdumi, continue.

Sheikh Naji Ali Askar, the ex-Nakib of Mausatta (Upper Yafa), writes that he approached the Imam with a view to the restoration of Shaib to Mausatta. The Imam replied that he could not comply with Sheikh Naji's requests as he had no guarantee that the Yafais would not resist him again. The Imam suggested that the Mausatta people could show him

their

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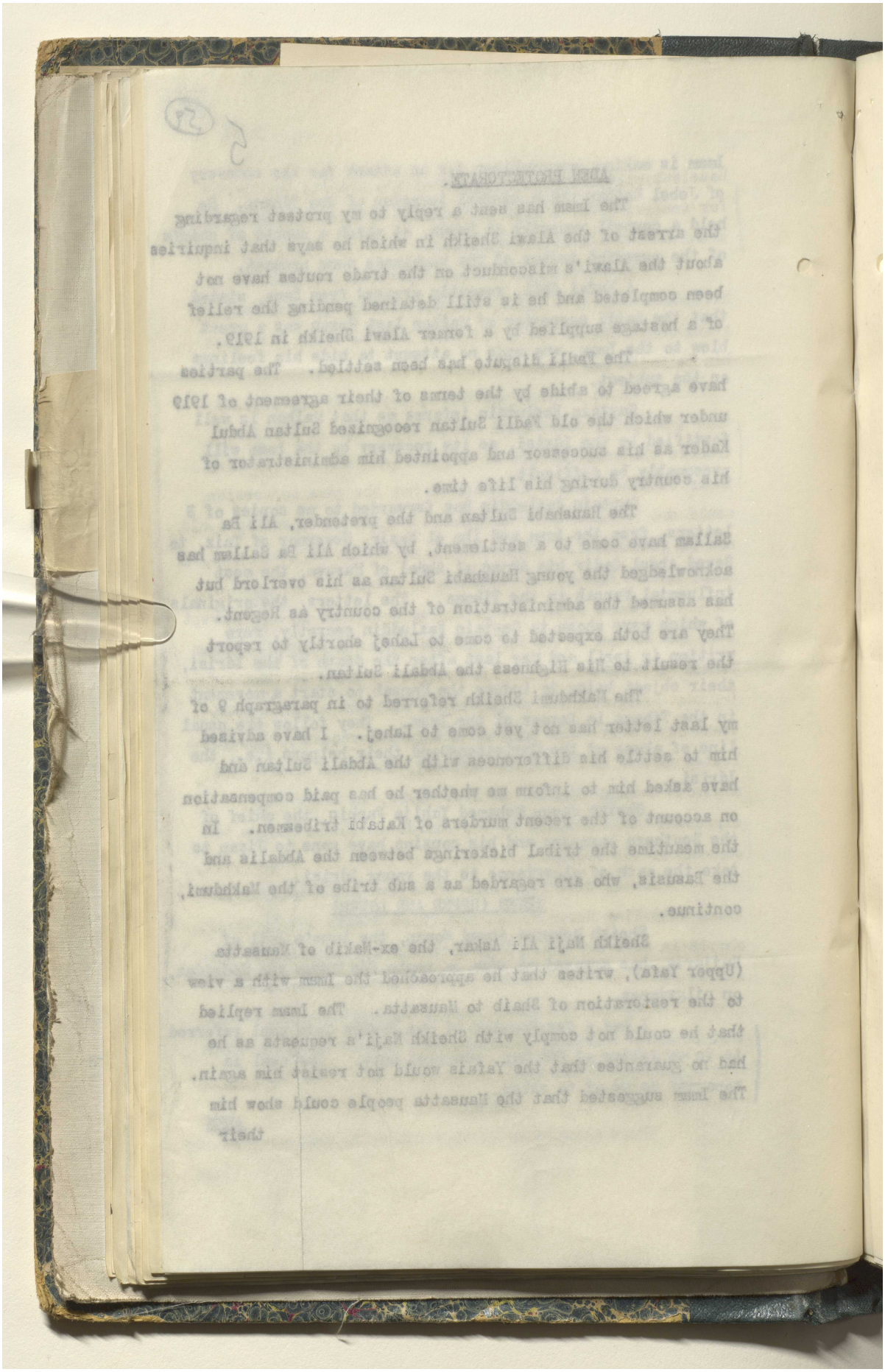

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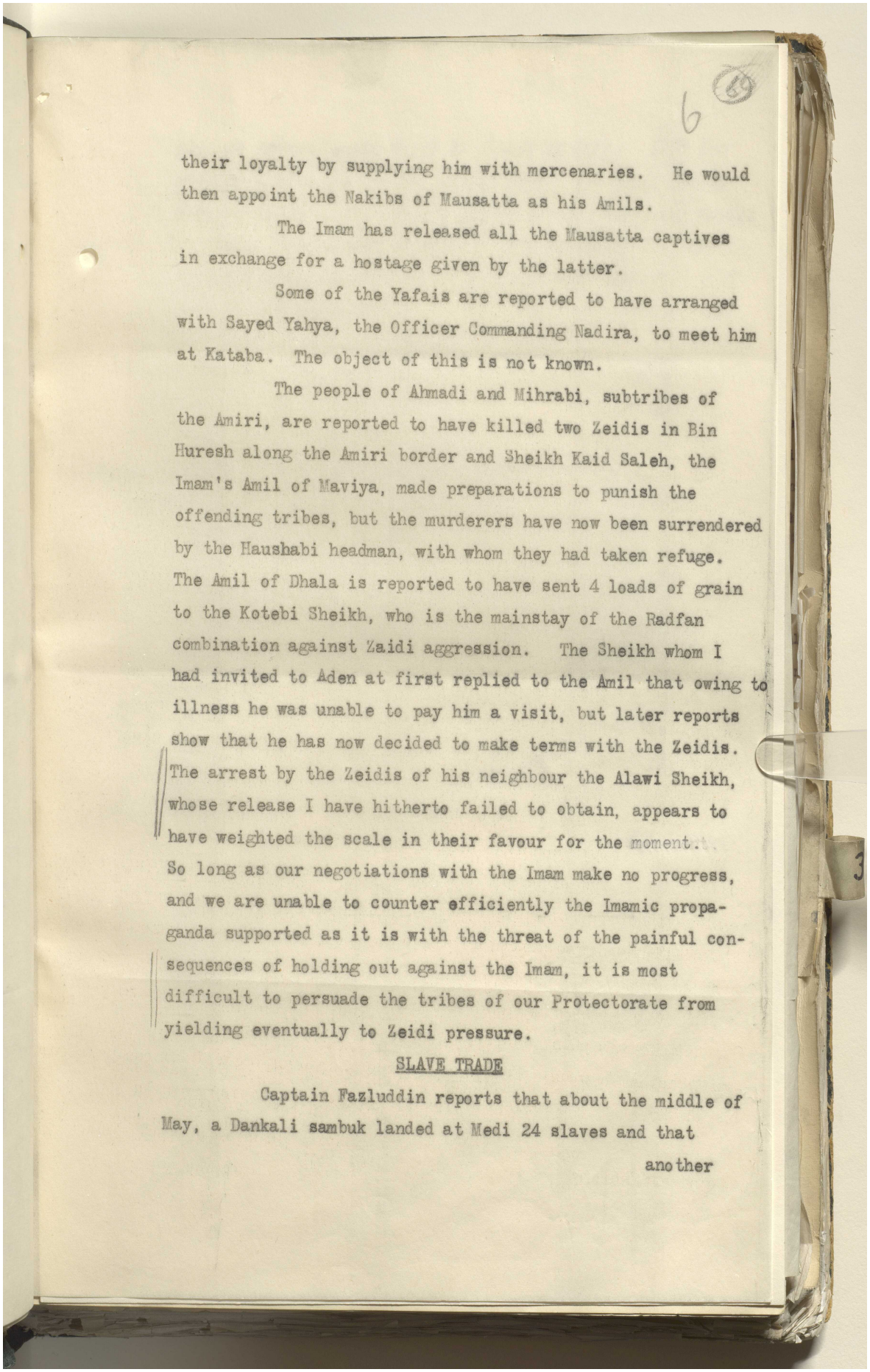

their loyalty by supplying him with mercenaries. He would then appoint the Nakibs of Mausatta as his Amils.

The Imam has released all the Mausatta captives in exchange for a hostage given by the latter.

Some of the Yafais are reported to have arranged with Sayed Yahya, the Officer Commanding Nadira, to meet him at Kataba. The object of this is not known.

The people of Ahmadi and Mihrabi, subtribes of the Amiri, are reported to have killed two Zeidis in Bin Huresh along the Amiri border and Sheikh Kaid Saleh, the Imam's Amil of Maviya, made preparations to punish the offending tribes, but the murderers have now been surrendered by the Haushabi headman, with whom they had taken refuge. The Amil of Dhala is reported to have sent 4 loads of grain to the Kotebi Sheikh, who is the mainstay of the Radfan combination against Zaidi aggression. The Sheikh whom I had invited to Aden at first replied to the Amil that owing to illness he was unable to pay him a visit, but later reports show that he has now decided to make terms with the Zeidis. The arrest by the Zeidis of his neighbour the Alawi Sheikh, whose release I have hitherto failed to obtain, appears to have weighted the scale in their favour for the moment. So long as our negotiations with the Imam make no progress, and we are unable to counter efficiently the Imamic propaganda supported as it is with the threat of the painful consequences of holding out against the Imam, it is most difficult to persuade the tribes of our Protectorate from yielding eventually to Zeidi pressure.

SLAVE TRADE

Captain Fazluddin reports that about the middle of May, a Dankali sambuk landed at Medi 24 slaves and that another

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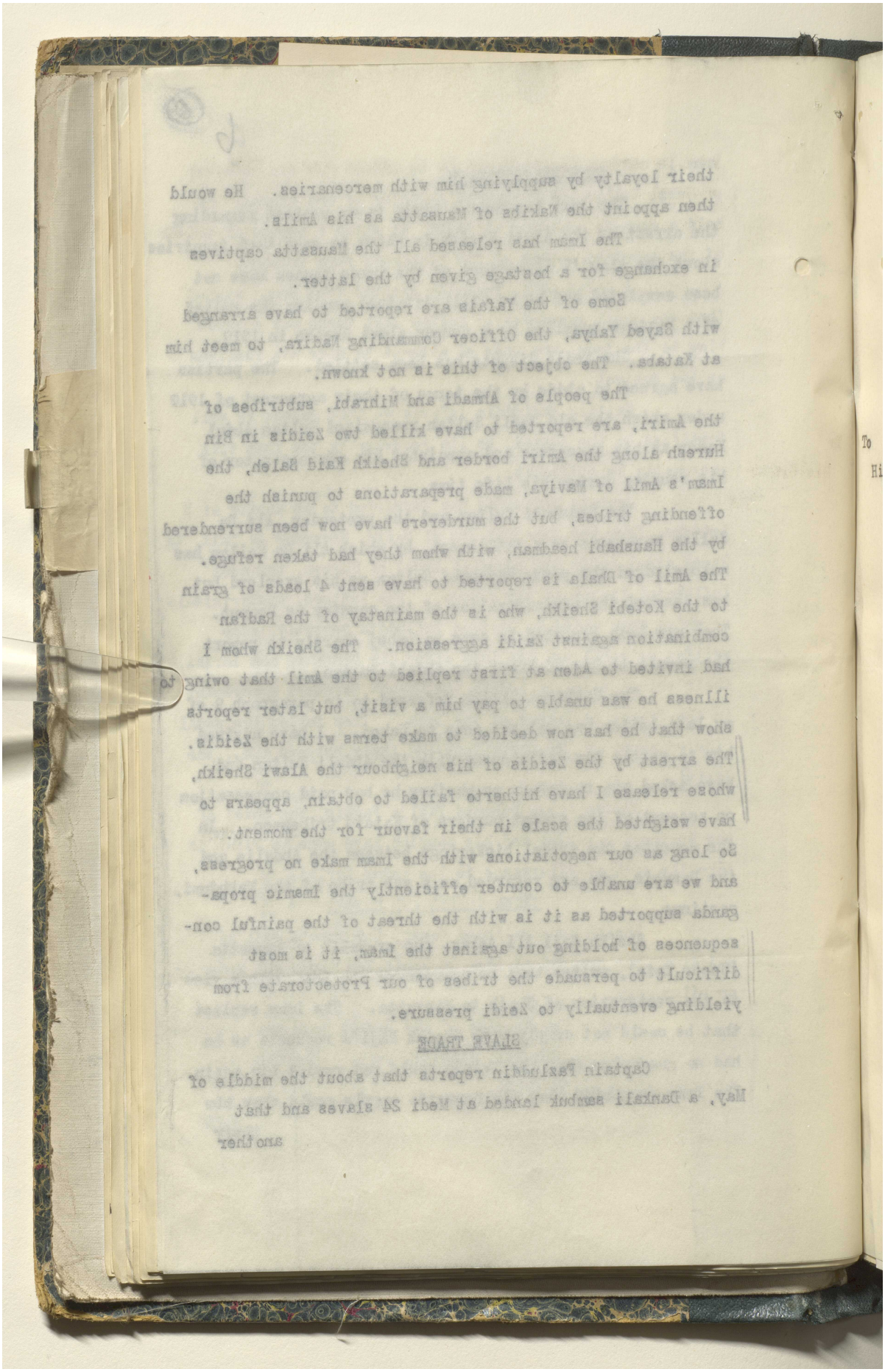

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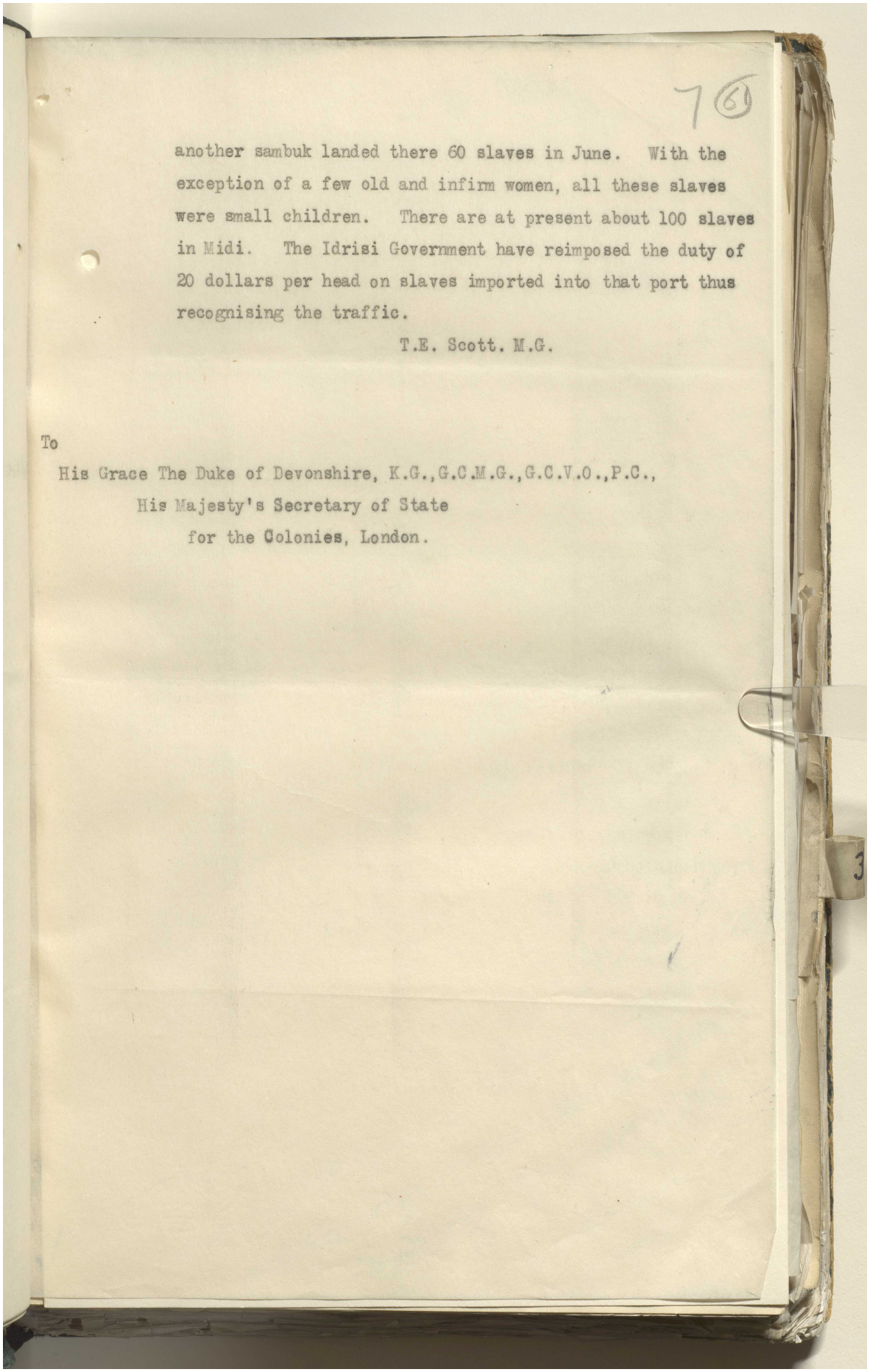

61

another sambuk landed there 60 slaves in June. With the exception of a few old and infirm women, all these slaves were small children. There are at present about 100 slaves in Midi. The Idrisi Government have reimposed the duty of 20 dollars per head on slaves imported into that port thus recognising the traffic.

T.E. Scott. M.G.

To

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G.,G.C.M.G.,G.C.V.O.,P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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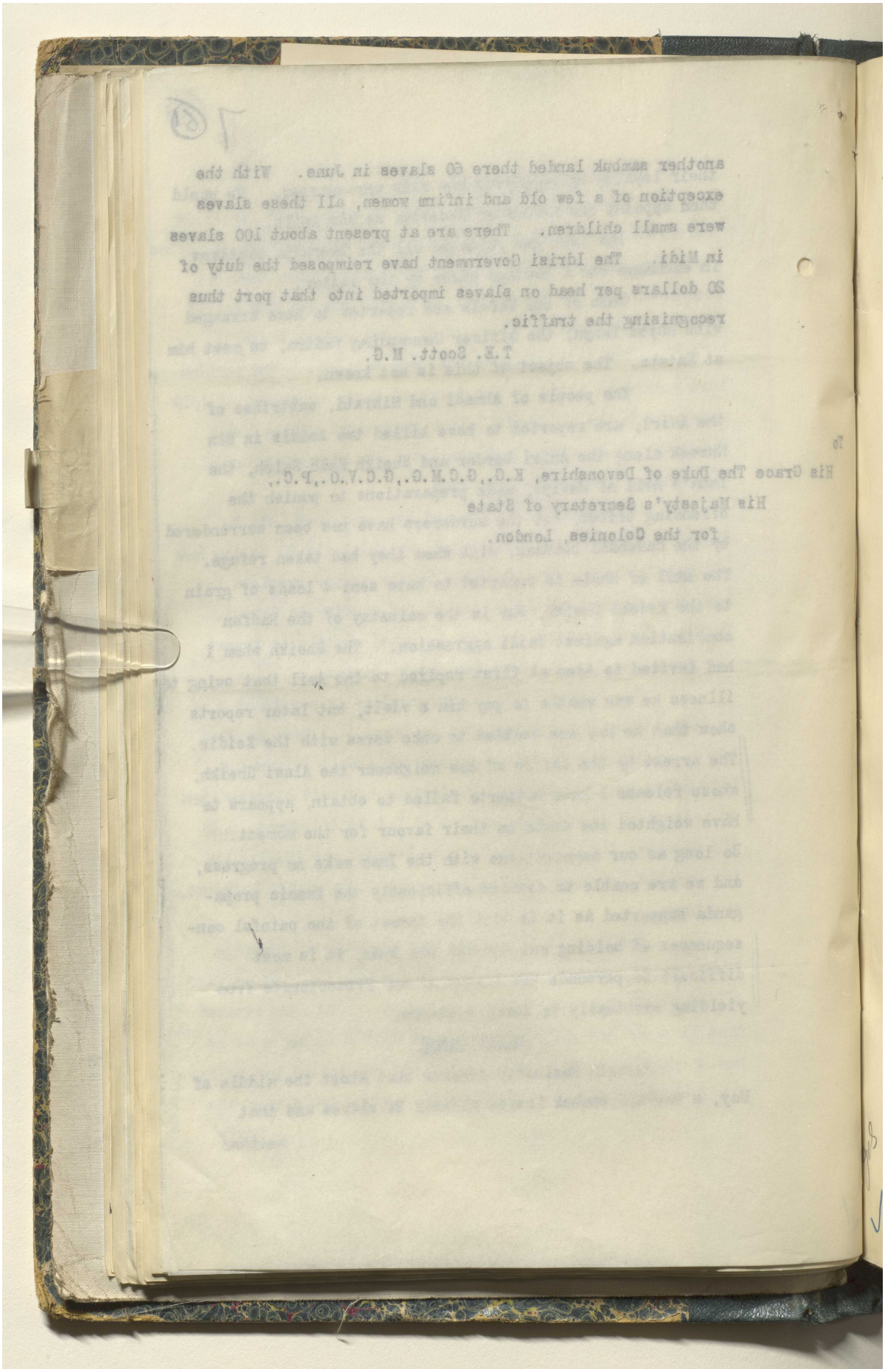

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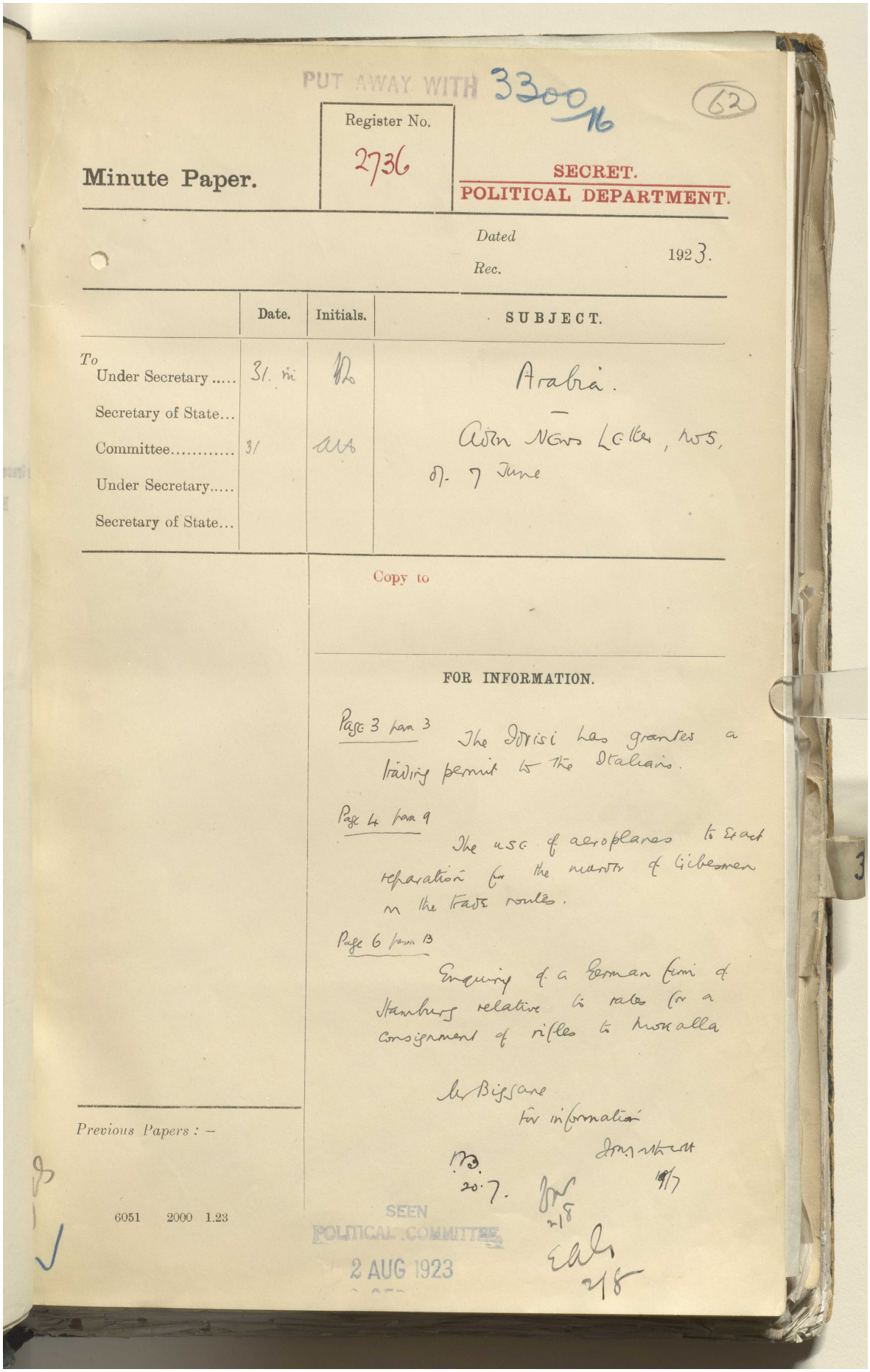

PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16

(62)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 2736

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	31. vii		Arabia.
Secretary of State...			—
Committee.....	31		Aden News Letter, 1923, dt. 7 June
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

Page 3 para 3 The Idrisi has granted a trading permit to the Italians.

Page 4 para 9 The use of aeroplanes to effect reparation for the murder of Gibesmen in the Kaze roules.

Page 6 para 13 Enquiry of a German firm of Hamburg relative to rates for a consignment of rifles to Muscalla

Mr Bigsare
for information
[illegible]
19/7

Previous Papers :—

6051 2000 1.23

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
2 AUG 1923

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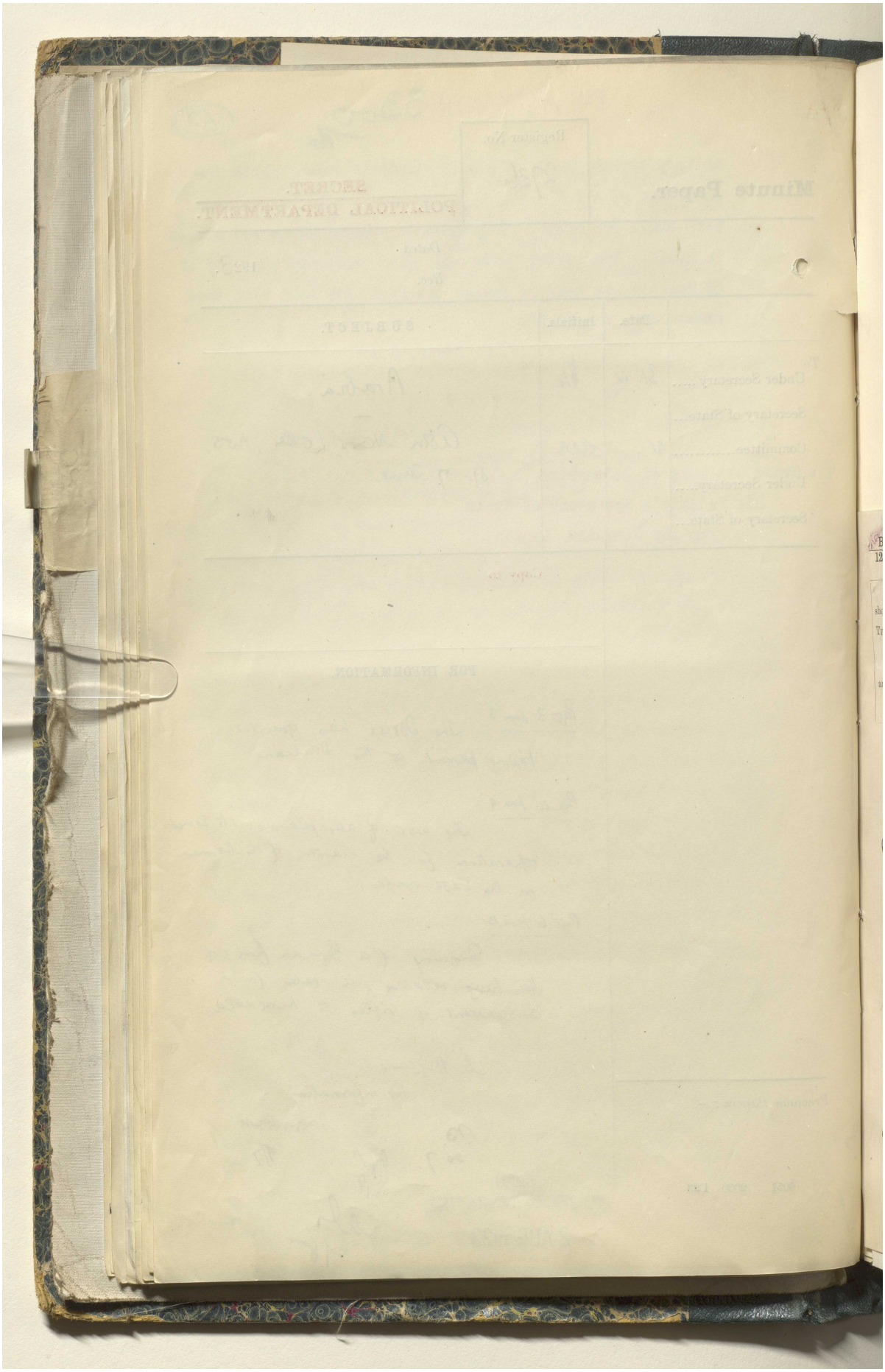

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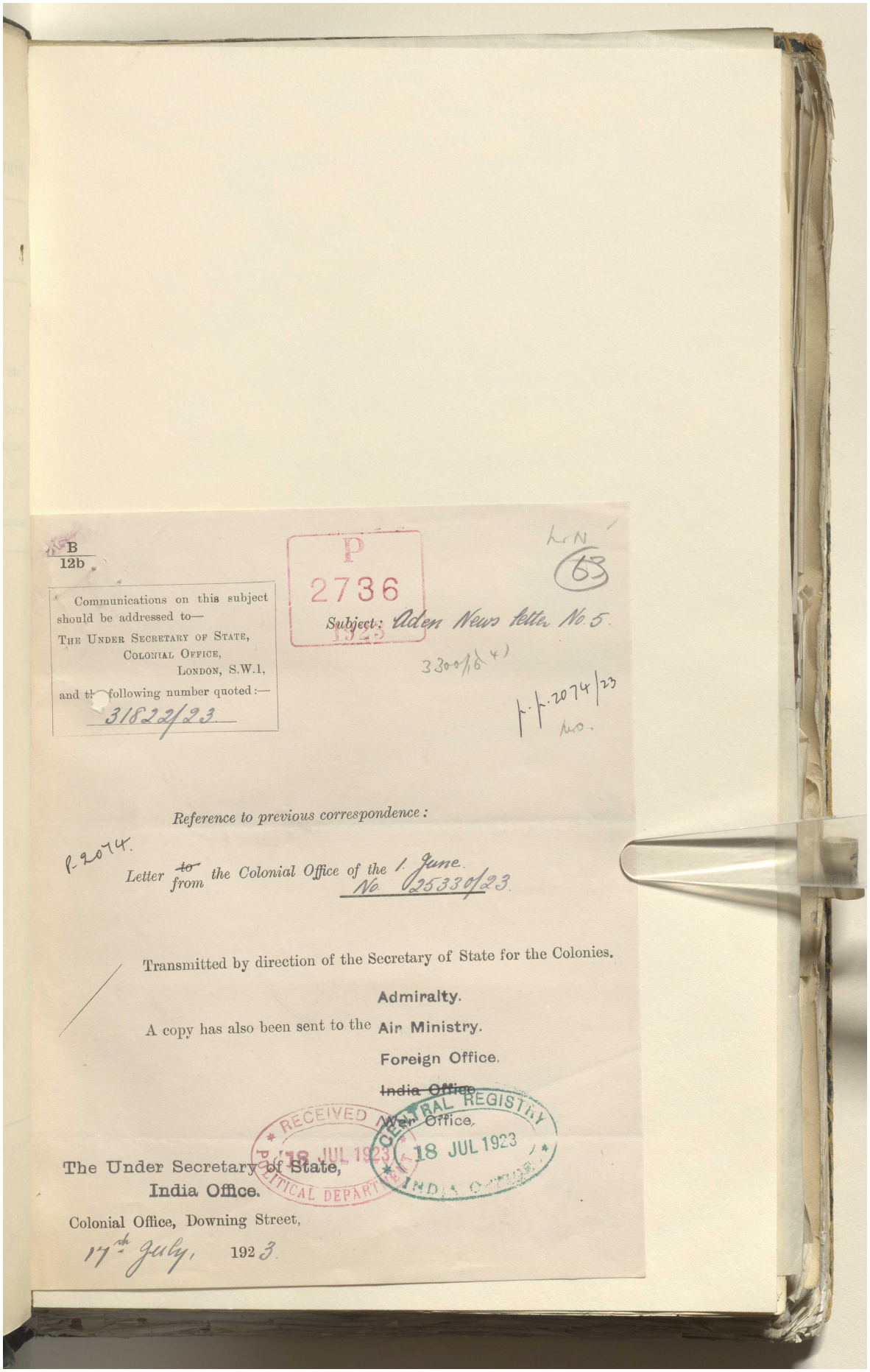

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
31822/23.

P
2736
1923

Subject: Aden News letter No. 5.

3300/16(4)

P.P. 2074/23
Aden.

Reference to previous correspondence:

P.2074.

Letter ~~to~~ *from* the Colonial Office of the 1 June.
No. 25330/23.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

RECEIVED
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
18 JUL 1923

CENTRAL REGISTRY
18 JUL 1923
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of ~~State~~,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
17th July, 1923.

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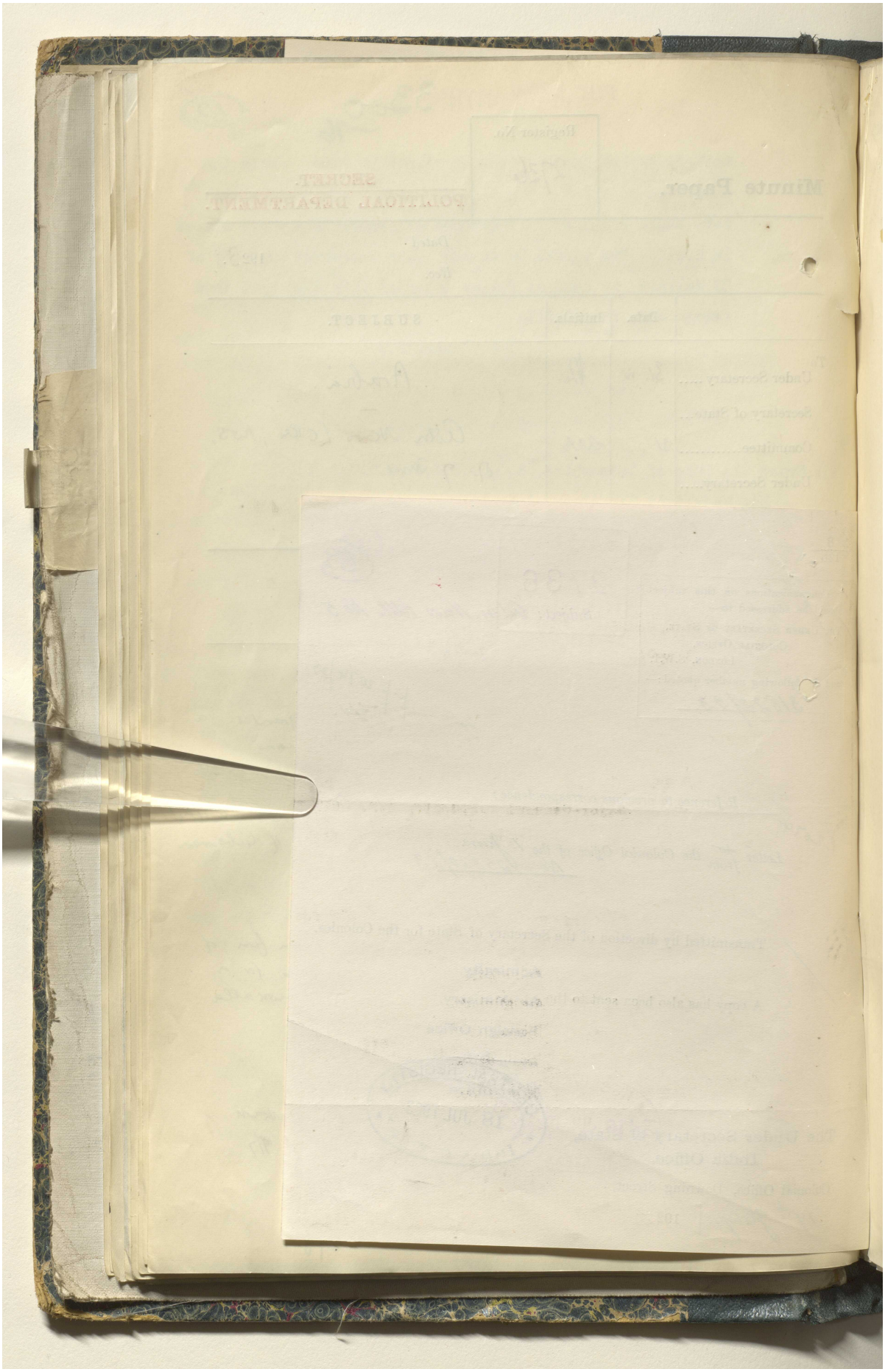

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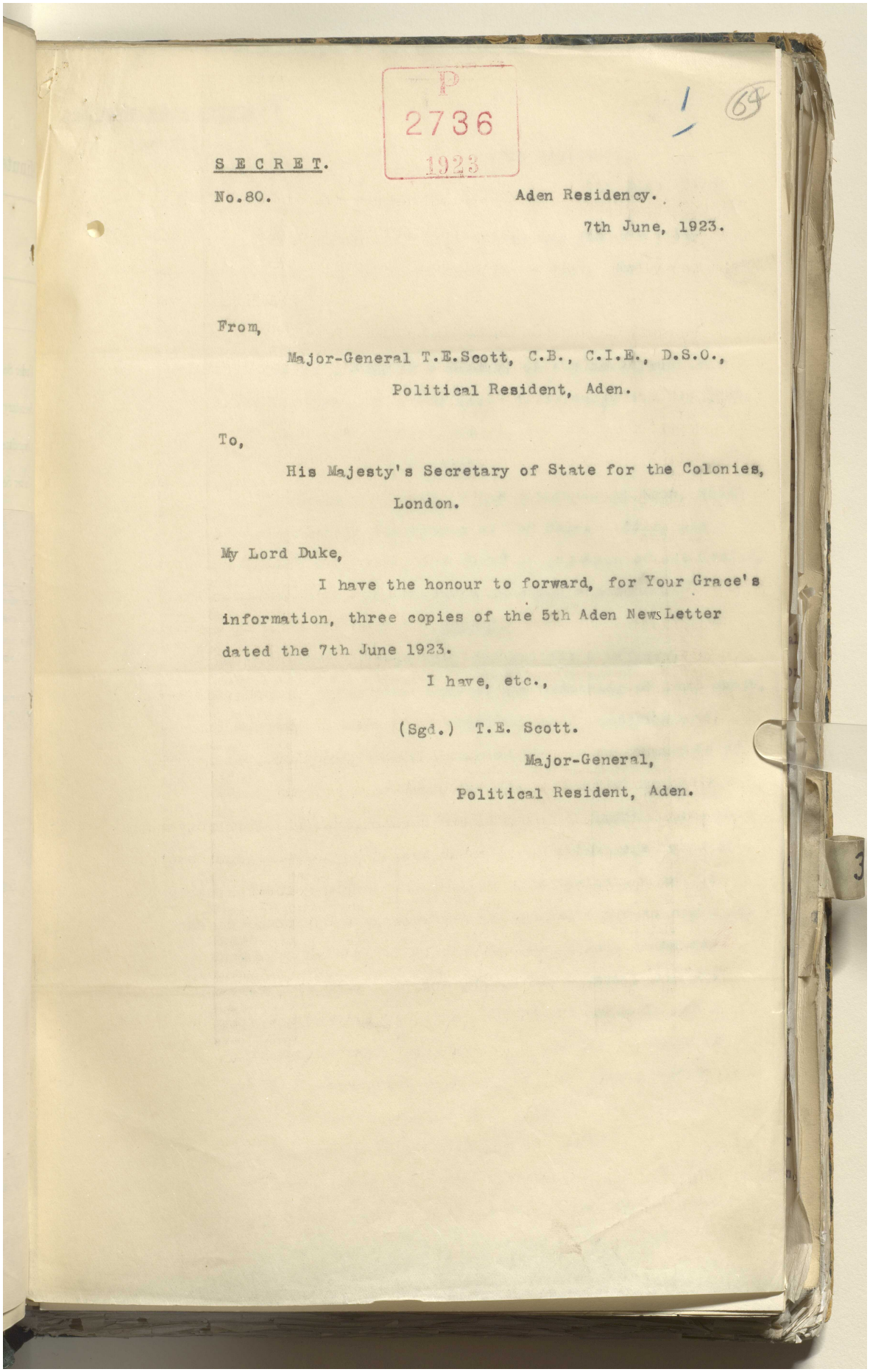

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1923

1 64

S E C R E T.

No.80. Aden Residency.

7th June, 1923.

From,

Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for Your Grace's information, three copies of the 5th Aden News Letter dated the 7th June 1923.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) T.E. Scott.
Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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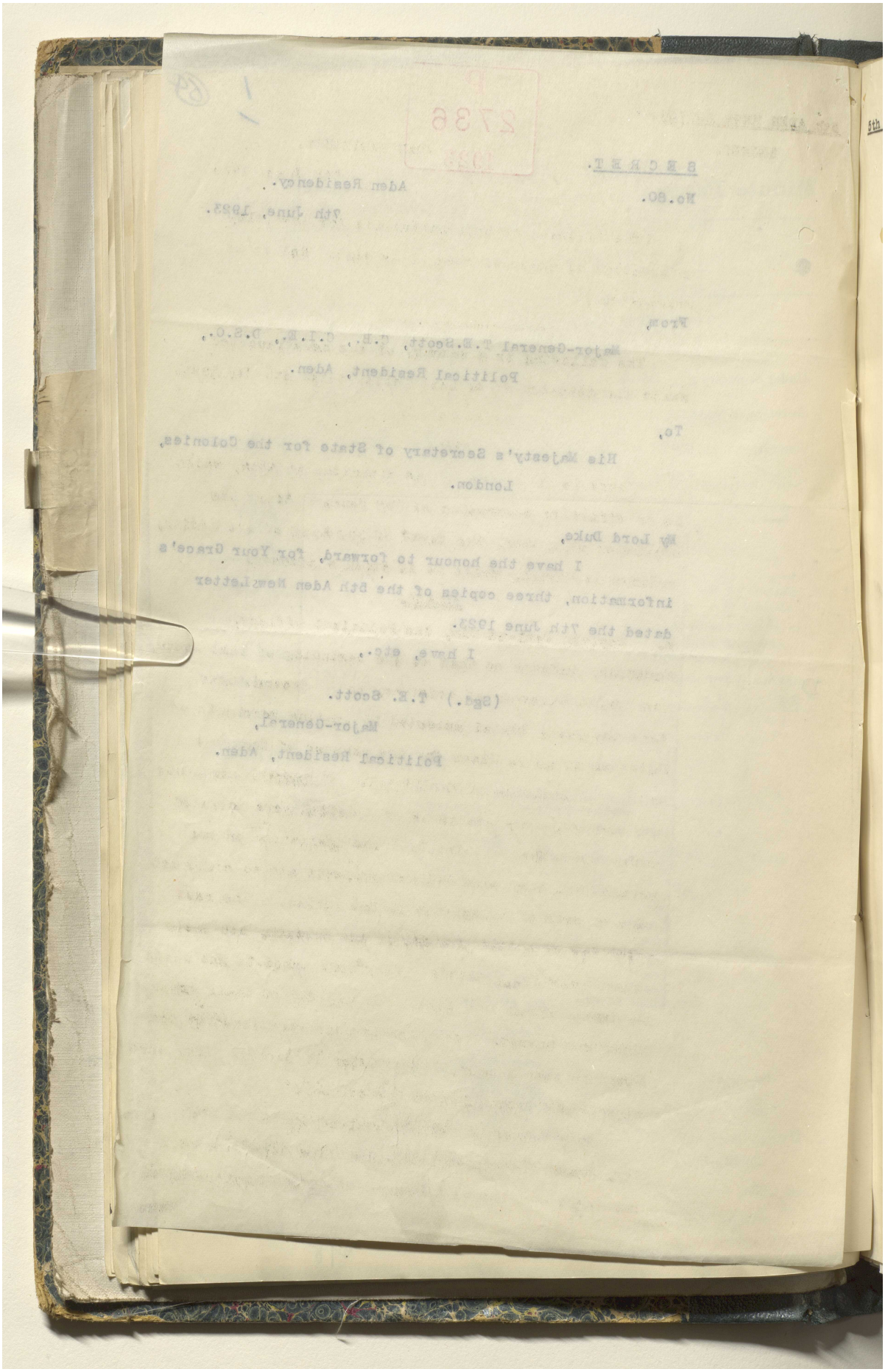

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5th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY.

7th June, 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 8th May 1923.

ASIR.

There is no change in the situation at Abha, which is in effective occupation of Ibn Saud. After its expulsion from Abha, the force of the King of the Hedjaz, retired to Mahail, where it is still stationed.

TIHAMA.

2. Captain Fazl-ud-Din, the Political Officer, Hodeidah, informs me that at the beginning of last month, the Idrisi Governor of Hodeidah, under instructions from the young Idrisi selected 13 leading merchants of Hodeidah to go to Jizan for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance to the Idrisi. 3 Hadrami merchants who are temporary residents of Hodeidah were included among the number but declined the invitation on the ground that they were British subjects and so could not take an oath of allegiance to the Idrisi. The rest asked for time till the end of the Ramazan, but their request was not granted. They were asked to get ready to depart within two days. On the day of their expected departure however fresh instructions were received from Jizan to send 4 only of them under an escort. They were accordingly despatched on the 6th May.

In a letter to Captain Fazl-ud-Din dated 13th May, Sayed Mustafa explains that this treatment of the merchants was due to a regrettable misunderstanding on the

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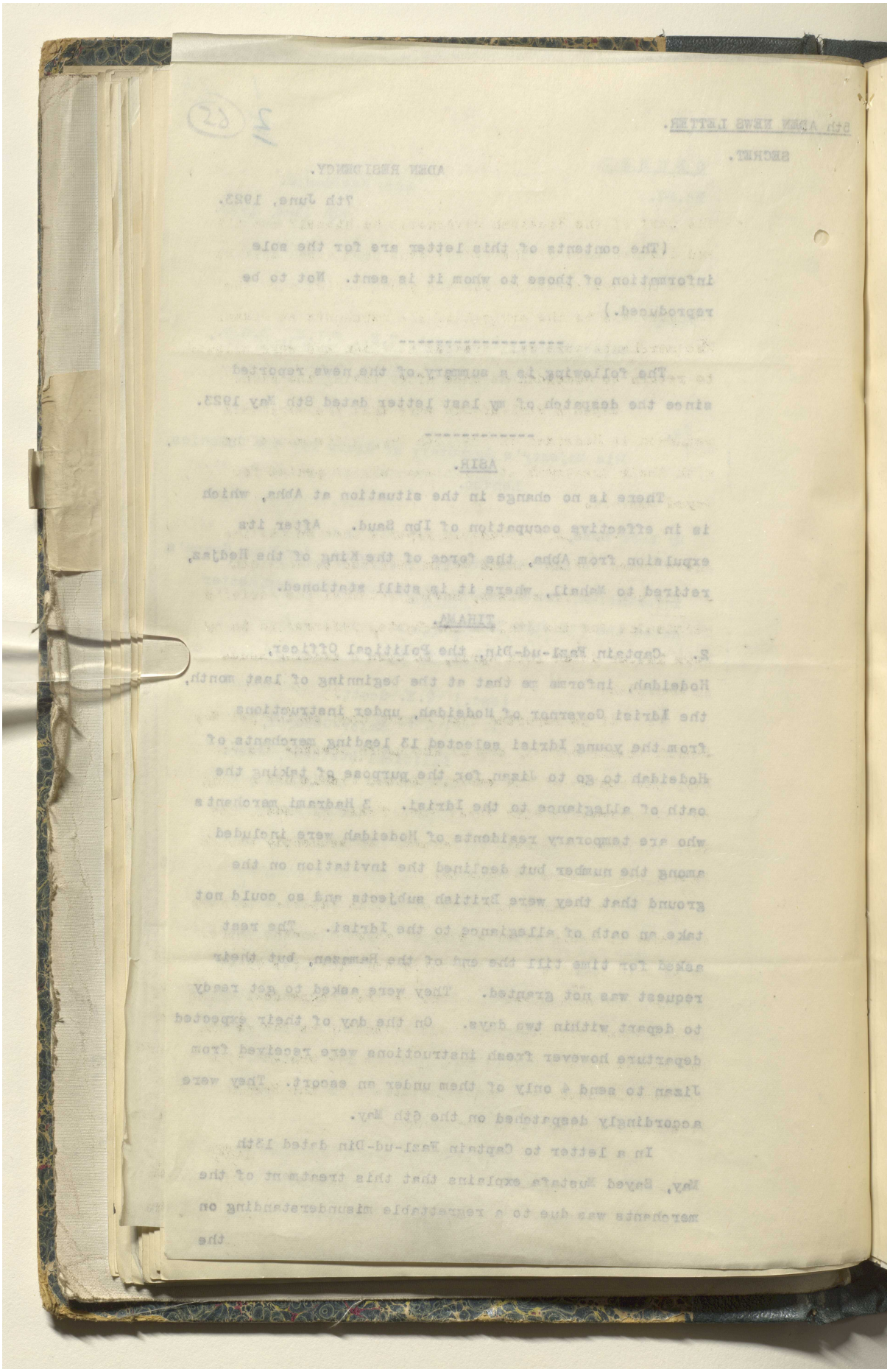

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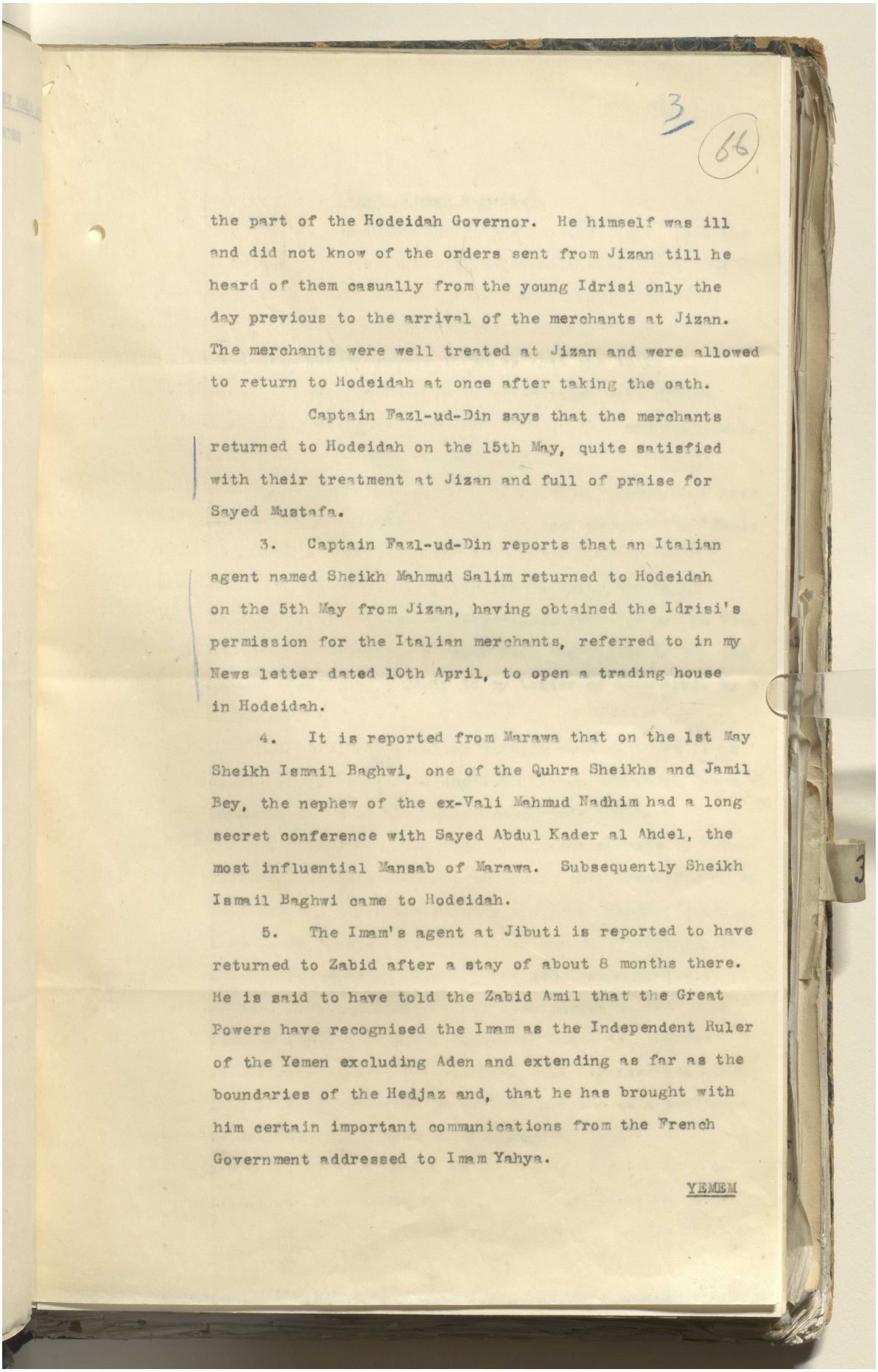

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the part of the Hodeidah Governor. He himself was ill and did not know of the orders sent from Jizan till he heard of them casually from the young Idrisi only the day previous to the arrival of the merchants at Jizan. The merchants were well treated at Jizan and were allowed to return to Hodeidah at once after taking the oath.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din says that the merchants returned to Hodeidah on the 15th May, quite satisfied with their treatment at Jizan and full of praise for Sayed Mustafa.

3. Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that an Italian agent named Sheikh Mahmud Salim returned to Hodeidah on the 5th May from Jizan, having obtained the Idrisi's permission for the Italian merchants, referred to in my News letter dated 10th April, to open a trading house in Hodeidah.

4. It is reported from Marawa that on the 1st May Sheikh Ismail Baghwi, one of the Quhra Sheikhs and Jamil Bey, the nephew of the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadhim had a long secret conference with Sayed Abdul Kader al Ahdel, the most influential Mansab of Marawa. Subsequently Sheikh Ismail Baghwi came to Hodeidah.

5. The Imam's agent at Jibuti is reported to have returned to Zabid after a stay of about 8 months there. He is said to have told the Zabid Amil that the Great Powers have recognised the Imam as the Independent Ruler of the Yemen excluding Aden and extending as far as the boundaries of the Hedjaz and, that he has brought with him certain important communications from the French Government addressed to Imam Yahya.

YEMEN

3

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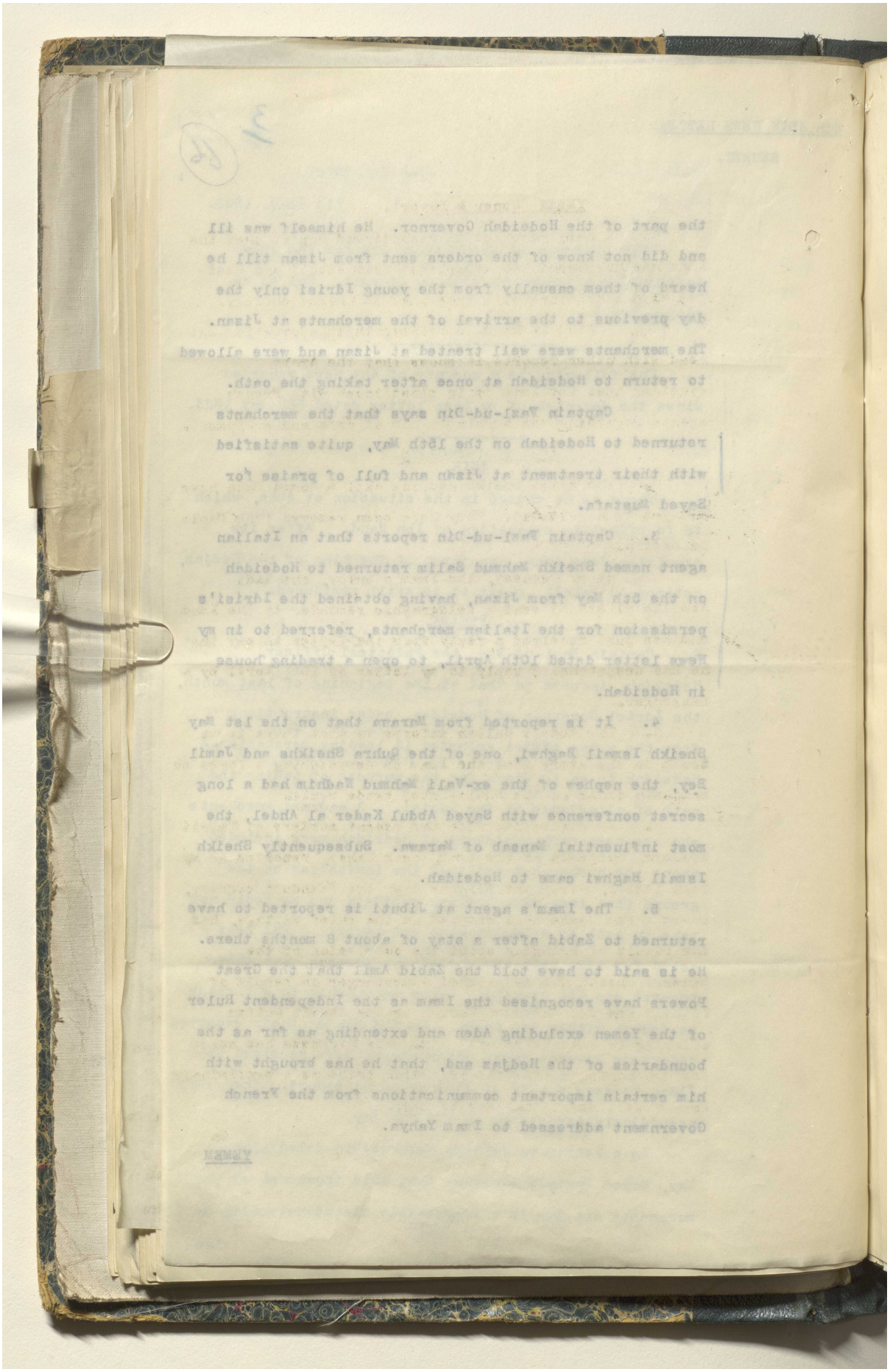

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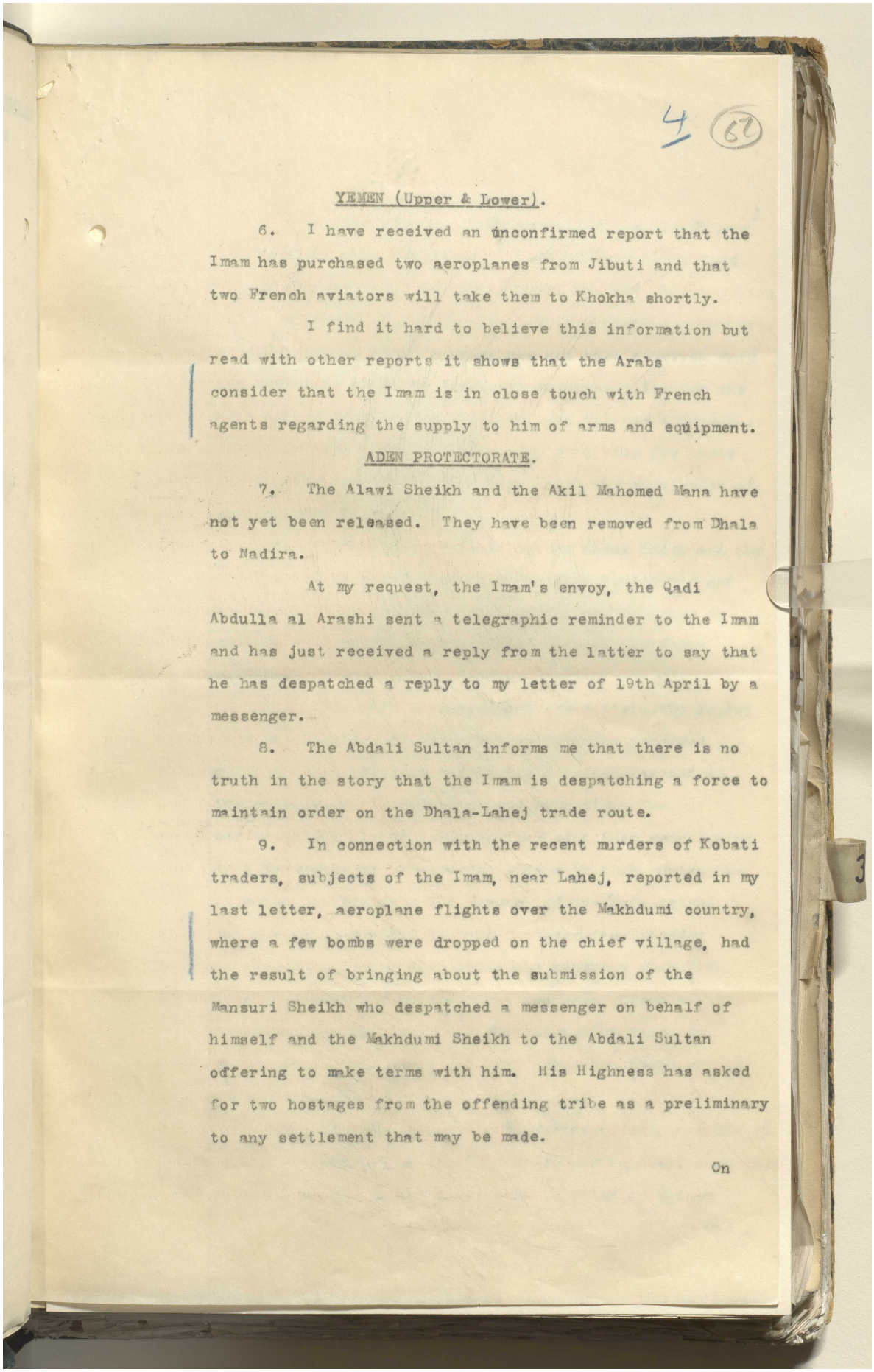

4 (67)

YEMEN (Upper & Lower).

6. I have received an unconfirmed report that the Imam has purchased two aeroplanes from Jibuti and that two French aviators will take them to Khokha shortly.

I find it hard to believe this information but read with other reports it shows that the Arabs consider that the Imam is in close touch with French agents regarding the supply to him of arms and equipment.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

7. The Alawi Sheikh and the Akil Mahomed Mana have not yet been released. They have been removed from Dhala to Nadira.

At my request, the Imam's envoy, the Qadi Abdulla al Arashi sent a telegraphic reminder to the Imam and has just received a reply from the latter to say that he has despatched a reply to my letter of 19th April by a messenger.

8. The Abdali Sultan informs me that there is no truth in the story that the Imam is despatching a force to maintain order on the Dhala-Lahej trade route.

9. In connection with the recent murders of Kobati traders, subjects of the Imam, near Lahej, reported in my last letter, aeroplane flights over the Makhdumi country, where a few bombs were dropped on the chief village, had the result of bringing about the submission of the Mansuri Sheikh who despatched a messenger on behalf of himself and the Makhdumi Sheikh to the Abdali Sultan offering to make terms with him. His Highness has asked for two hostages from the offending tribe as a preliminary to any settlement that may be made.

On

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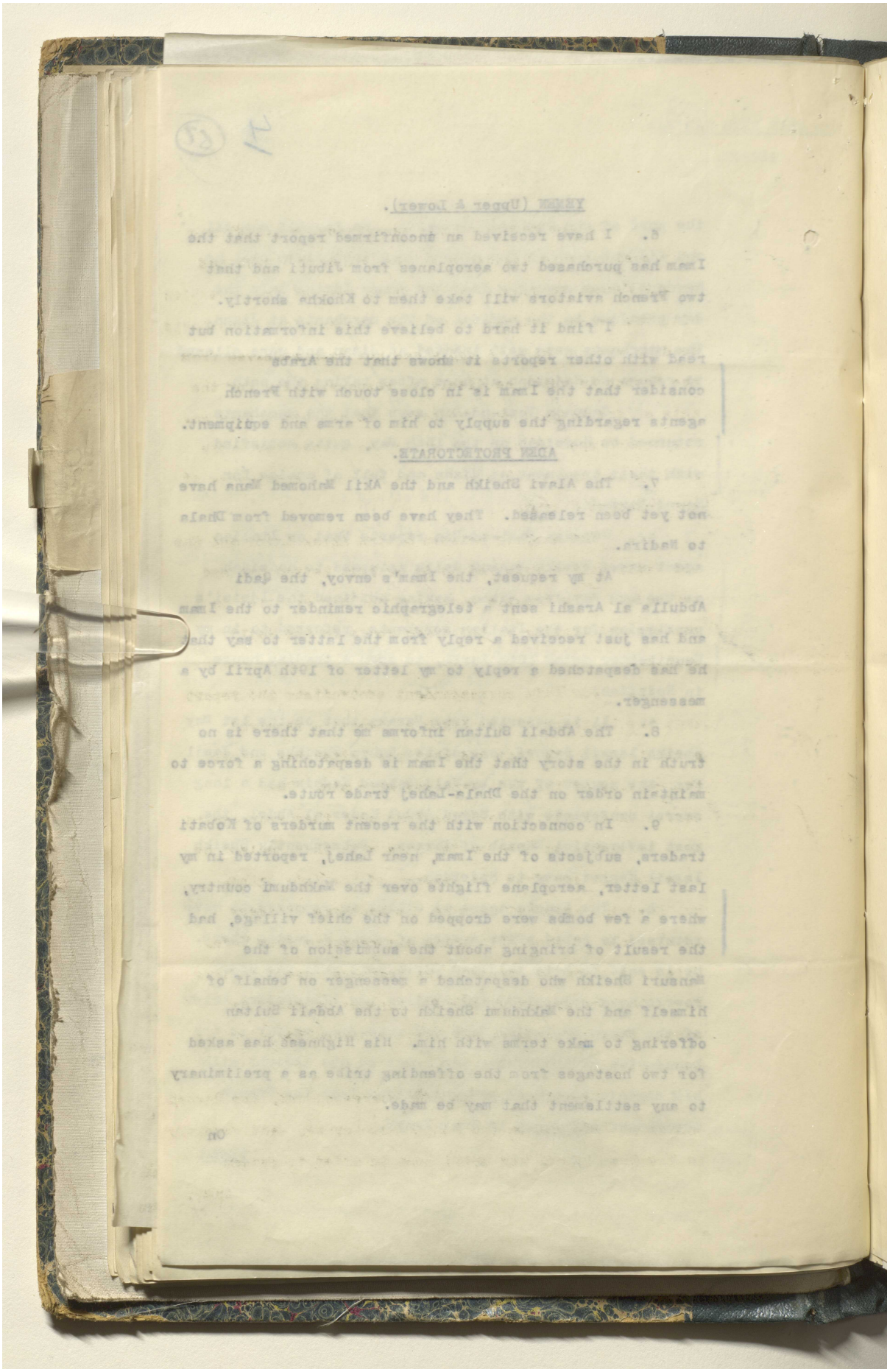

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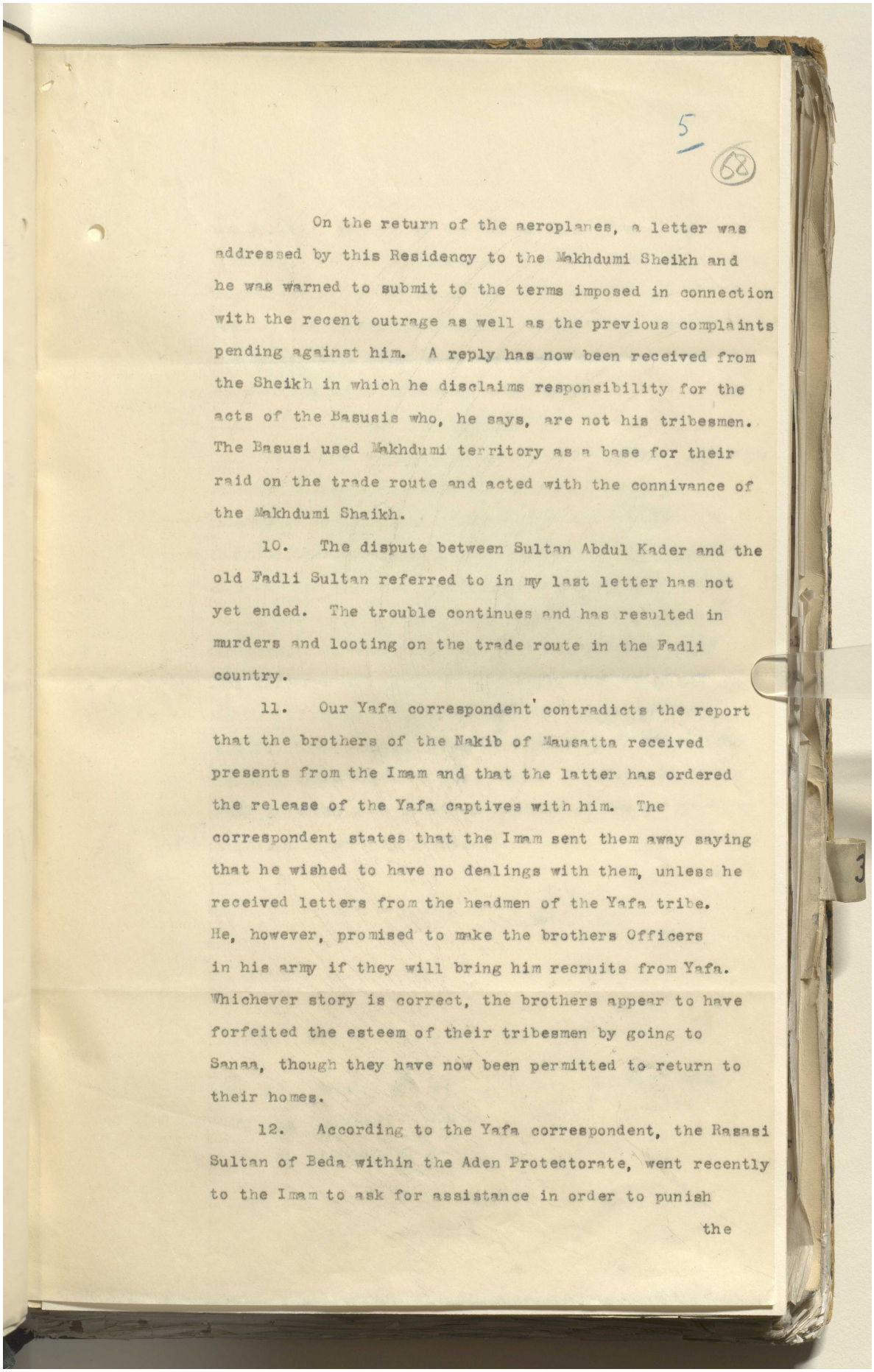

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On the return of the aeroplanes, a letter was addressed by this Residency to the Makhdumi Sheikh and he was warned to submit to the terms imposed in connection with the recent outrage as well as the previous complaints pending against him. A reply has now been received from the Sheikh in which he disclaims responsibility for the acts of the Basusis who, he says, are not his tribesmen. The Basusi used Makhdumi territory as a base for their raid on the trade route and acted with the connivance of the Makhdumi Shaikh.

10. The dispute between Sultan Abdul Kader and the old Fadli Sultan referred to in my last letter has not yet ended. The trouble continues and has resulted in murders and looting on the trade route in the Fadli country.

11. Our Yafa correspondent contradicts the report that the brothers of the Nakib of Mausatta received presents from the Imam and that the latter has ordered the release of the Yafa captives with him. The correspondent states that the Imam sent them away saying that he wished to have no dealings with them, unless he received letters from the headmen of the Yafa tribe. He, however, promised to make the brothers Officers in his army if they will bring him recruits from Yafa. Whichever story is correct, the brothers appear to have forfeited the esteem of their tribesmen by going to Sanaa, though they have now been permitted to return to their homes.

12. According to the Yafa correspondent, the Rasasi Sultan of Beda within the Aden Protectorate, went recently to the Imam to ask for assistance in order to punish

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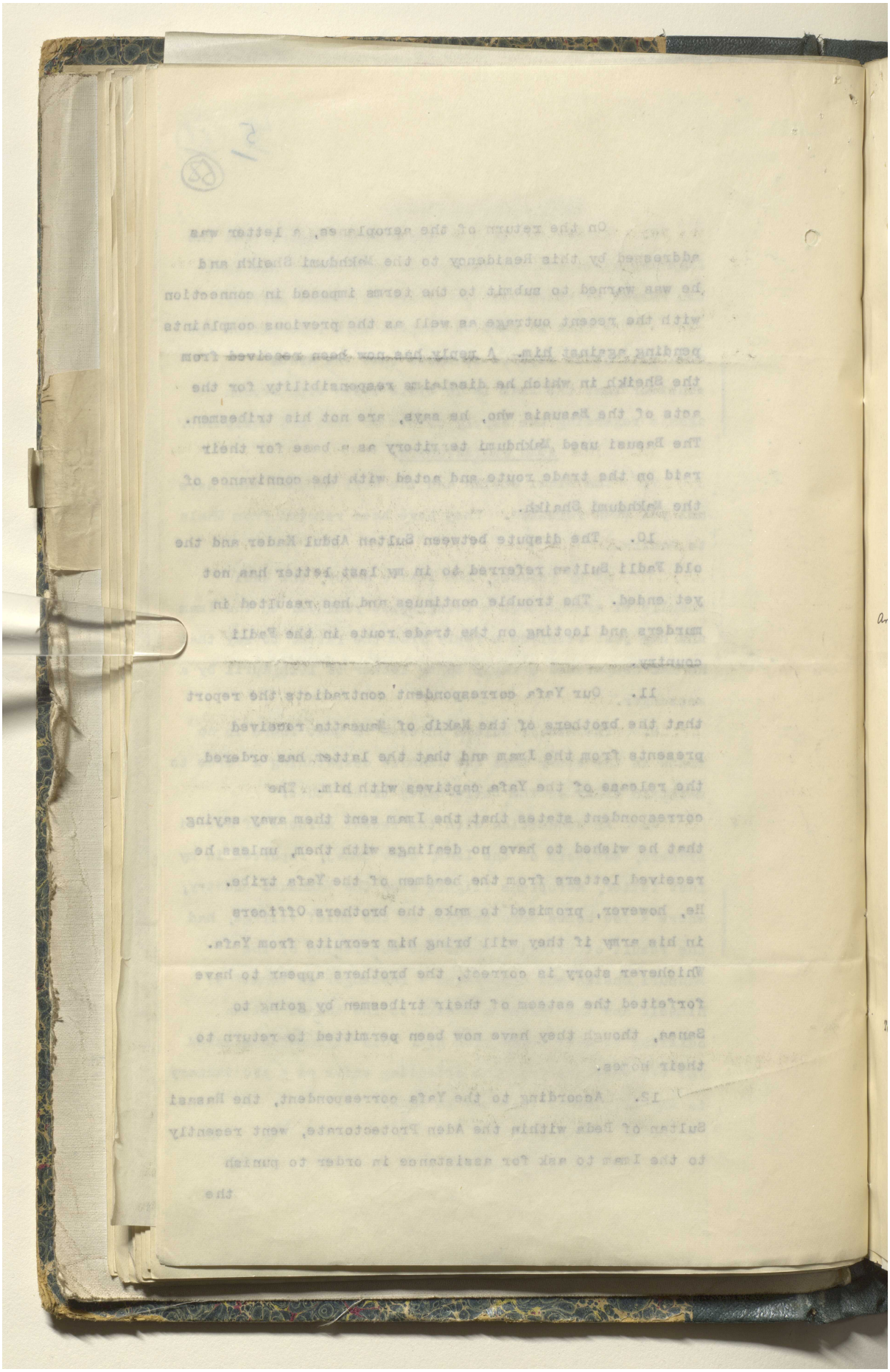

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the Humakani section of his tribe, with whom he has been fighting. The Imam asked for two of his sons as hostages. The Sheikh of the Humakani has since been killed and in view of the changed position it is not known whether the Sultan will still seek assistance from the Imam. I am awaiting confirmation of this report.

ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFIC.

13. His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Batavia, informs me that the Amsterdam Agents of the Ocean steamship Company have received from the Deutsch-Australische Dampfechiffs Gesellschaft of Hamburg, an enquiry as to freight rates on a consignment of rifles to be despatched to Mokalla from Hamburg via Batavia. The agents are replying that they cannot quote rates for firearms and that, in any event, they would not carry rifles to Mokalla without the consent of the British authorities. I have no information which would tend to throw light on the matter. I have asked Sultan Omer of Mokalla to inform me whether he has received any information on this subject.

arms.

(Sgd.) T.E. SCOTT. M.G.

To -

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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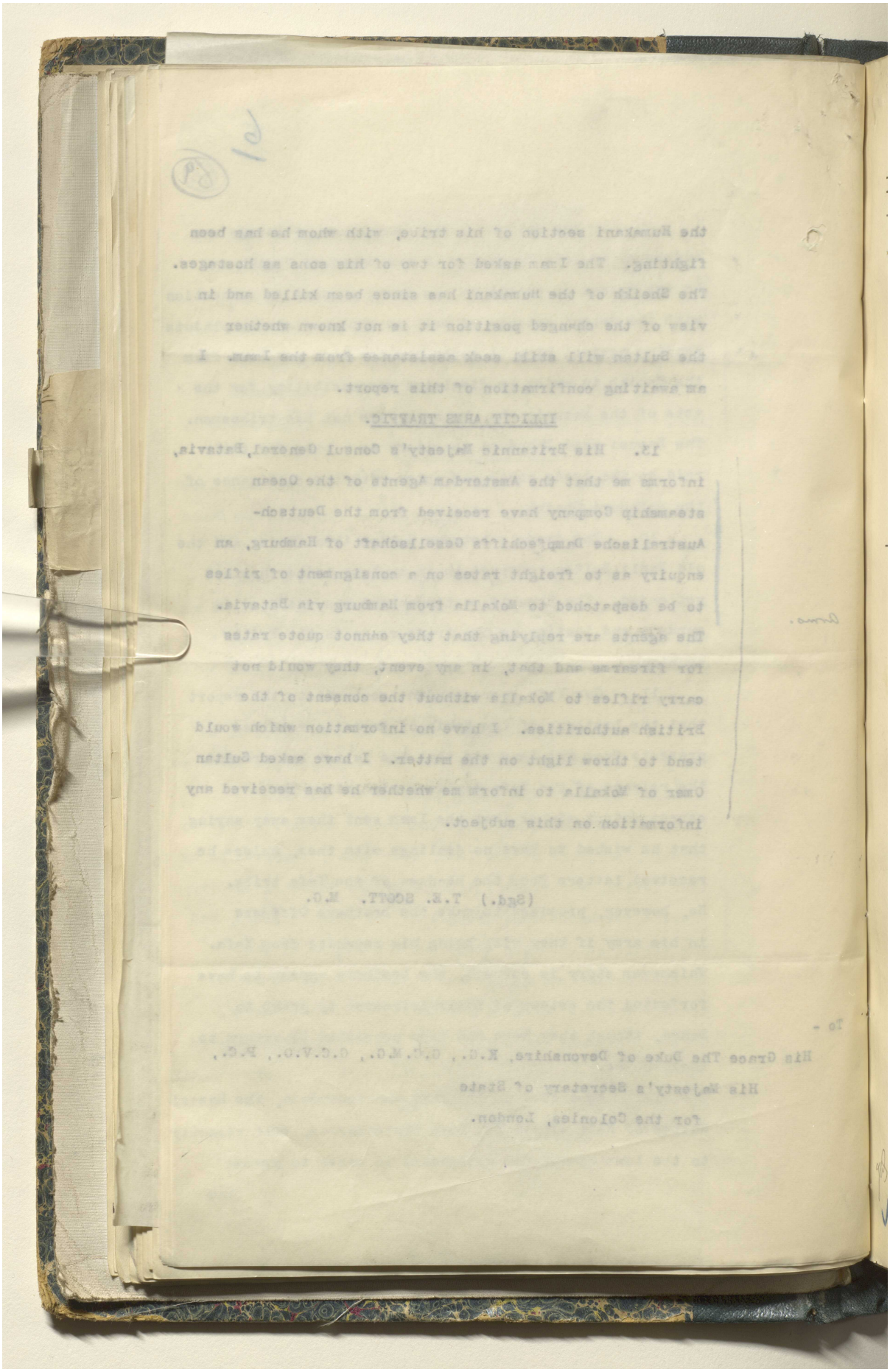

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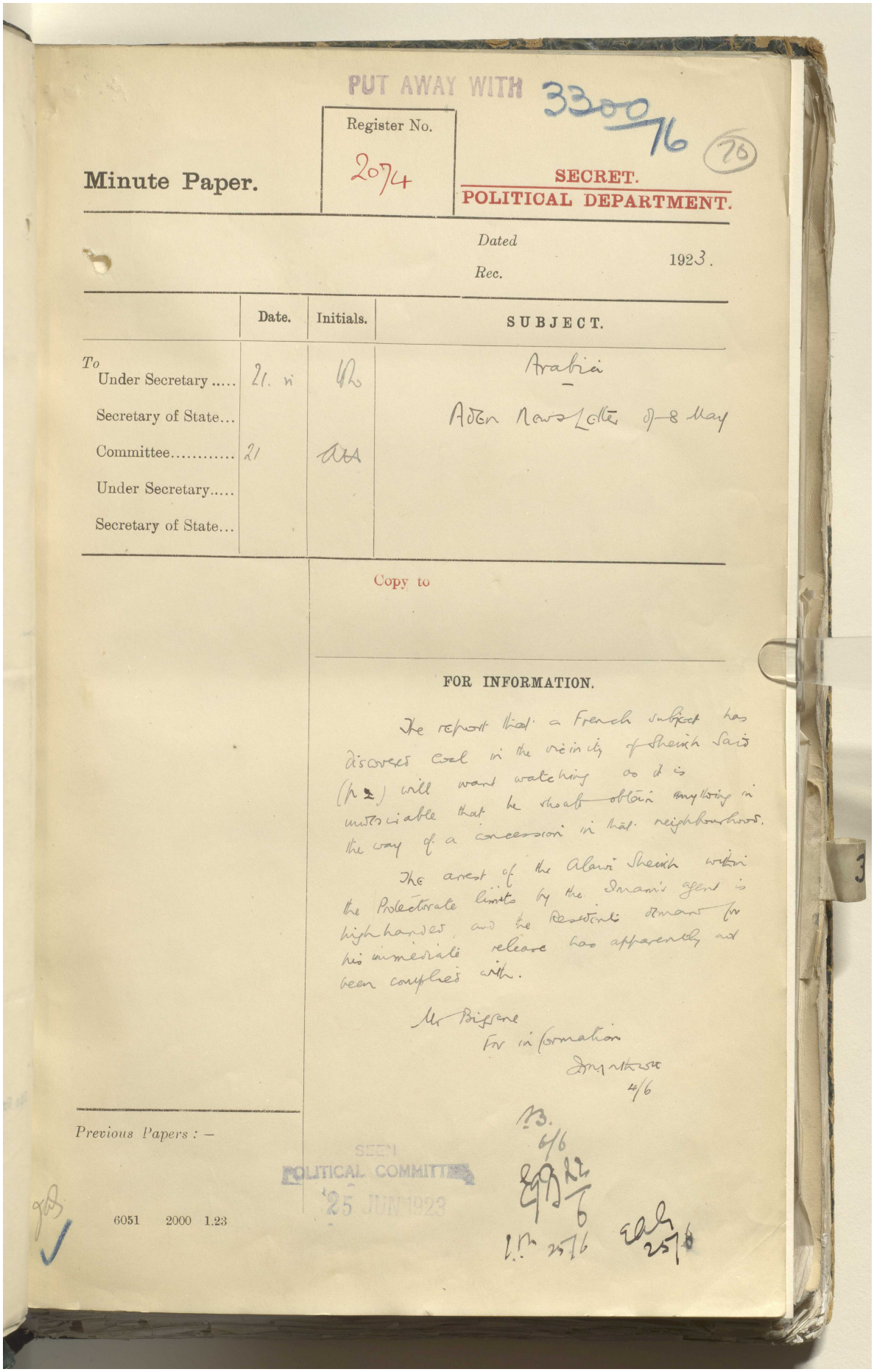

PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16 (76)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 2074

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	21. vi	[illegible]	Arabia — Aden News Letter 1-8 May
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	21	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

The report that a French subject has discovered coal in the vicinity of Sheikh Said (p 2) will want watching as it is conceivable that he may obtain anything in the way of a concession in that neighbourhood.

The arrest of the Alawi Sheikh within the Protectorate limits by the Imam's agent is high handed, and the Resident's demand for his immediate release has apparently not been complied with.

Mr Bigsone
For information
[illegible]
4/6

13. 6/6

Previous Papers :—

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
25 JUN 1923

6051 2000 1.23

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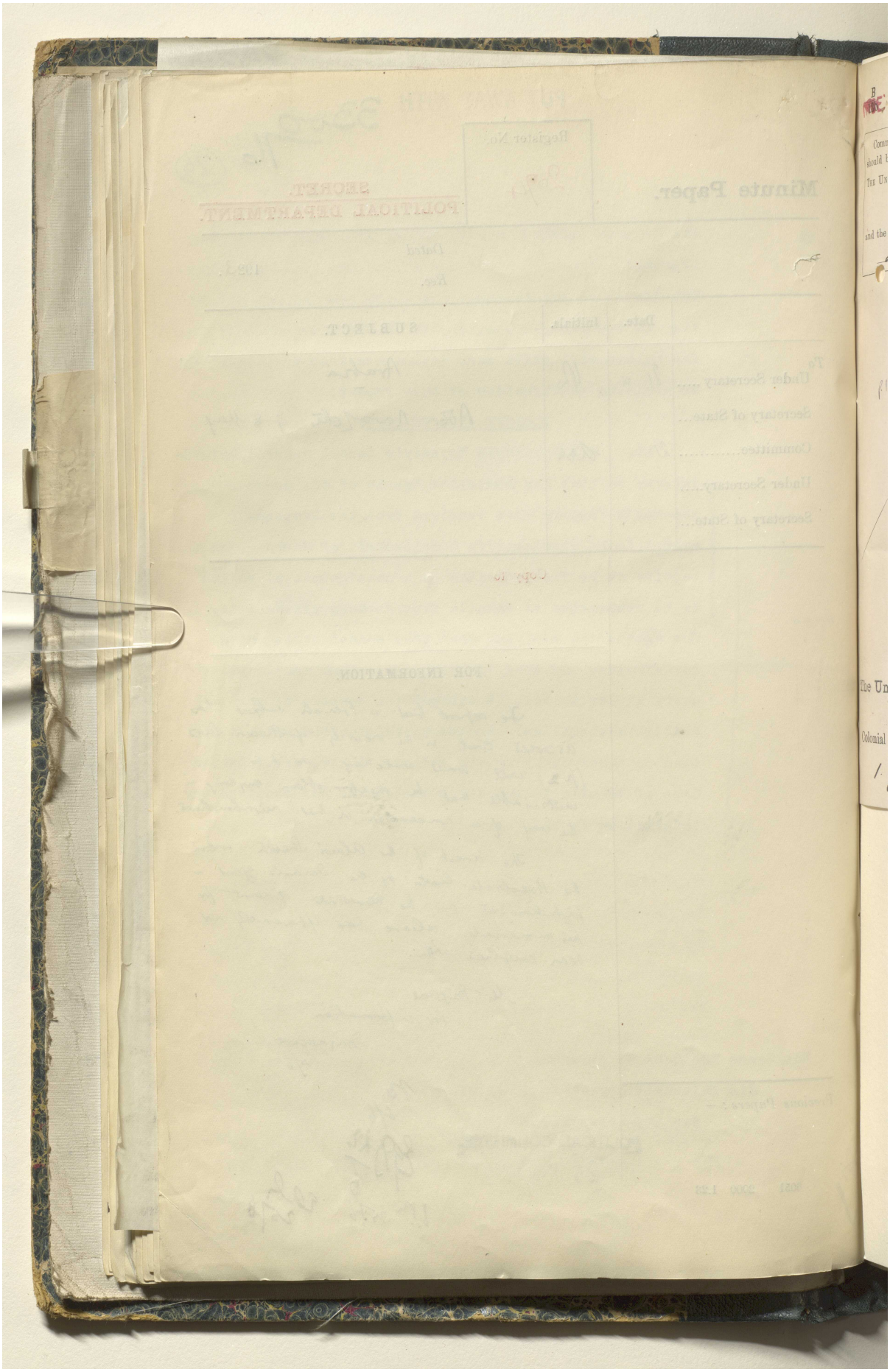

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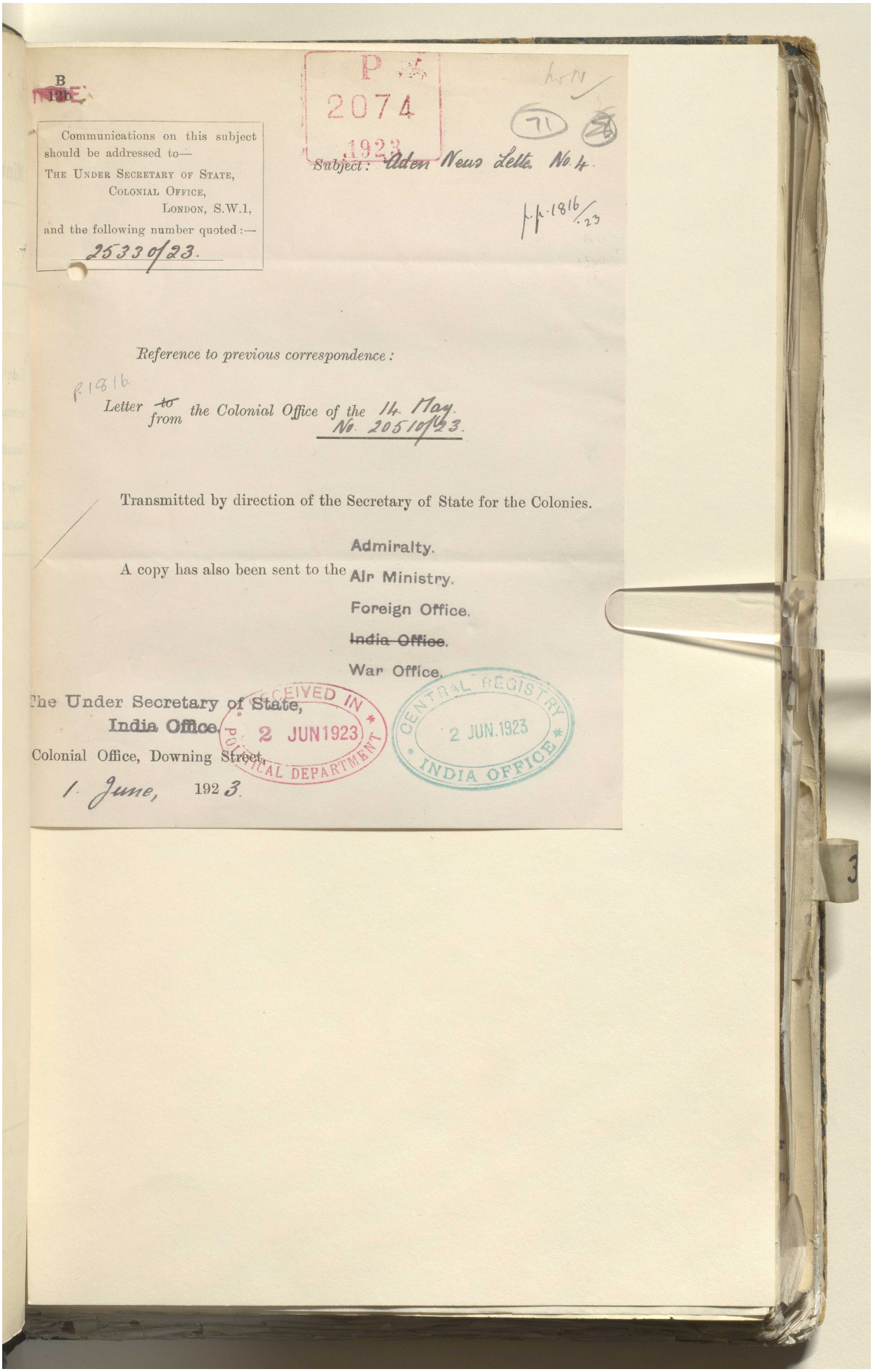

B
1916

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
25330/23.

P
2074
1923

(71)

Subject: Aden News Letter No. 4.

P.P. 1816/23

Reference to previous correspondence:

P 1816

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 14. May.
No. 20510/23.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
~~India Office.~~
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
1 June, 1923.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 2 JUN1923

CENTRAL REGISTRY 2 JUN.1923 INDIA OFFICE

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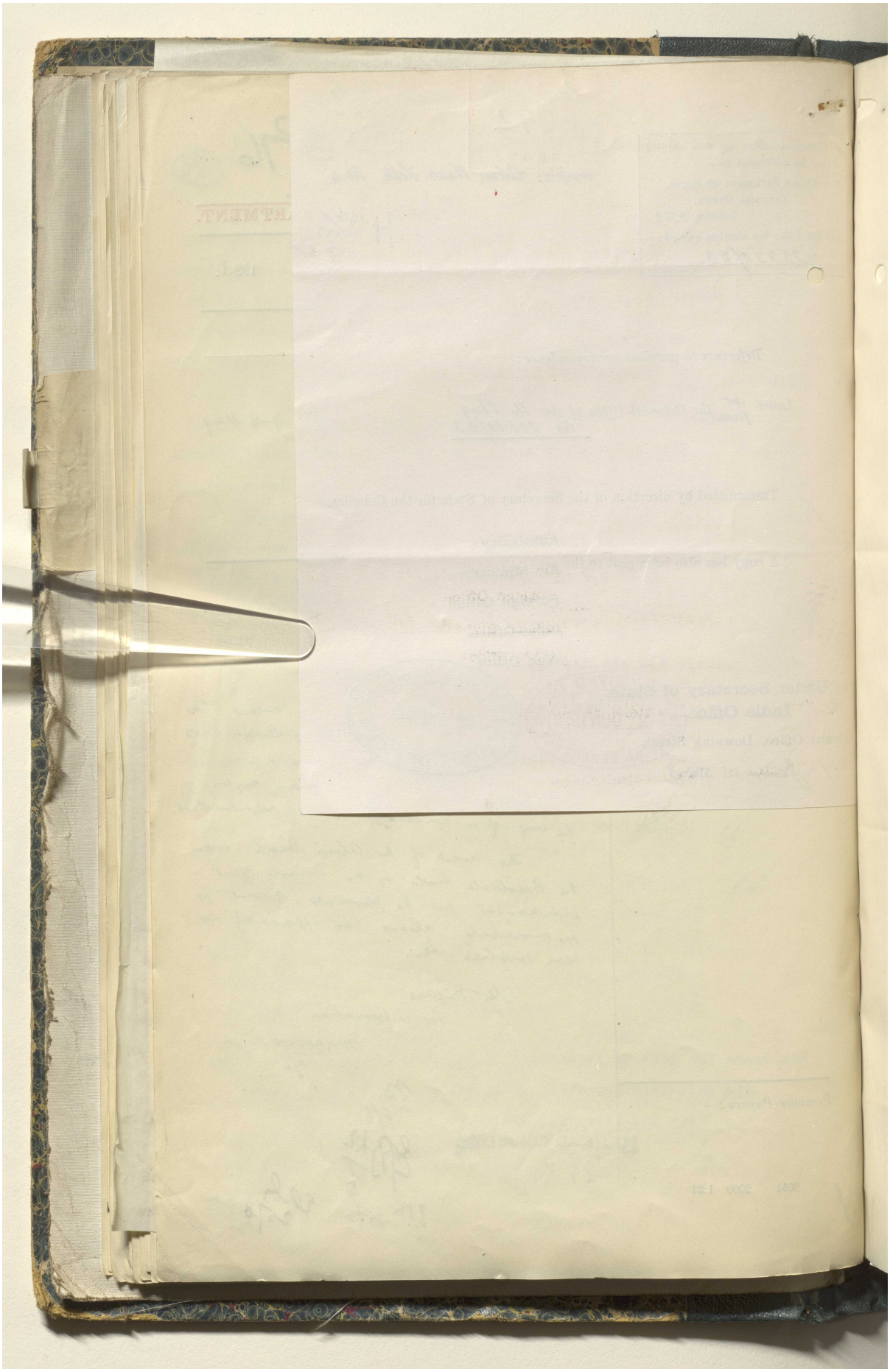

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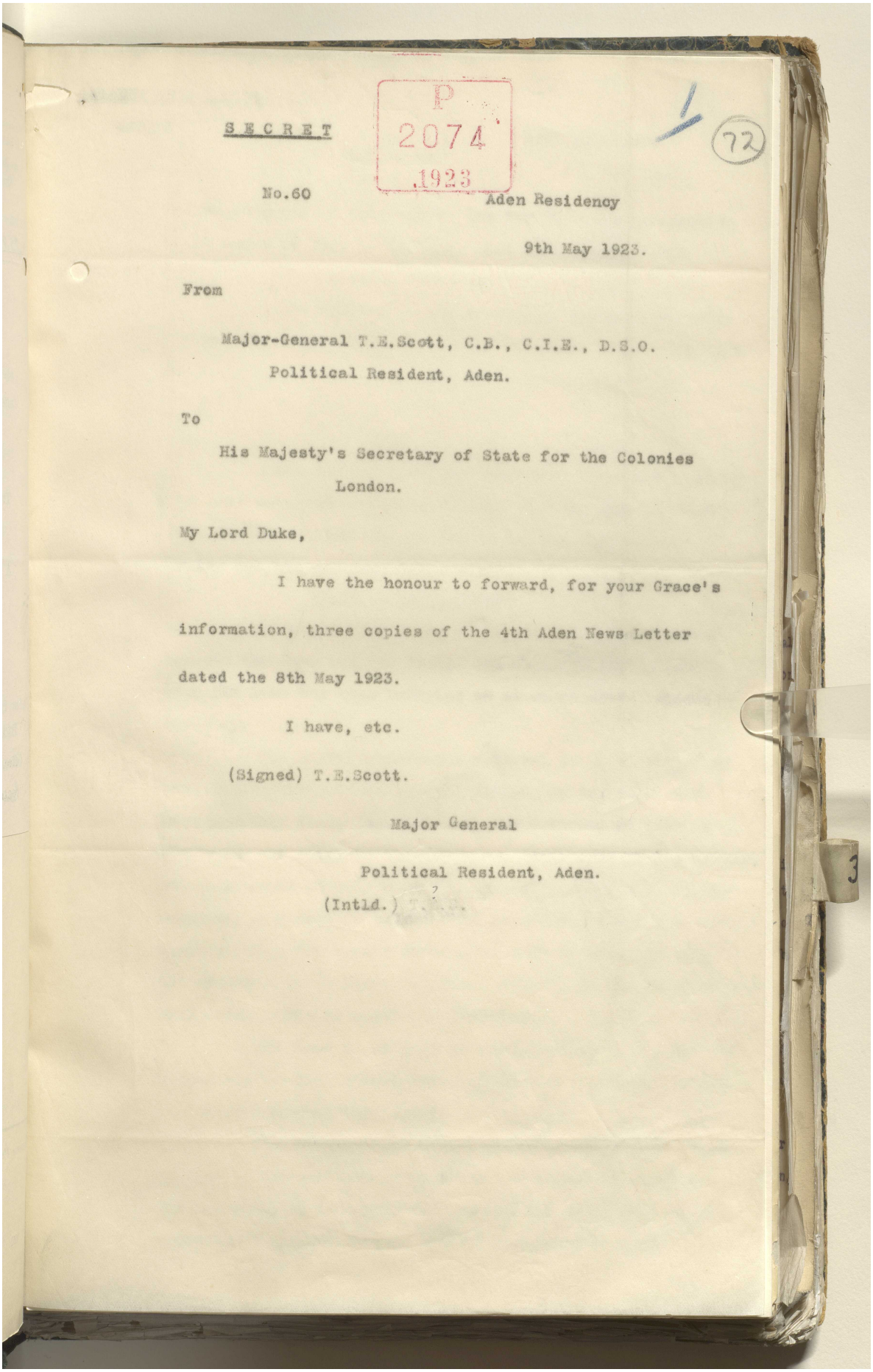

SECRET

P 2074 1923

1 (72)

No.60 Aden Residency

9th May 1923.

From

Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for your Grace's information, three copies of the 4th Aden News Letter dated the 8th May 1923.

I have, etc.

(Signed) T.E.Scott.

Major General
Political Resident, Aden.

(Intld.) T.E.S.

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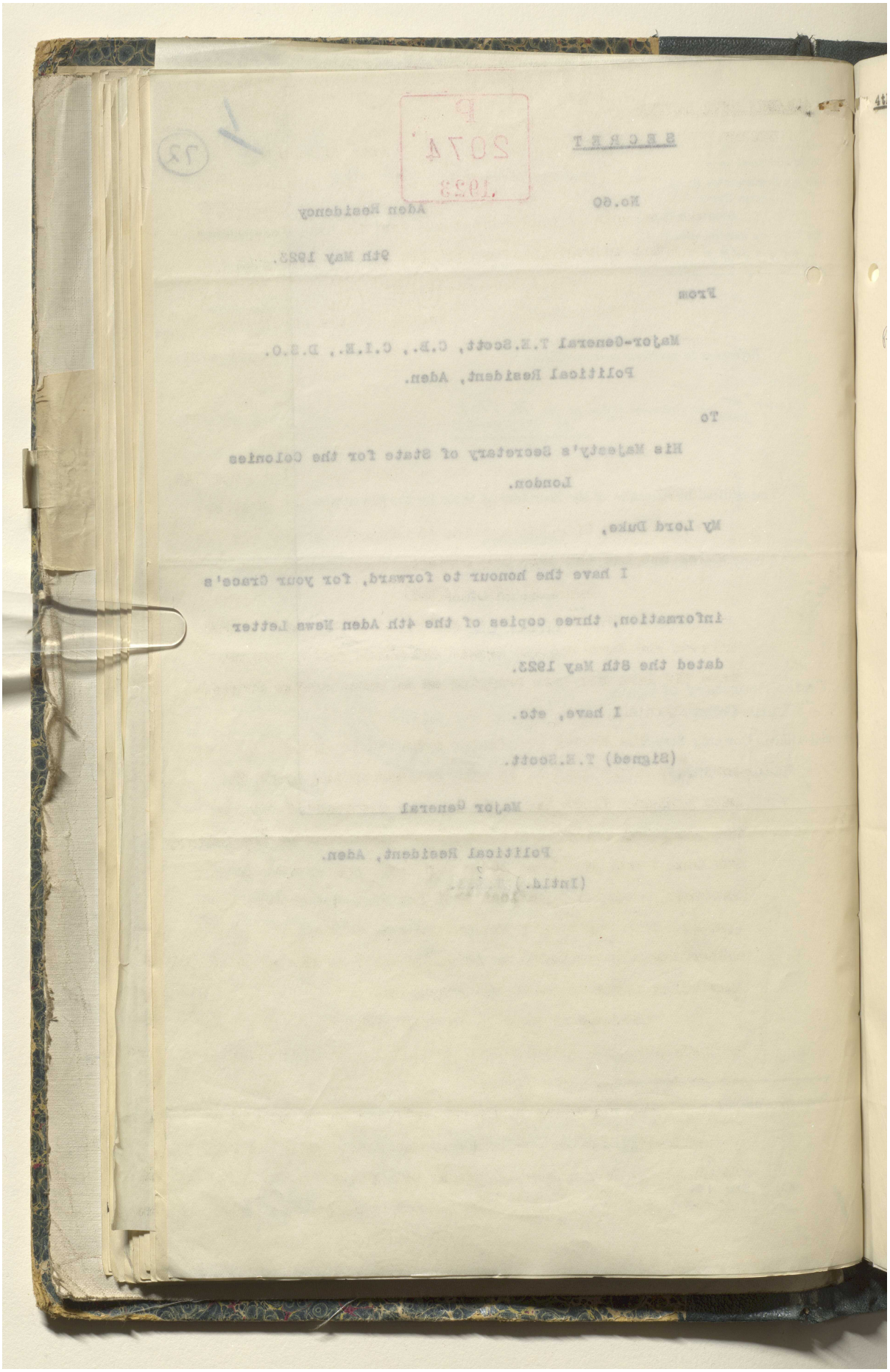

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4th ADEN NEWS LETTER

SECRET

2

73

Aden Residency
8th May 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 10th April 1923.

P 1816.

ASIR

All the northern and southern tribes are reported to have accepted the young Idrisi. The country is quiet. The Shaikh of Birk has written to acknowledge the new ruler but has not paid him a visit.

YEMEN (UPPER & LOWER)

There is said to be a move to bring about peace between the Imam and the Hashid and Bakil tribes against whom the Imam has been carrying on an unsuccessful campaign recently.

The Shafai chieftains referred to in para 8 of my last letter are said to be well treated by the Imam. The Imam probably finds Ibn el Wazir, the Governor of Taiz in the wrong but owing to the political importance of the latter, the Imam seems powerless to do anything against him. In the meantime, a rumour is afloat that Ibn el Wazir who has not complied with the Imam's summons to come to Sana has been collecting a large force to defend himself in the event of the Imam using force to exact his compliance.

The Imam is said to be replacing his Zaidi troops by Shafais in the neighbourhood of Aden as he wishes to use the Zaidis against the Idrisi.

The Frenchman M. Marcel referred to in para 10 of my last letter did not go to Mocha but landed at Dubab and Sheikh Said. He returned to Perim on 3rd April and told the Assistant Resident, Perim, that he had found coal at Dûbab

and

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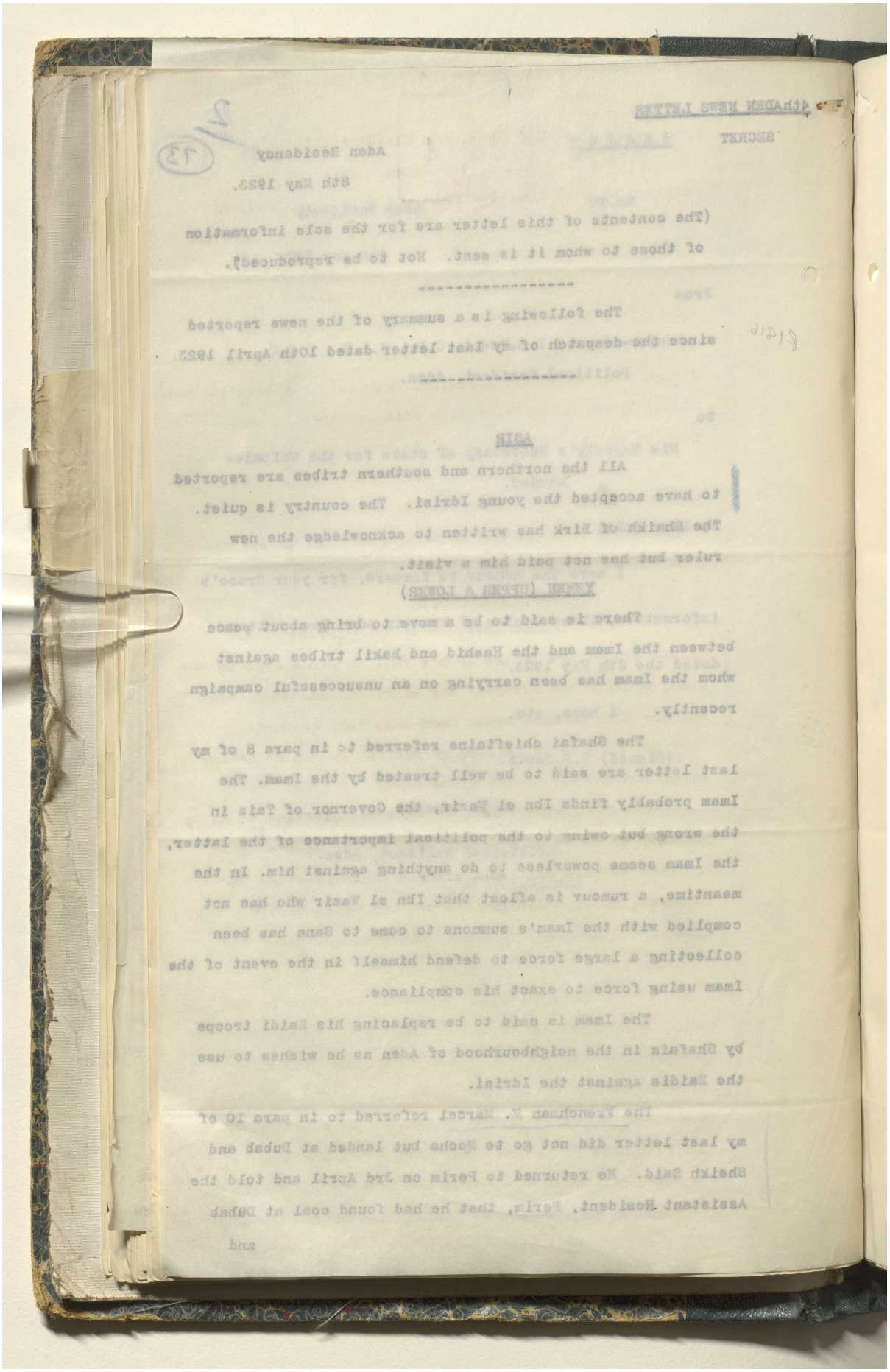

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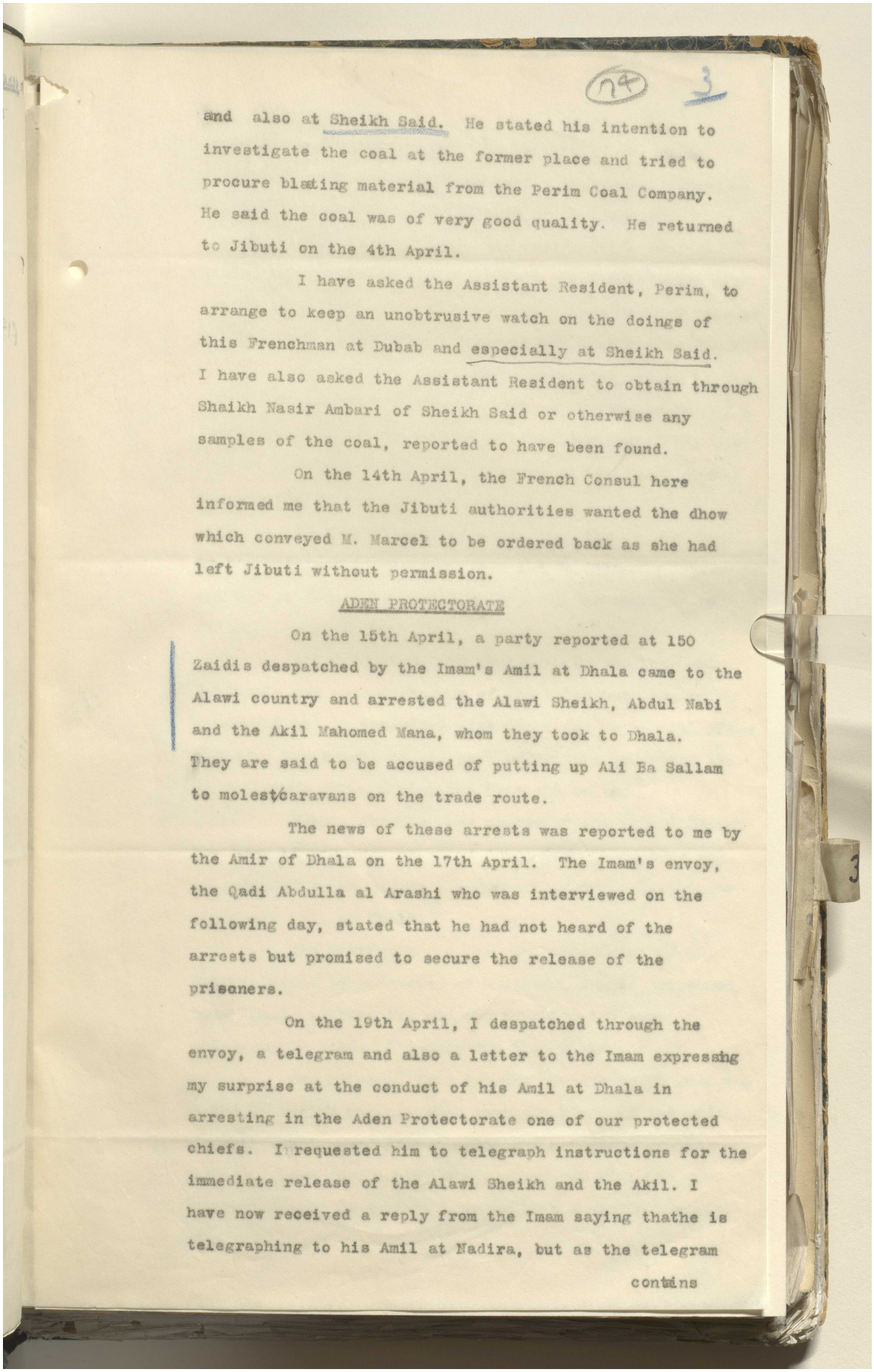

(74) 3

and also at Sheikh Said. He stated his intention to investigate the coal at the former place and tried to procure blasting material from the Perim Coal Company. He said the coal was of very good quality. He returned to Jibuti on the 4th April.

I have asked the Assistant Resident, Perim, to arrange to keep an unobtrusive watch on the doings of this Frenchman at Dubab and especially at Sheikh Said. I have also asked the Assistant Resident to obtain through Shaikh Nasir Ambari of Sheikh Said or otherwise any samples of the coal, reported to have been found.

On the 14th April, the French Consul here informed me that the Jibuti authorities wanted the dhow which conveyed M. Marcel to be ordered back as she had left Jibuti without permission.

ADEN PROTECTORATE

On the 15th April, a party reported at 150 Zaidis despatched by the Imam's Amil at Dhala came to the Alawi country and arrested the Alawi Sheikh, Abdul Nabi and the Akil Mahomed Mana, whom they took to Dhala. They are said to be accused of putting up Ali Ba Sallam to molest caravans on the trade route.

The news of these arrests was reported to me by the Amir of Dhala on the 17th April. The Imam's envoy, the Qadi Abdulla al Arashi who was interviewed on the following day, stated that he had not heard of the arrests but promised to secure the release of the prisoners.

On the 19th April, I despatched through the envoy, a telegram and also a letter to the Imam expressing my surprise at the conduct of his Amil at Dhala in arresting in the Aden Protectorate one of our protected chiefs. I requested him to telegraph instructions for the immediate release of the Alawi Sheikh and the Akil. I have now received a reply from the Imam saying thathe is telegraphing to his Amil at Nadira, but as the telegram

contains

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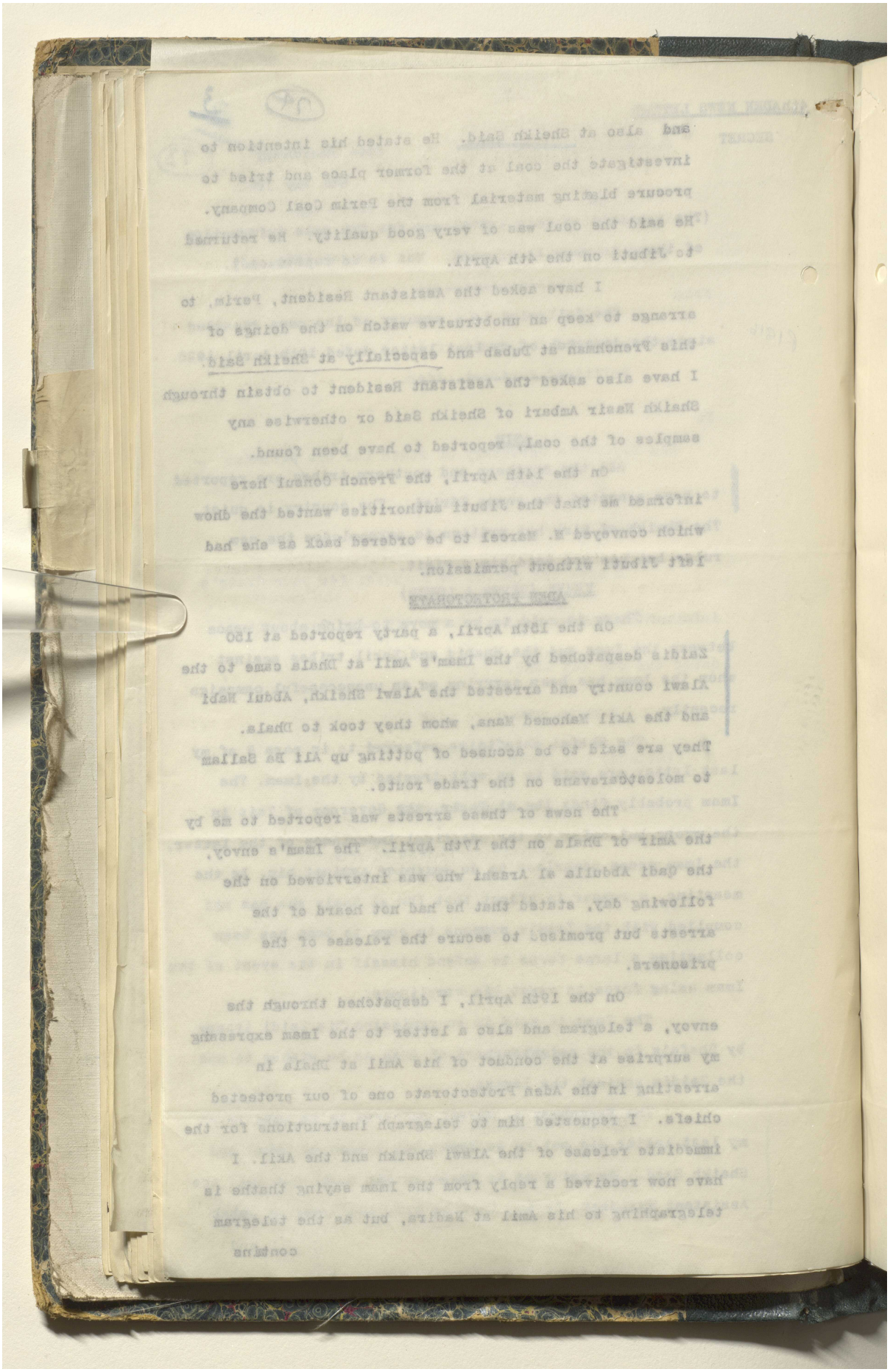

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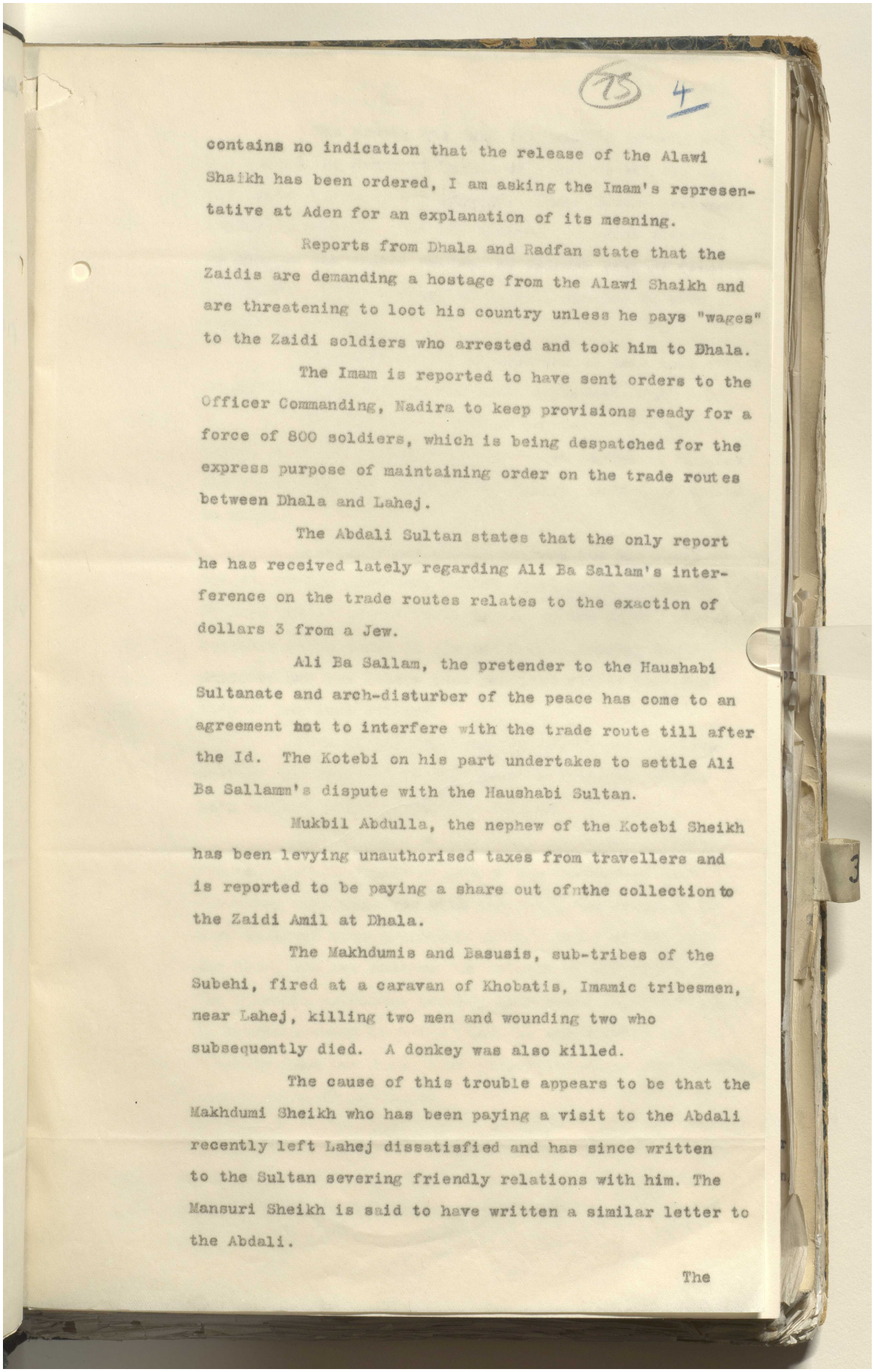

(75) 4

contains no indication that the release of the Alawi Shaikh has been ordered, I am asking the Imam's representative at Aden for an explanation of its meaning.

Reports from Dhala and Radfan state that the Zaidis are demanding a hostage from the Alawi Shaikh and are threatening to loot his country unless he pays "wages" to the Zaidi soldiers who arrested and took him to Dhala.

The Imam is reported to have sent orders to the Officer Commanding, Nadira to keep provisions ready for a force of 800 soldiers, which is being despatched for the express purpose of maintaining order on the trade routes between Dhala and Lahej.

The Abdali Sultan states that the only report he has received lately regarding Ali Ba Sallam's interference on the trade routes relates to the exaction of dollars 3 from a Jew.

Ali Ba Sallam, the pretender to the Haushabi Sultanate and arch-disturber of the peace has come to an agreement not to interfere with the trade route till after the Id. The Kotebi on his part undertakes to settle Ali Ba Sallamm's dispute with the Haushabi Sultan.

Mukbil Abdulla, the nephew of the Kotebi Sheikh has been levying unauthorised taxes from travellers and is reported to be paying a share out ofnthe collection to the Zaidi Amil at Dhala.

The Makhdumis and Basusis, sub-tribes of the Subehi, fired at a caravan of Khobatis, Imamic tribesmen, near Lahej, killing two men and wounding two who subsequently died. A donkey was also killed.

The cause of this trouble appears to be that the Makhdumi Sheikh who has been paying a visit to the Abdali recently left Lahej dissatisfied and has since written to the Sultan severing friendly relations with him. The Mansuri Sheikh is said to have written a similar letter to the Abdali.

The

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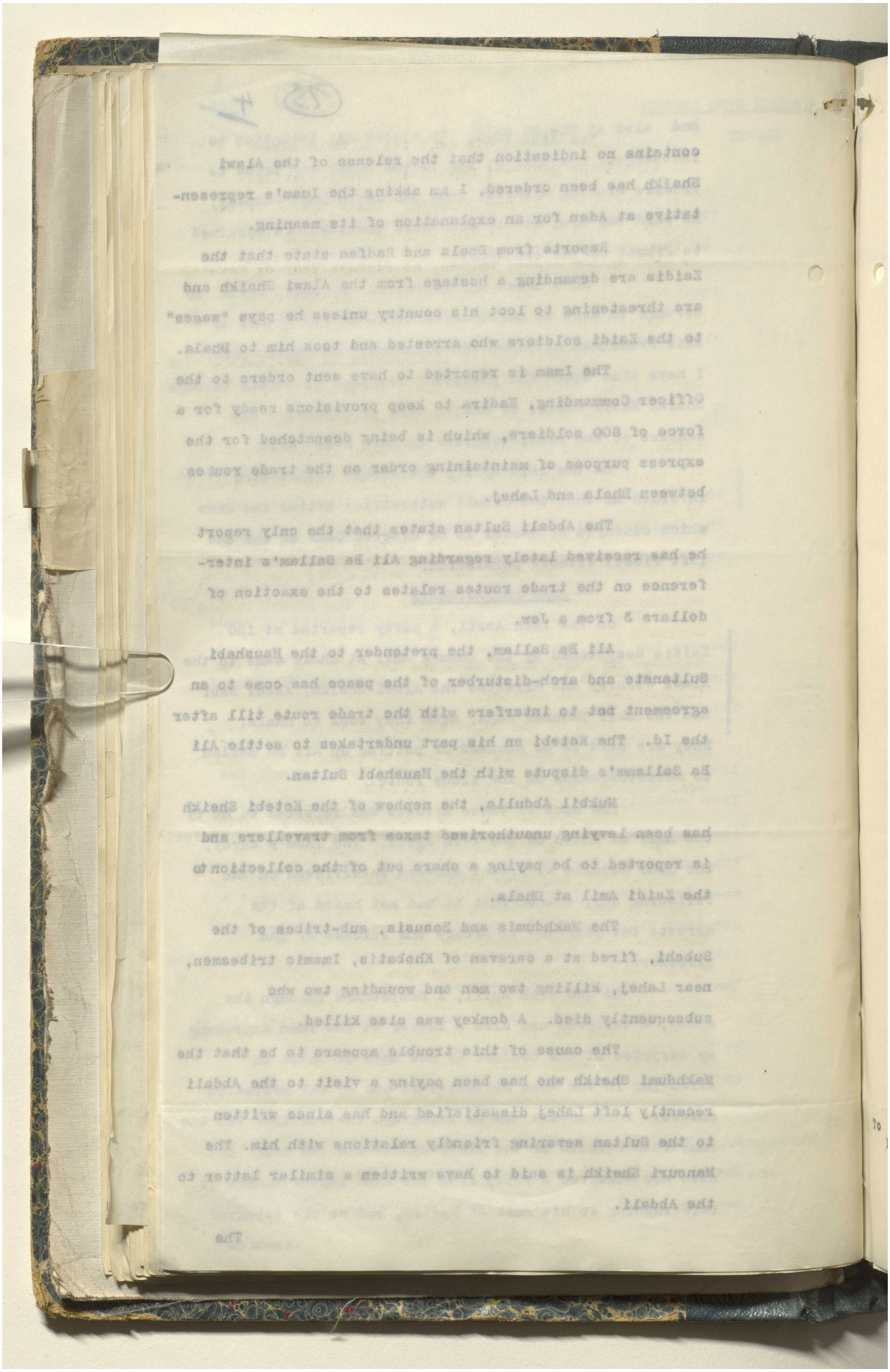

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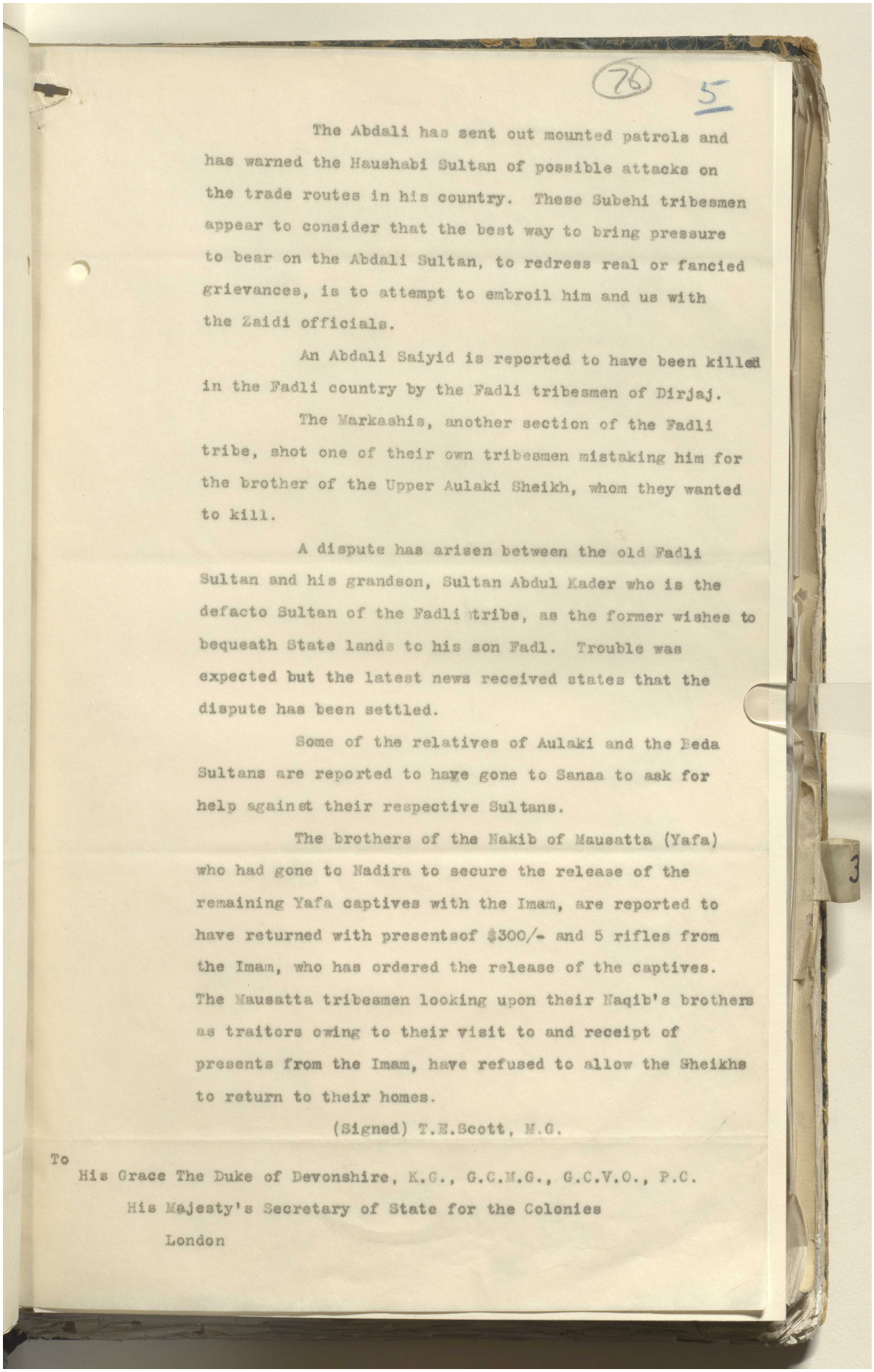

(76) 5

The Abdali has sent out mounted patrols and has warned the Haushabi Sultan of possible attacks on the trade routes in his country. These Subehi tribesmen appear to consider that the best way to bring pressure to bear on the Abdali Sultan, to redress real or fancied grievances, is to attempt to embroil him and us with the Zaidi officials.

An Abdali Saiyid is reported to have been killed in the Fadli country by the Fadli tribesmen of Dirjaj.

The Markashis, another section of the Fadli tribe, shot one of their own tribesmen mistaking him for the brother of the Upper Aulaki Sheikh, whom they wanted to kill.

A dispute has arisen between the old Fadli Sultan and his grandson, Sultan Abdul Kader who is the defacto Sultan of the Fadli tribe, as the former wishes to bequeath State lands to his son Fadl. Trouble was expected but the latest news received states that the dispute has been settled.

Some of the relatives of Aulaki and the Beda Sultans are reported to haye gone to Sanaa to ask for help against their respective Sultans.

The brothers of the Nakib of Mausatta (Yafa) who had gone to Hadira to secure the release of the remaining Yafa captives with the Imam, are reported to have returned with presentsof $300/- and 5 rifles from the Imam, who has ordered the release of the captives. The Mausatta tribesmen looking upon their Naqib's brothers as traitors owing to their visit to and receipt of presents from the Imam, have refused to allow the Sheikhs to return to their homes.

(Signed) T.E.Scott, M.C.

To
His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies
London

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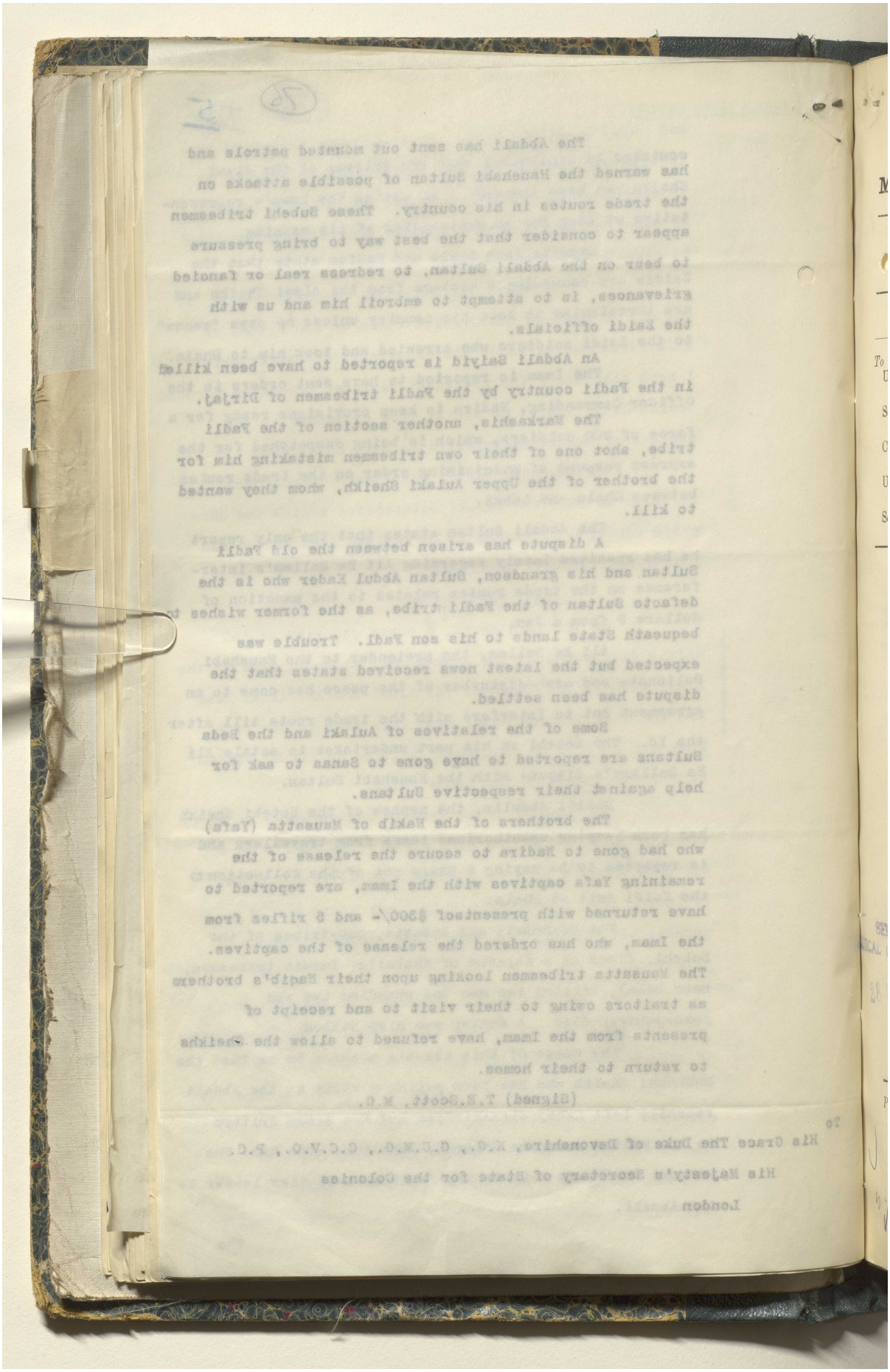

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 1816

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	17. 5	[illegible]	Aden News Letter 9-10 April 1923.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	18	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

P. 3. 4. 6 French & Italian activity in the Yemen.
Both are anticipating the appointment of Consuls at Hodeida. Italian travels who arrived at Hodeida were refused permission to stay there by the Idrisi's representative, who has issued orders prohibiting the landing of Europeans.

P. 6 The French are supplying munitions and wireless sets to the Imam

P. 6 Turkish claims to the Yemen

P. 6 Persecution of Jews

Mr Bigsane
For information

[illegible]
15/5

V. M. 15/5
Earl 25/5
RP 5/5

SEEN
ITICAL COMMITTEE
28 MAY 1923

Previous Papers :—

6051 2000 1.23

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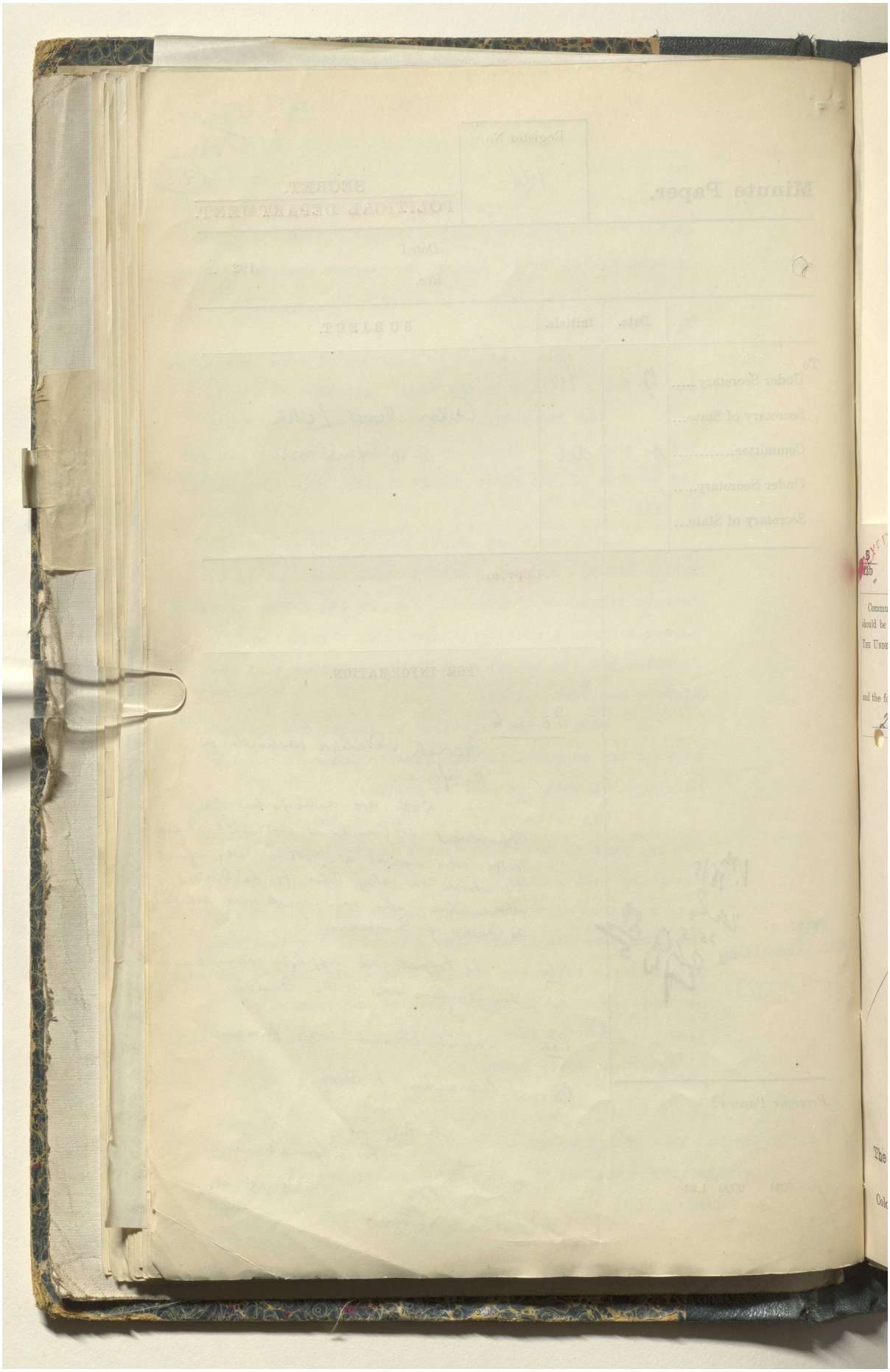

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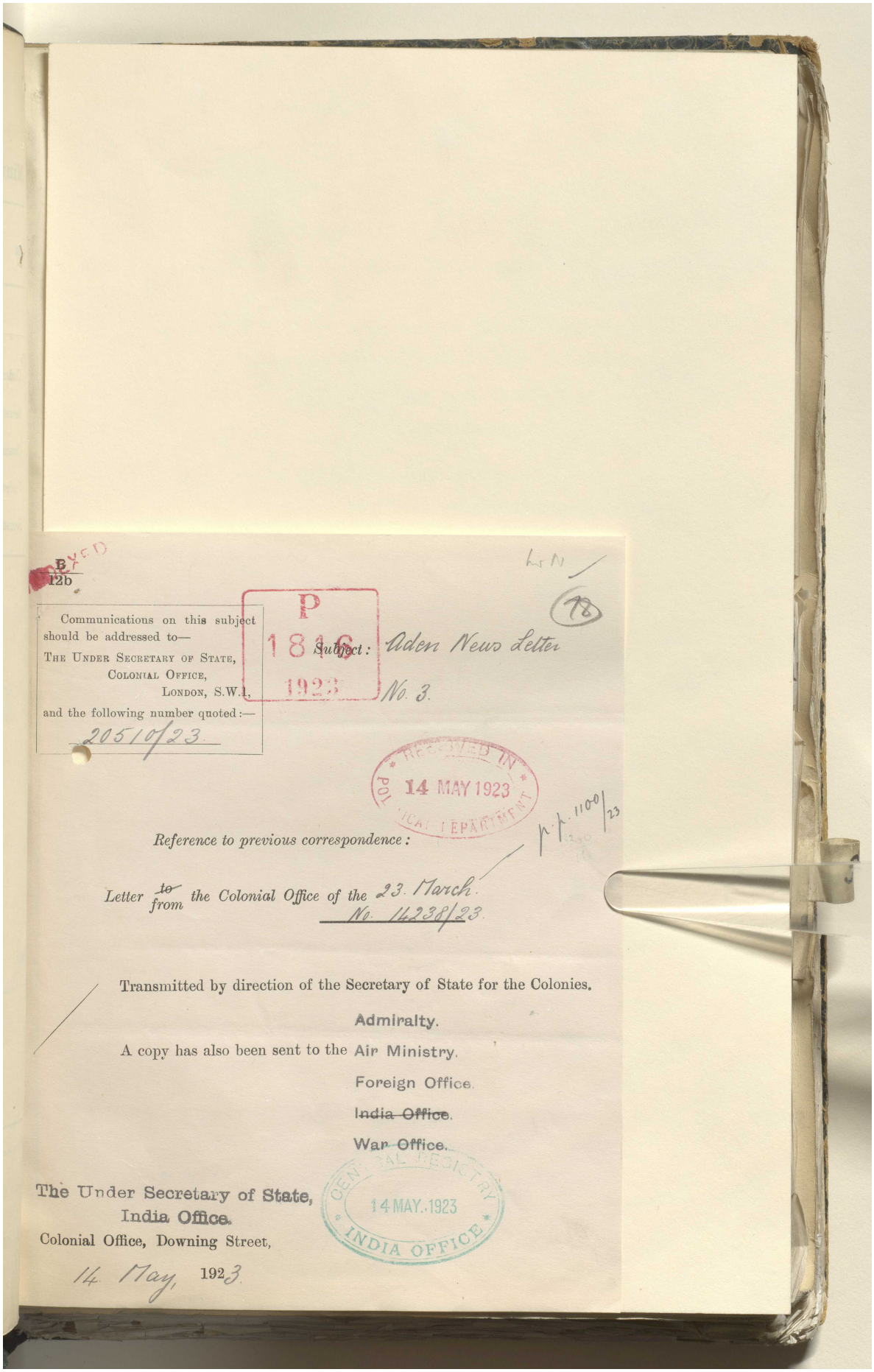

B
12b

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
20510/23.

P
1816
1923

Subject: Aden News Letter No. 3.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
14 MAY 1923

P.P. 1100/23

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 23. March.
No. 14238/23.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Admiralty.

A copy has also been sent to the Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
14 MAY 1923
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
14 May, 1923.

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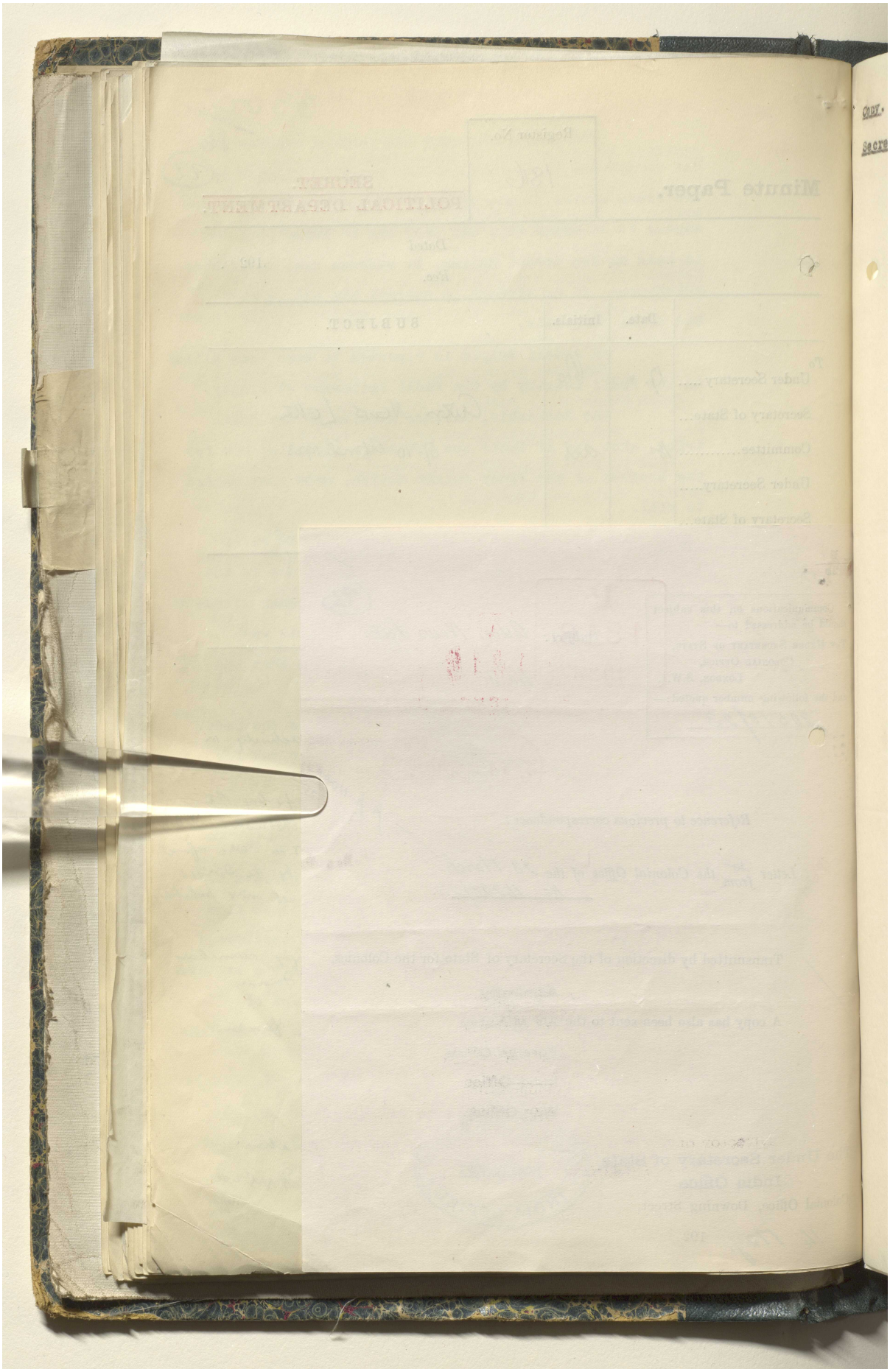

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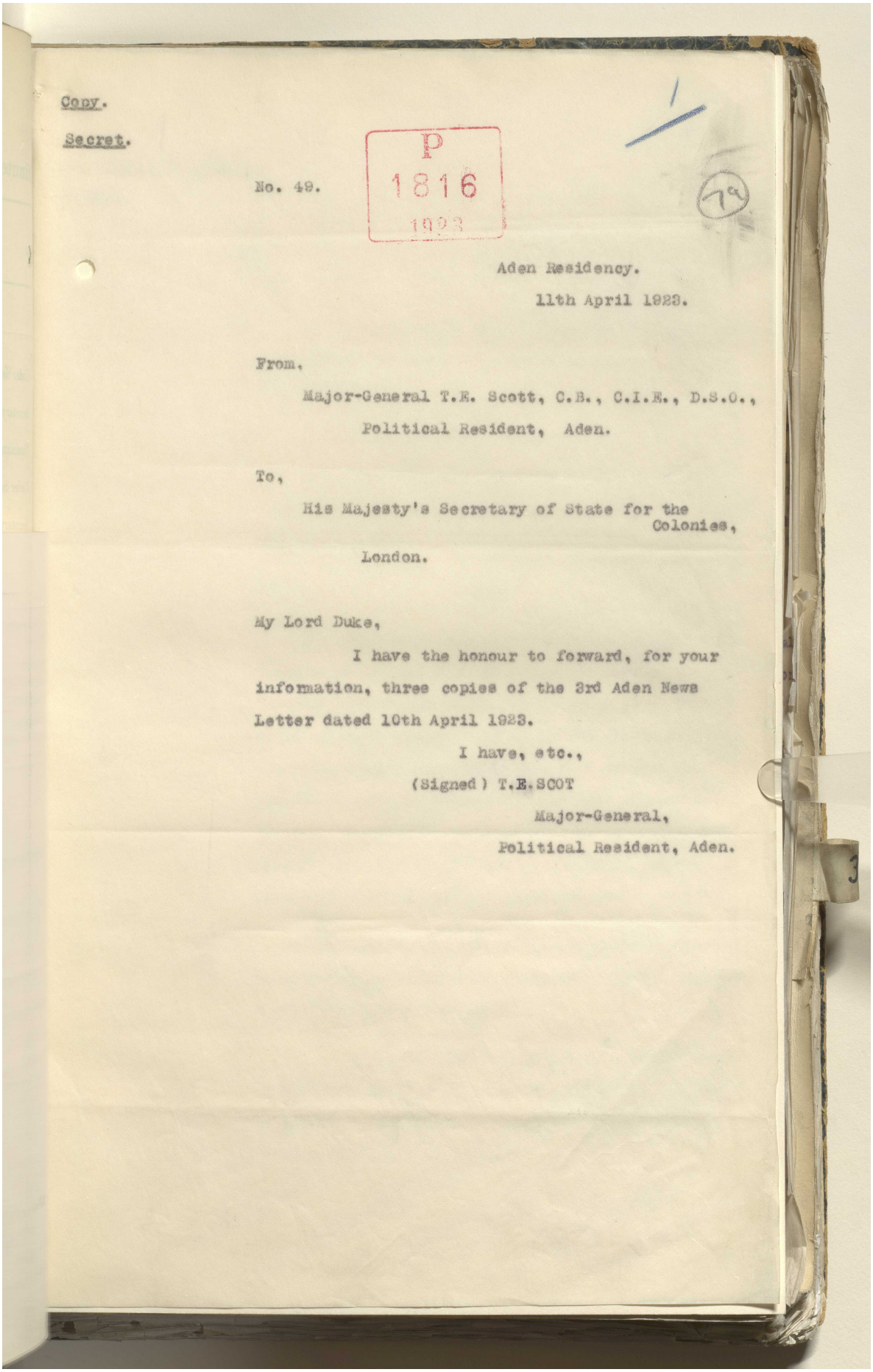

Copy.

Secret.

No. 49.

P
1816
1923

79

Aden Residency.
11th April 1923.

From,
Major-General T.E. Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, three copies of the 3rd Aden News Letter dated 10th April 1923.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) T.E.SCOT
Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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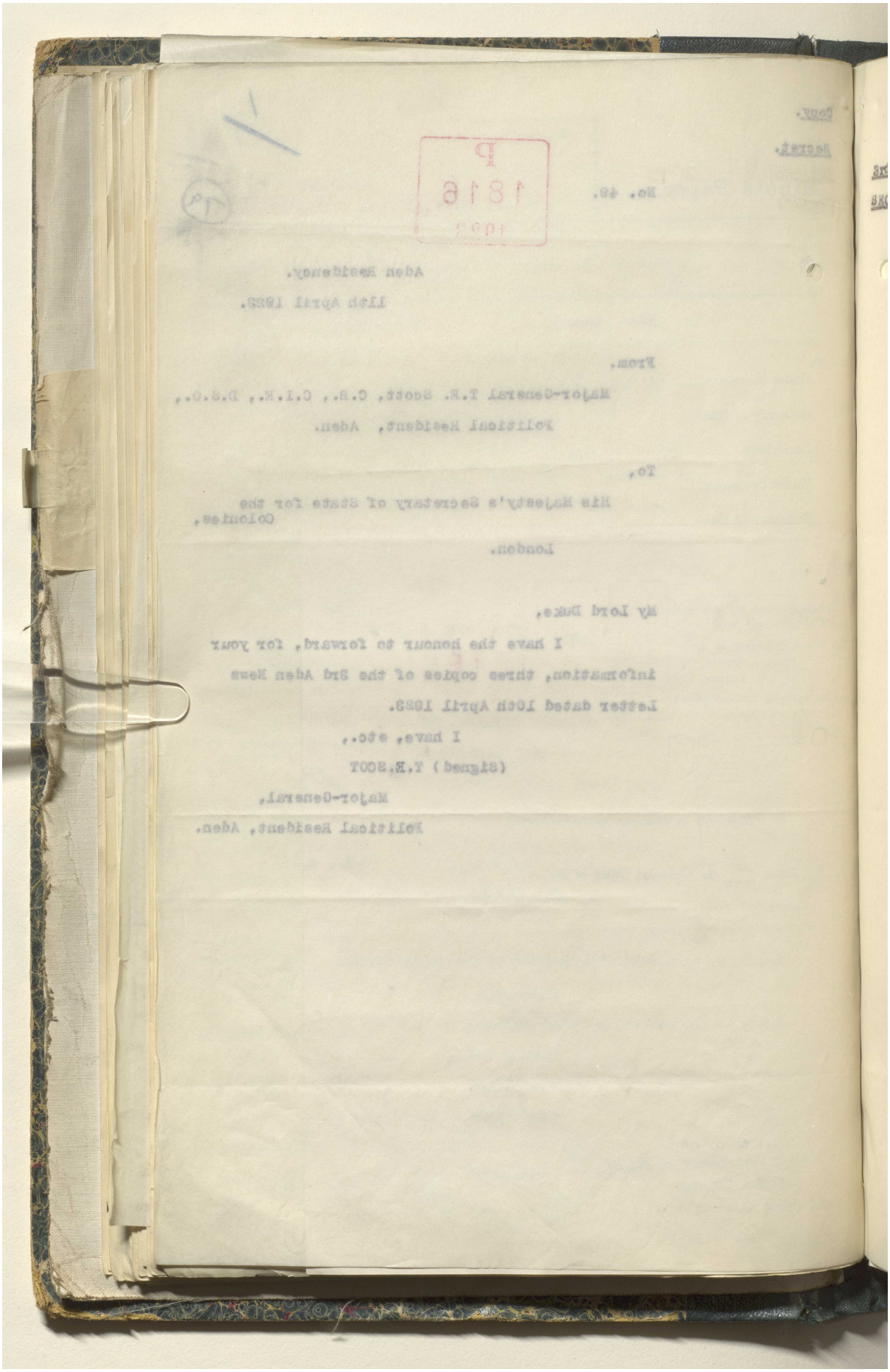

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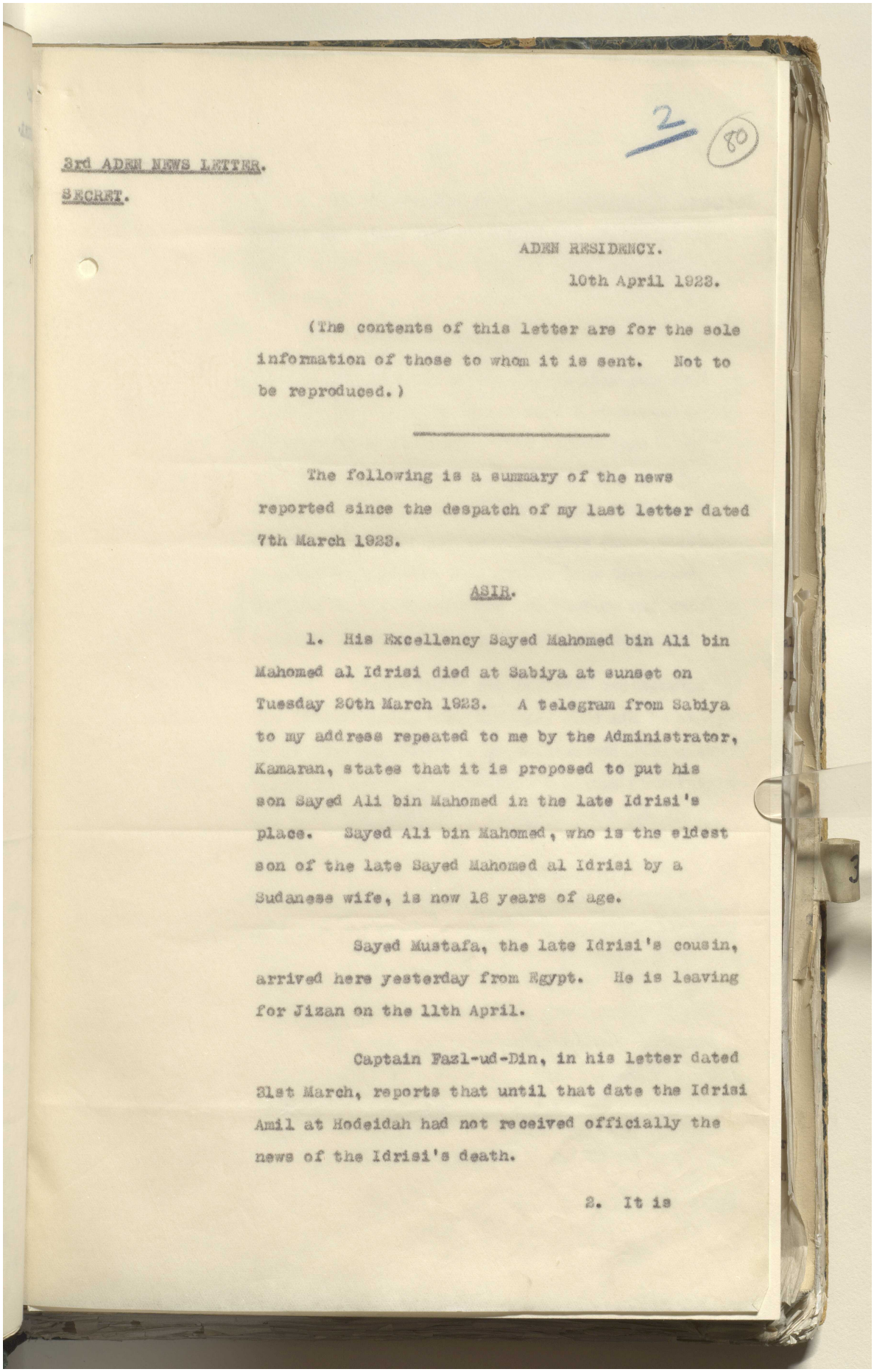

2 (80)

3rd ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY.

10th April 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 7th March 1923.

ASIR.

1. His Excellency Sayed Mahomed bin Ali bin Mahomed al Idrisi died at Sabiya at sunset on Tuesday 20th March 1923. A telegram from Sabiya to my address repeated to me by the Administrator, Kamaran, states that it is proposed to put his son Sayed Ali bin Mahomed in the late Idrisi's place. Sayed Ali bin Mahomed, who is the eldest son of the late Sayed Mahomed al Idrisi by a Sudanese wife, is now 16 years of age.

Sayed Mustafa, the late Idrisi's cousin, arrived here yesterday from Egypt. He is leaving for Jizan on the 11th April.

Captain Fazl-ud-Din, in his letter dated 31st March, reports that until that date the Idrisi Amil at Hodeidah had not received officially the news of the Idrisi's death.

2. It is

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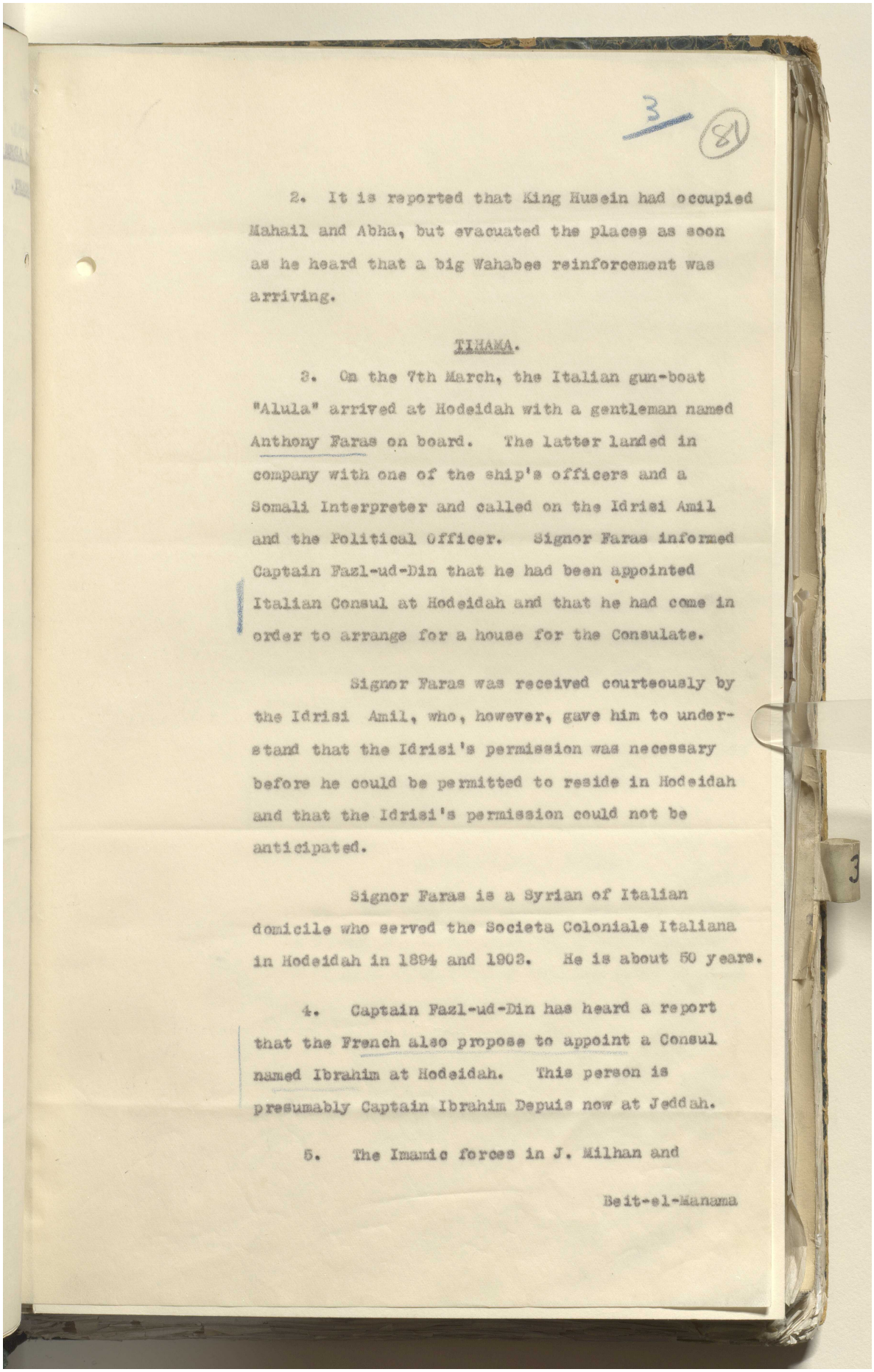

3 (81)

2. It is reported that King Husein had occupied Mahail and Abha, but evacuated the places as soon as he heard that a big Wahabee reinforcement was arriving.

TIHAMA.

3. On the 7th March, the Italian gun-boat "Alula" arrived at Hodeidah with a gentleman named Anthony Faras on board. The latter landed in company with one of the ship's officers and a Somali Interpreter and called on the Idrisi Amil and the Political Officer. Signor Faras informed Captain Fazl-ud-Din that he had been appointed Italian Consul at Hodeidah and that he had come in order to arrange for a house for the Consulate.

Signor Faras was received courteously by the Idrisi Amil, who, however, gave him to understand that the Idrisi's permission was necessary before he could be permitted to reside in Hodeidah and that the Idrisi's permission could not be anticipated.

Signor Faras is a Syrian of Italian domicile who served the Societa Coloniale Italiana in Hodeidah in 1894 and 1903. He is about 50 years.

4. Captain Fazl-ud-Din has heard a report that the French also propose to appoint a Consul named Ibrahim at Hodeidah. This person is presumably Captain Ibrahim Depuis now at Jeddah.

5. The Imamic forces in J. Milhan and

Beit-el-Manama

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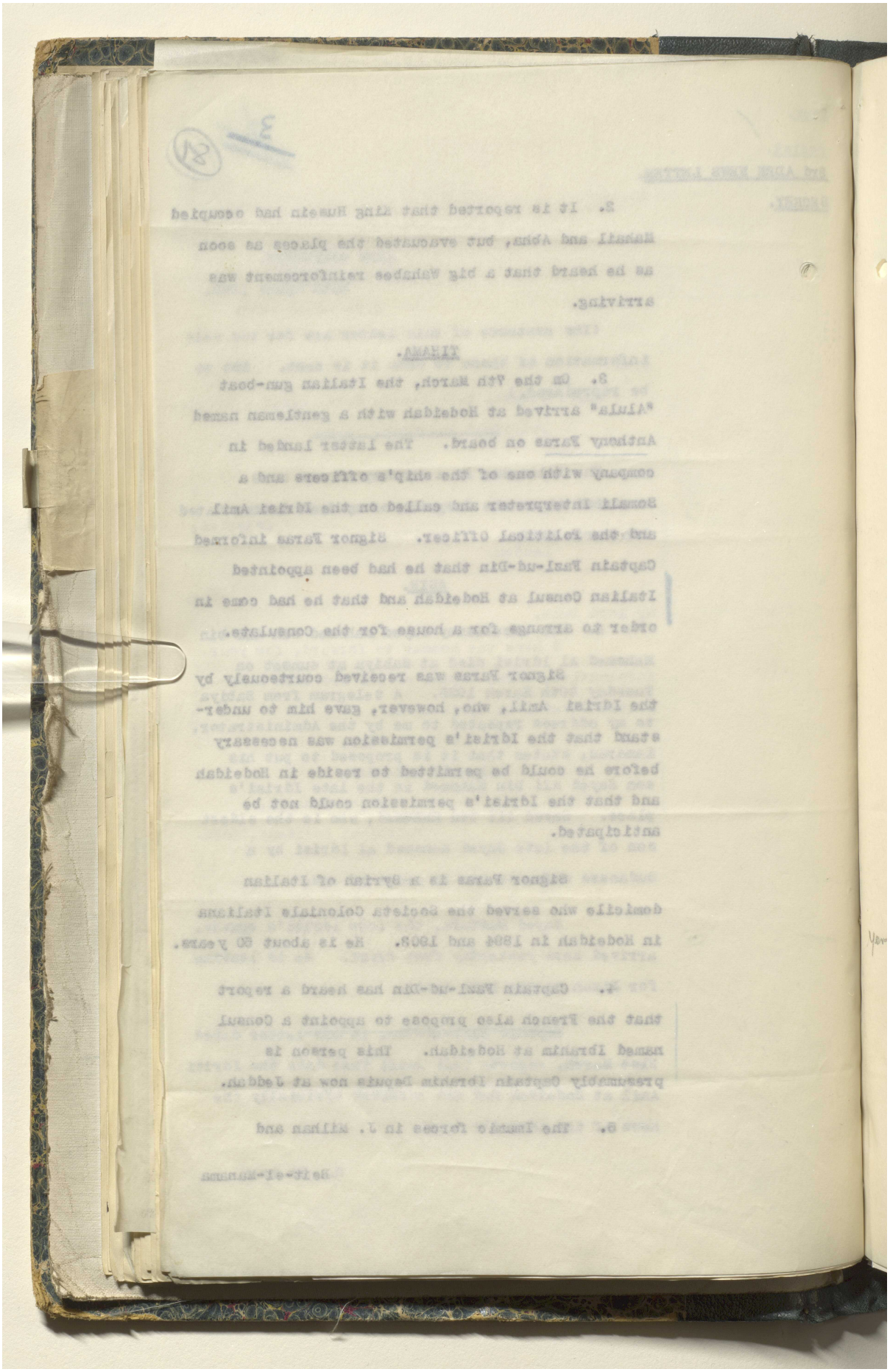

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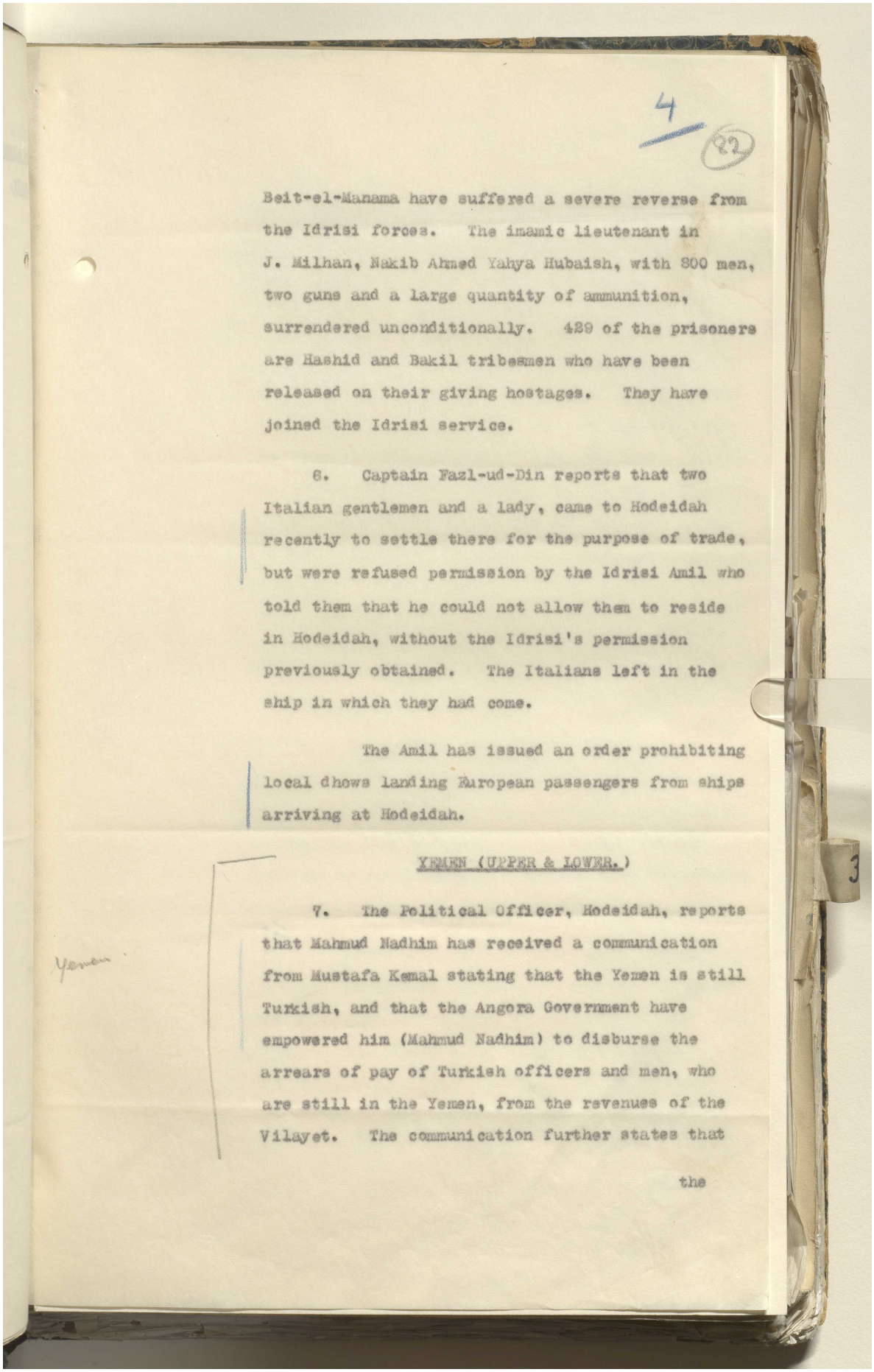

4

82

Beit-el-Manama have suffered a severe reverse from the Idrisi forces. The imamic lieutenant in J. Milhan, Nakib Ahmed Yahya Hubaish, with 800 men, two guns and a large quantity of ammunition, surrendered unconditionally. 429 of the prisoners are Hashid and Bakil tribesmen who have been released on their giving hostages. They have joined the Idrisi service.

6. Captain Fazl-ud-Din reports that two Italian gentlemen and a lady, came to Hodeidah recently to settle there for the purpose of trade, but were refused permission by the Idrisi Amil who told them that he could not allow them to reside in Hodeidah, without the Idrisi's permission previously obtained. The Italians left in the ship in which they had come.

The Amil has issued an order prohibiting local dhows landing European passengers from ships arriving at Hodeidah.

YEMEN (UPPER & LOWER.)

Yemen

7. The Political Officer, Hodeidah, reports that Mahmud Nadhim has received a communication from Mustafa Kemal stating that the Yemen is still Turkish, and that the Angora Government have empowered him (Mahmud Nadhim) to disburse the arrears of pay of Turkish officers and men, who are still in the Yemen, from the revenues of the Vilayet. The communication further states that

the

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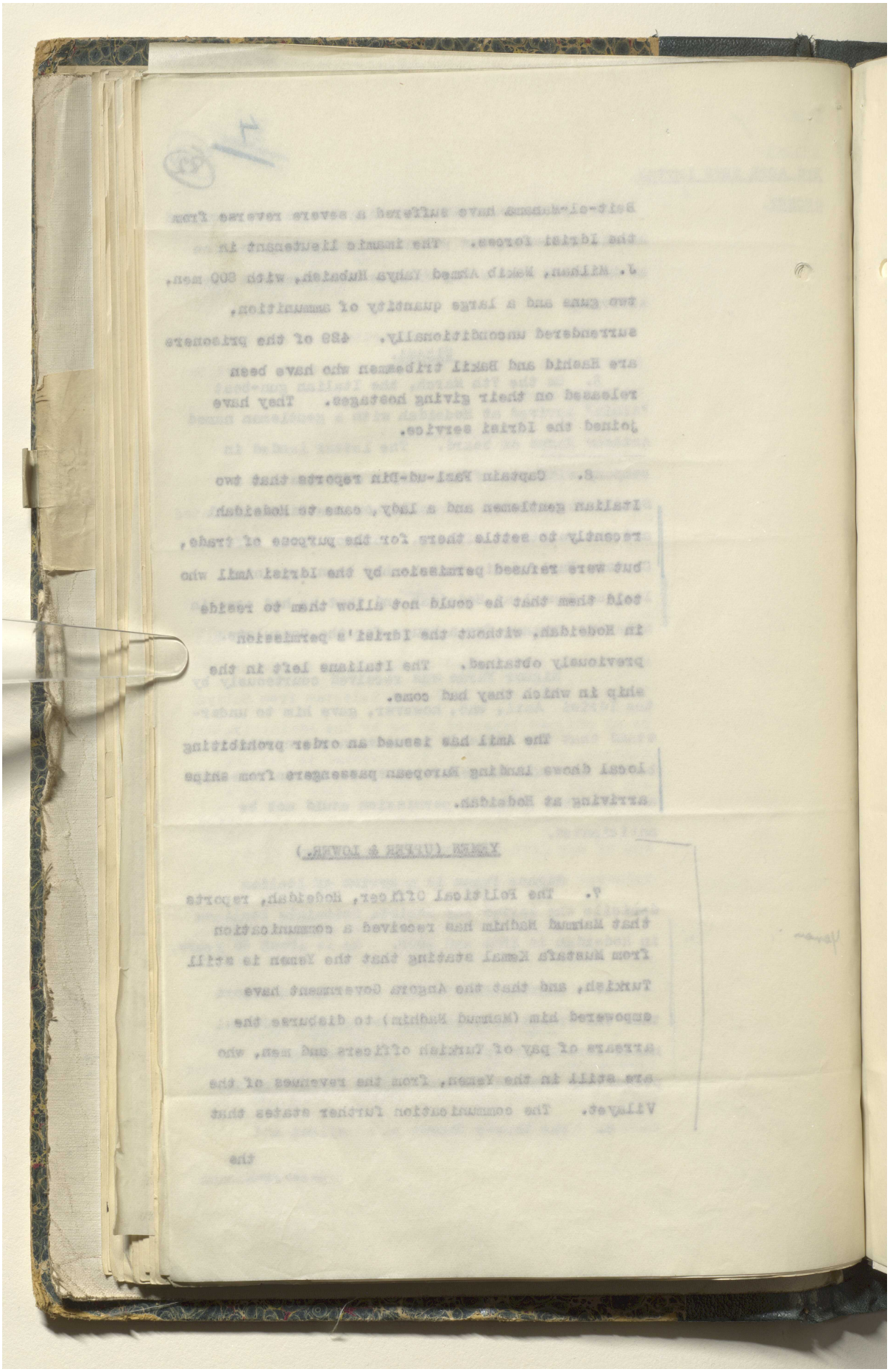

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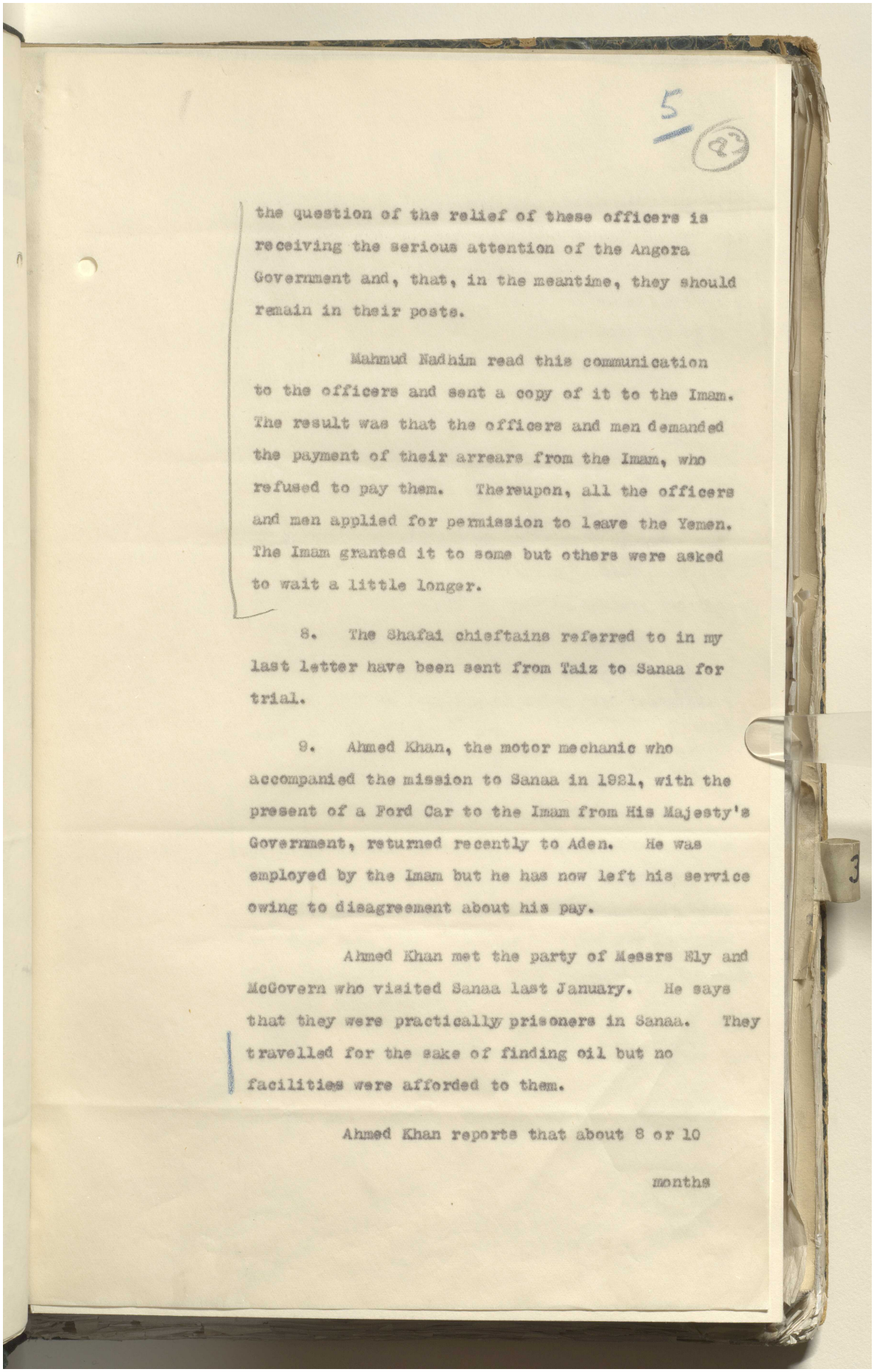

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(83)

the question of the relief of these officers is receiving the serious attention of the Angora Government and, that, in the meantime, they should remain in their posts.

Mahmud Nadhim read this communication to the officers and sent a copy of it to the Imam. The result was that the officers and men demanded the payment of their arrears from the Imam, who refused to pay them. Thereupon, all the officers and men applied for permission to leave the Yemen. The Imam granted it to some but others were asked to wait a little longer.

8. The Shafai chieftains referred to in my last letter have been sent from Taiz to Sanaa for trial.

9. Ahmed Khan, the motor mechanic who accompanied the mission to Sanaa in 1921, with the present of a Ford Car to the Imam from His Majesty's Government, returned recently to Aden. He was employed by the Imam but he has now left his service owing to disagreement about his pay.

Ahmed Khan met the party of Messrs Ely and McGovern who visited Sanaa last January. He says that they were practically prisoners in Sanaa. They travelled for the sake of finding oil but no facilities were afforded to them.

Ahmed Khan reports that about 8 or 10

months

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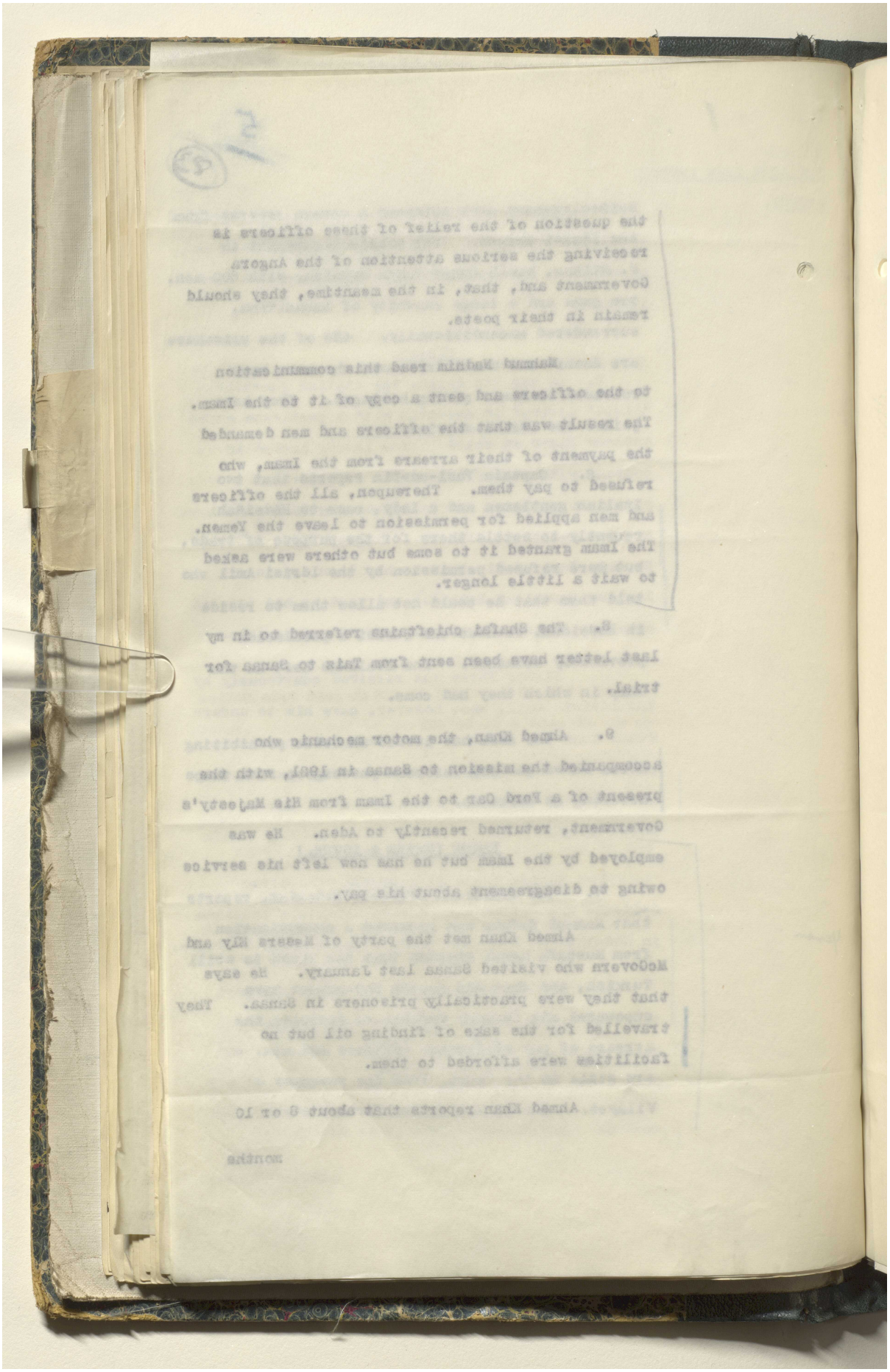

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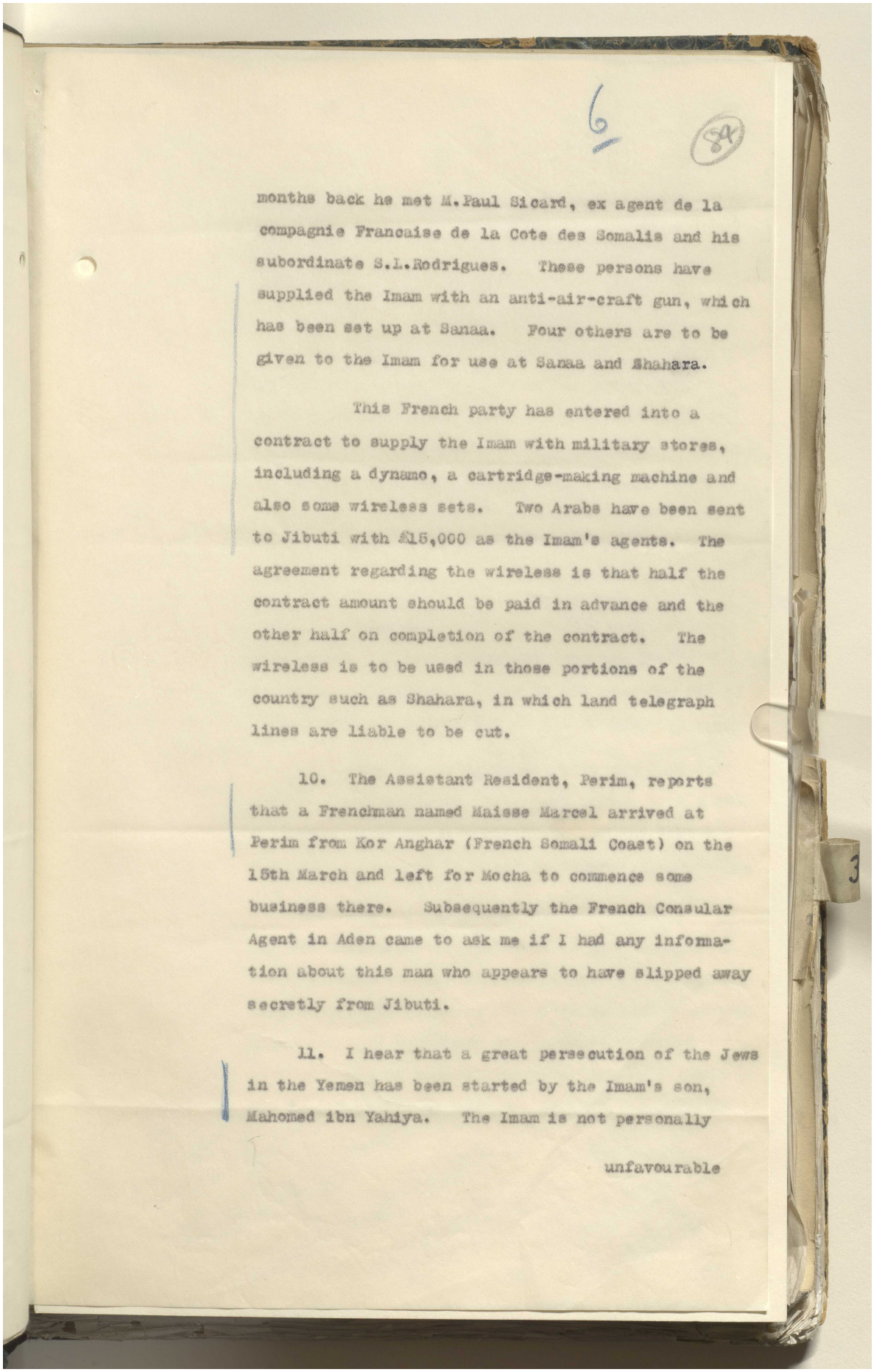

6

(84)

months back he met M.Paul Sicard, ex agent de la compagnie Francaise de la Cote des Somalis and his subordinate S.L.Rodrigues. These persons have supplied the Imam with an anti-air-craft gun, which has been set up at Sanaa. Four others are to be given to the Imam for use at Sanaa and Shahara.

This French party has entered into a contract to supply the Imam with military stores, including a dynamo, a cartridge-making machine and also some wireless sets. Two Arabs have been sent to Jibuti with £15,000 as the Imam's agents. The agreement regarding the wireless is that half the contract amount should be paid in advance and the other half on completion of the contract. The wireless is to be used in those portions of the country such as Shahara, in which land telegraph lines are liable to be cut.

10. The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports that a Frenchman named Maisse Marcel arrived at Perim from Kor Anghar (French Somali Coast) on the 15th March and left for Mocha to commence some business there. Subsequently the French Consular Agent in Aden came to ask me if I had any information about this man who appears to have slipped away secretly from Jibuti.

11. I hear that a great persecution of the Jews in the Yemen has been started by the Imam's son, Mahomed ibn Yahiya. The Imam is not personally

unfavourable

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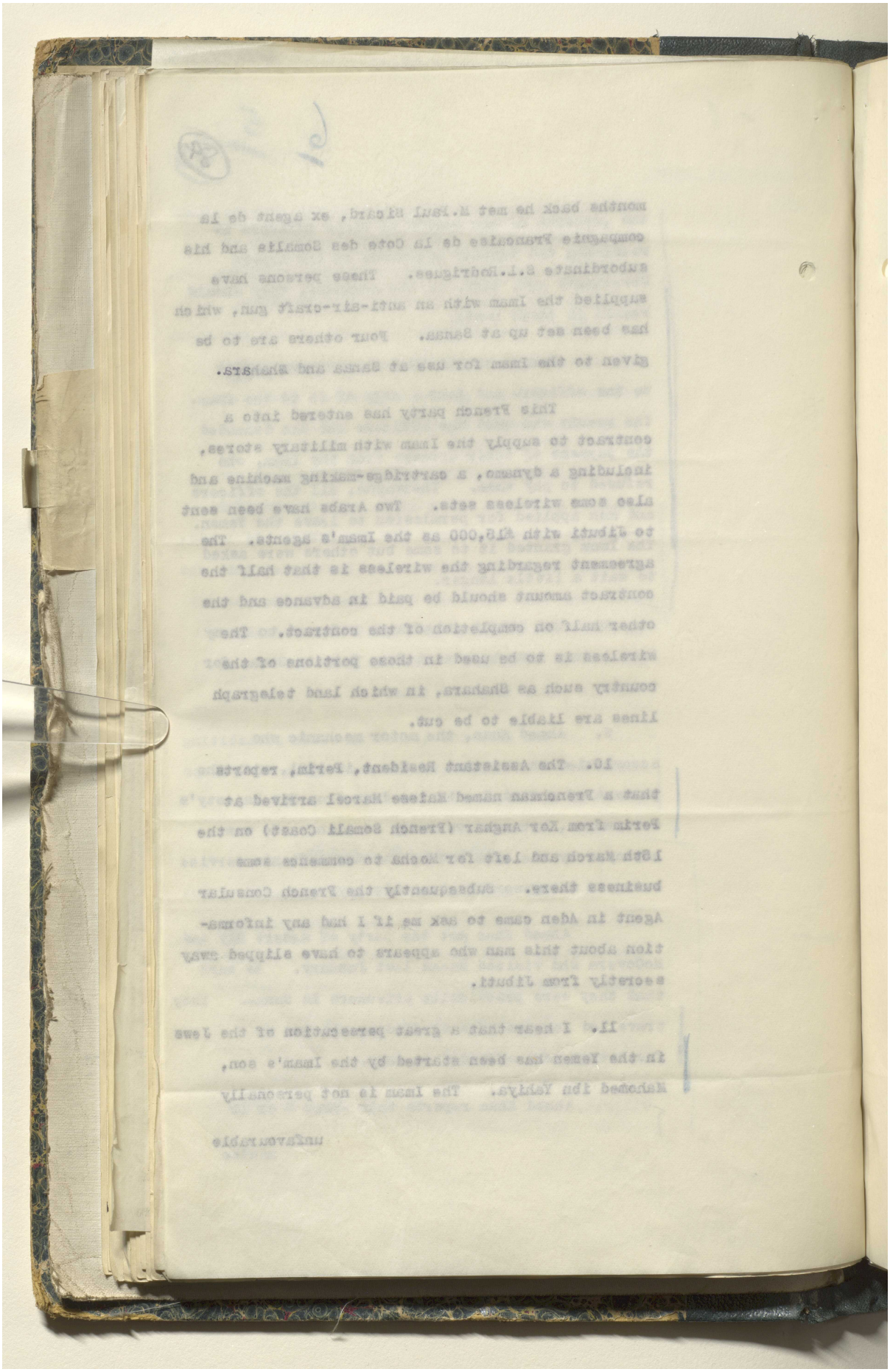

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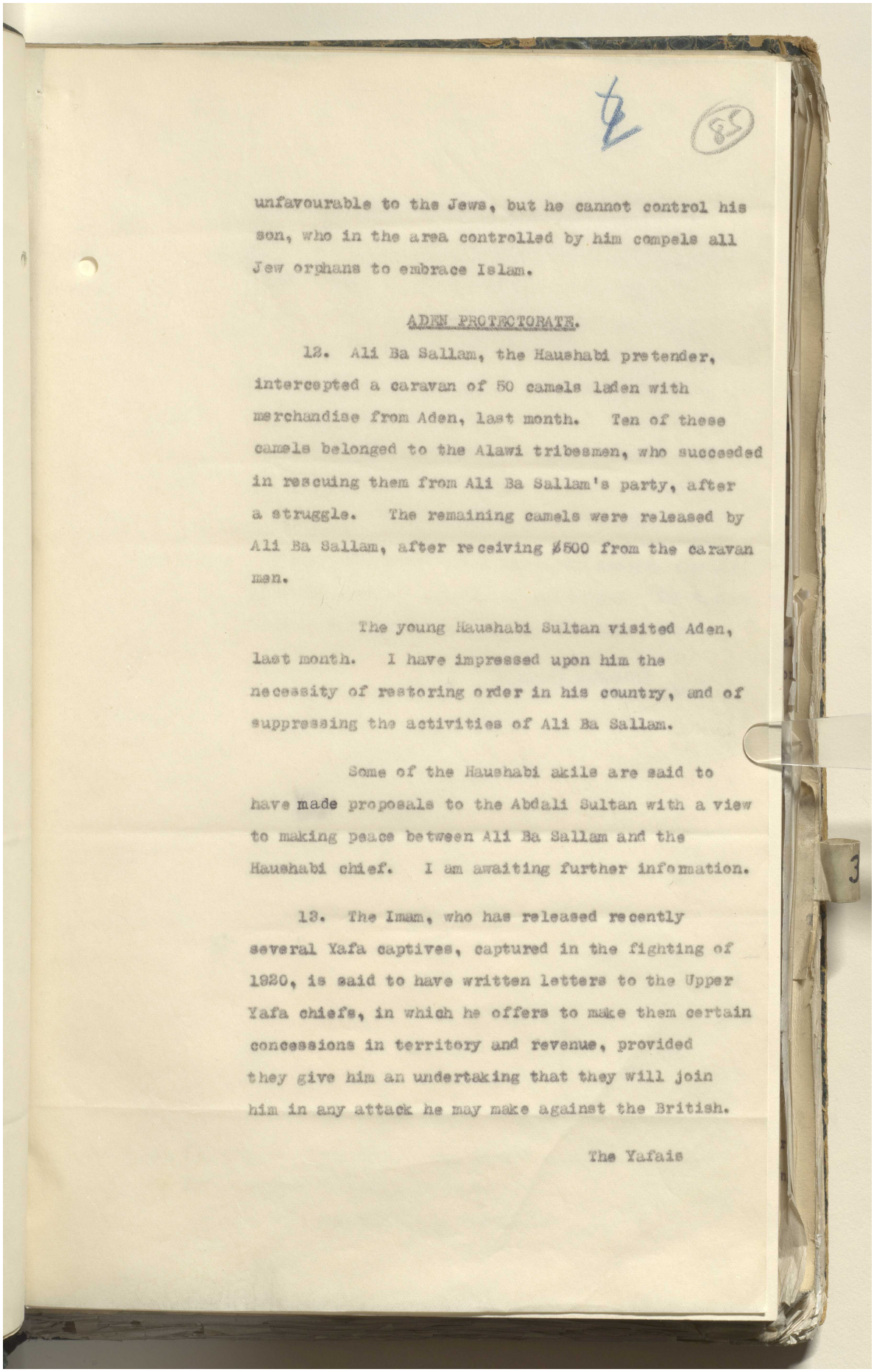

unfavourable to the Jews, but he cannot control his son, who in the area controlled by him compels all Jew orphans to embrace Islam.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

12. Ali Ba Sallam, the Haushabi pretender, intercepted a caravan of 50 camels laden with merchandise from Aden, last month. Ten of these camels belonged to the Alawi tribesmen, who succeeded in rescuing them from Ali Ba Sallam's party, after a struggle. The remaining camels were released by Ali Ba Sallam, after receiving Ø500 from the caravan men.

The young Haushabi Sultan visited Aden, last month. I have impressed upon him the necessity of restoring order in his country, and of suppressing the activities of Ali Ba Sallam.

Some of the Haushabi akils are said to have made proposals to the Abdali Sultan with a view to making peace between Ali Ba Sallam and the Haushabi chief. I am awaiting further information.

13. The Imam, who has released recently several Yafa captives, captured in the fighting of 1920, is said to have written letters to the Upper Yafa chiefs, in which he offers to make them certain concessions in territory and revenue, provided they give him an undertaking that they will join him in any attack he may make against the British.

The Yafais

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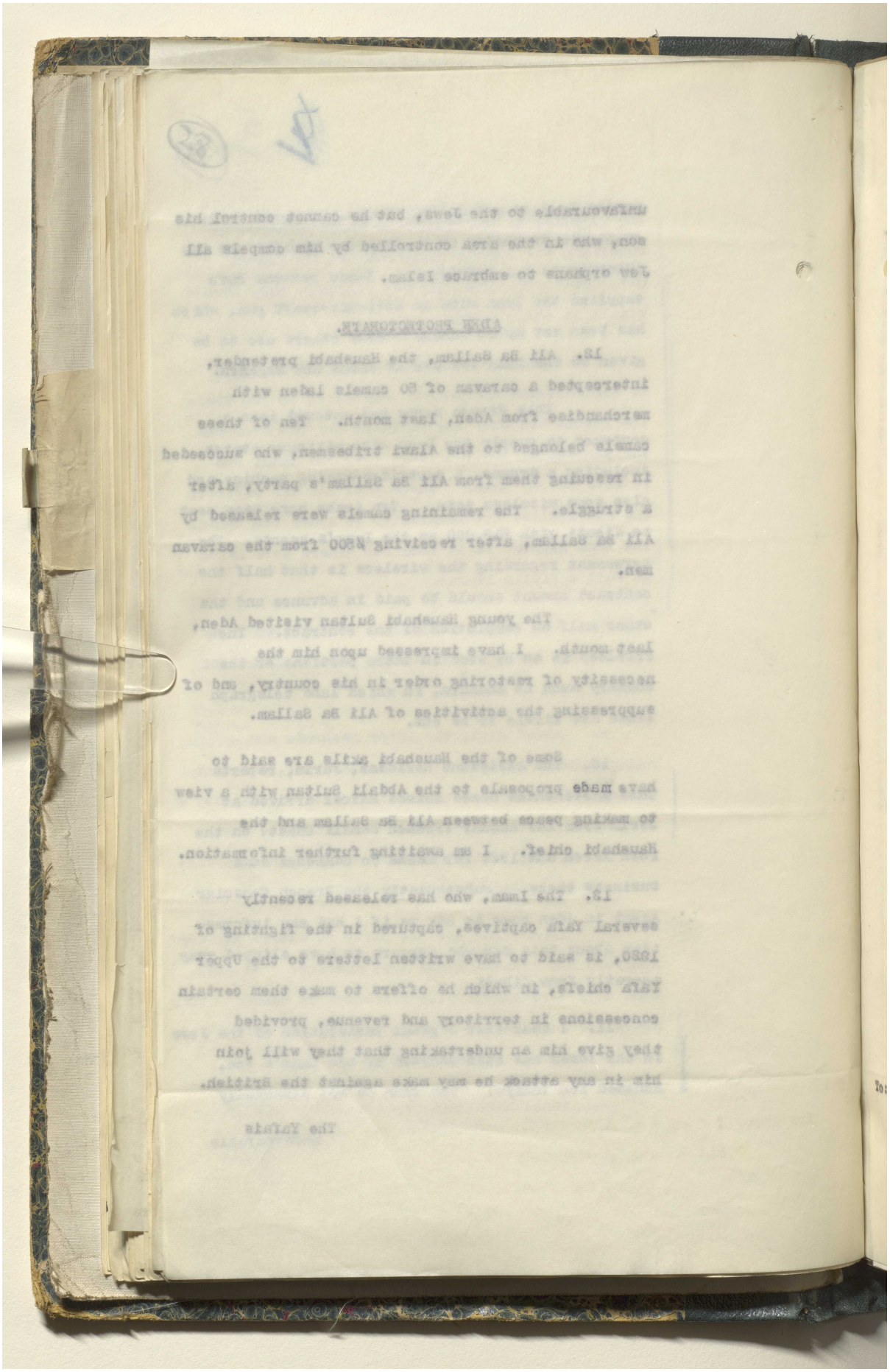

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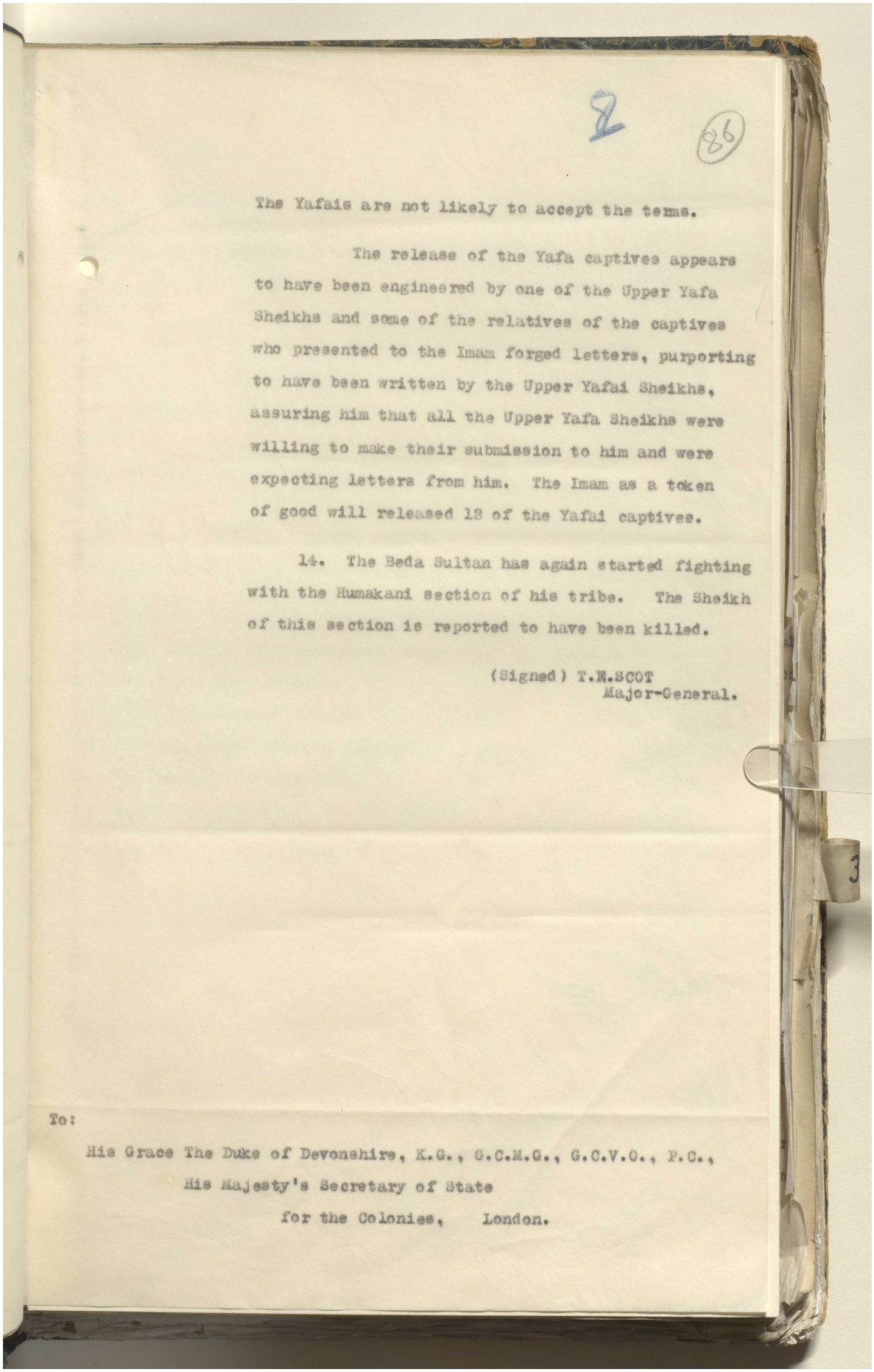

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The Yafais are not likely to accept the terms.

The release of the Yafa captives appears to have been engineered by one of the Upper Yafa Sheikhs and some of the relatives of the captives who presented to the Imam forged letters, purporting to have been written by the Upper Yafai Sheikhs, assuring him that all the Upper Yafa Sheikhs were willing to make their submission to him and were expecting letters from him. The Imam as a token of good will released 13 of the Yafai captives.

14. The Beda Sultan has again started fighting with the Humakani section of his tribe. The Sheikh of this section is reported to have been killed.

(Signed) T.R.SCOT
Major-General.

To:

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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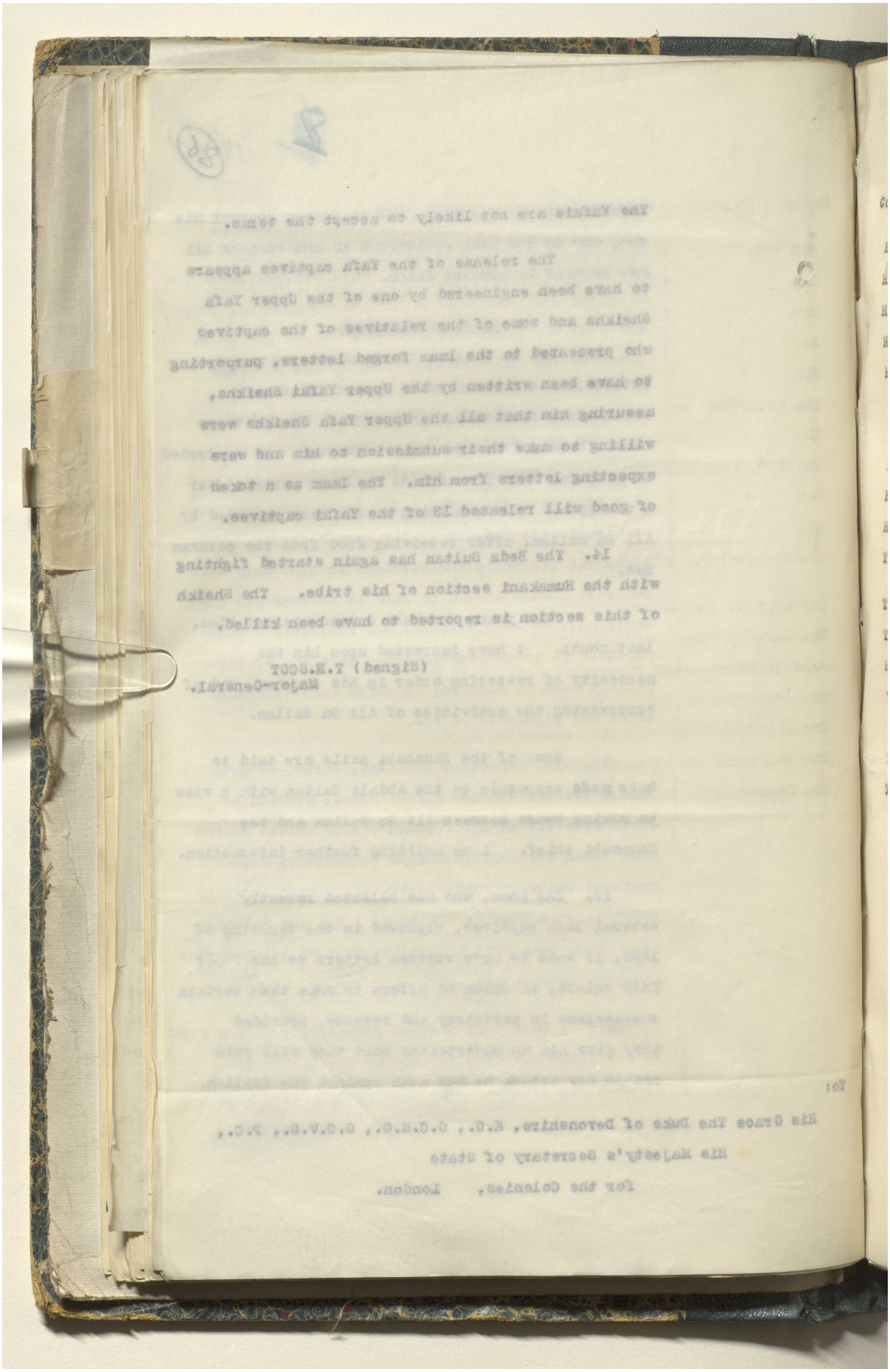

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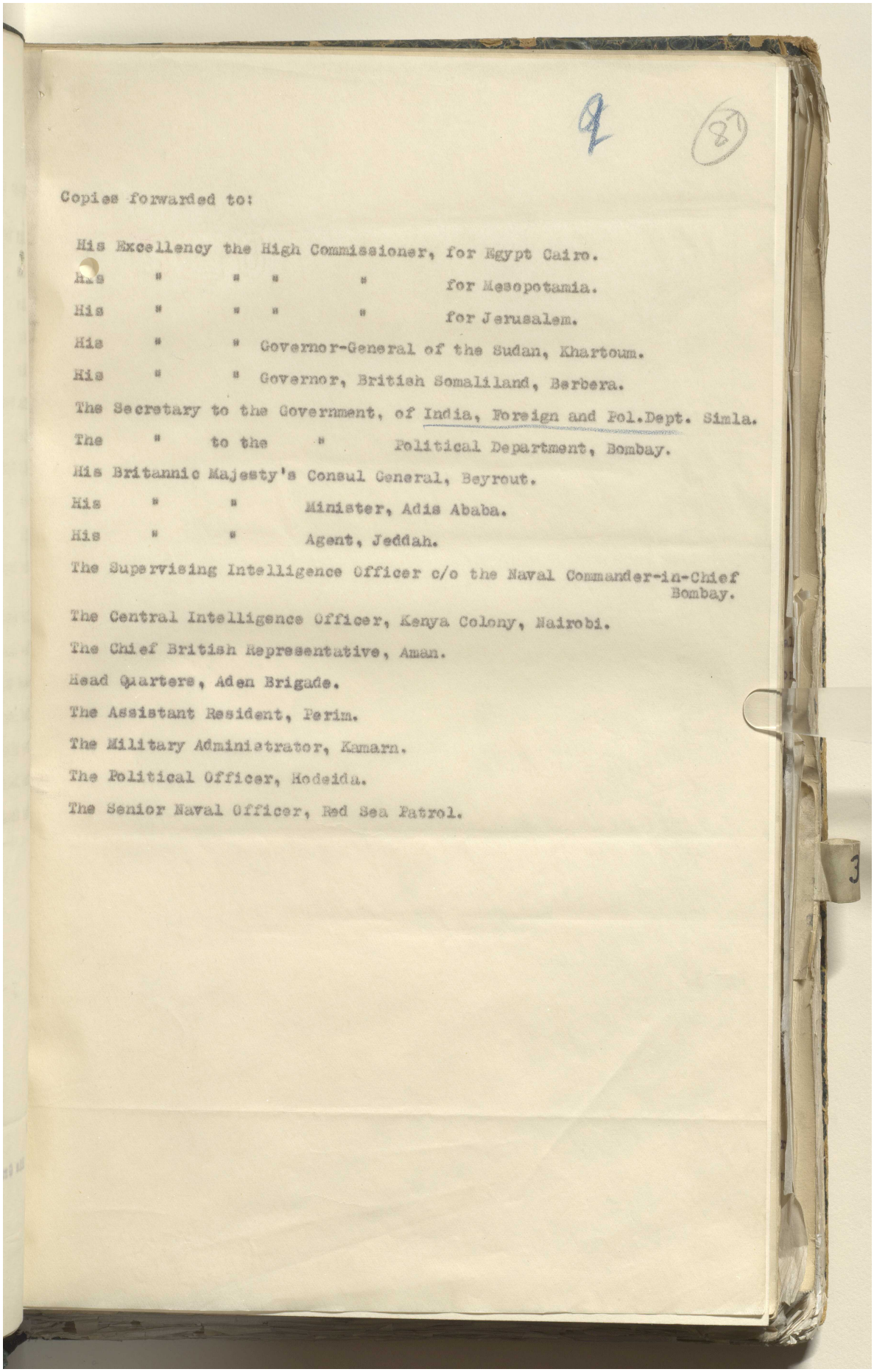

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His " " " " for Jerusalem.
His " " Governor-General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His " " Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Government, of India, Foreign and Pol.Dept. Simla.
The " to the " Political Department, Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His " " Minister, Adis Ababa.
His " " Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamarn.
The Political Officer, Hodeida.
The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea Patrol.

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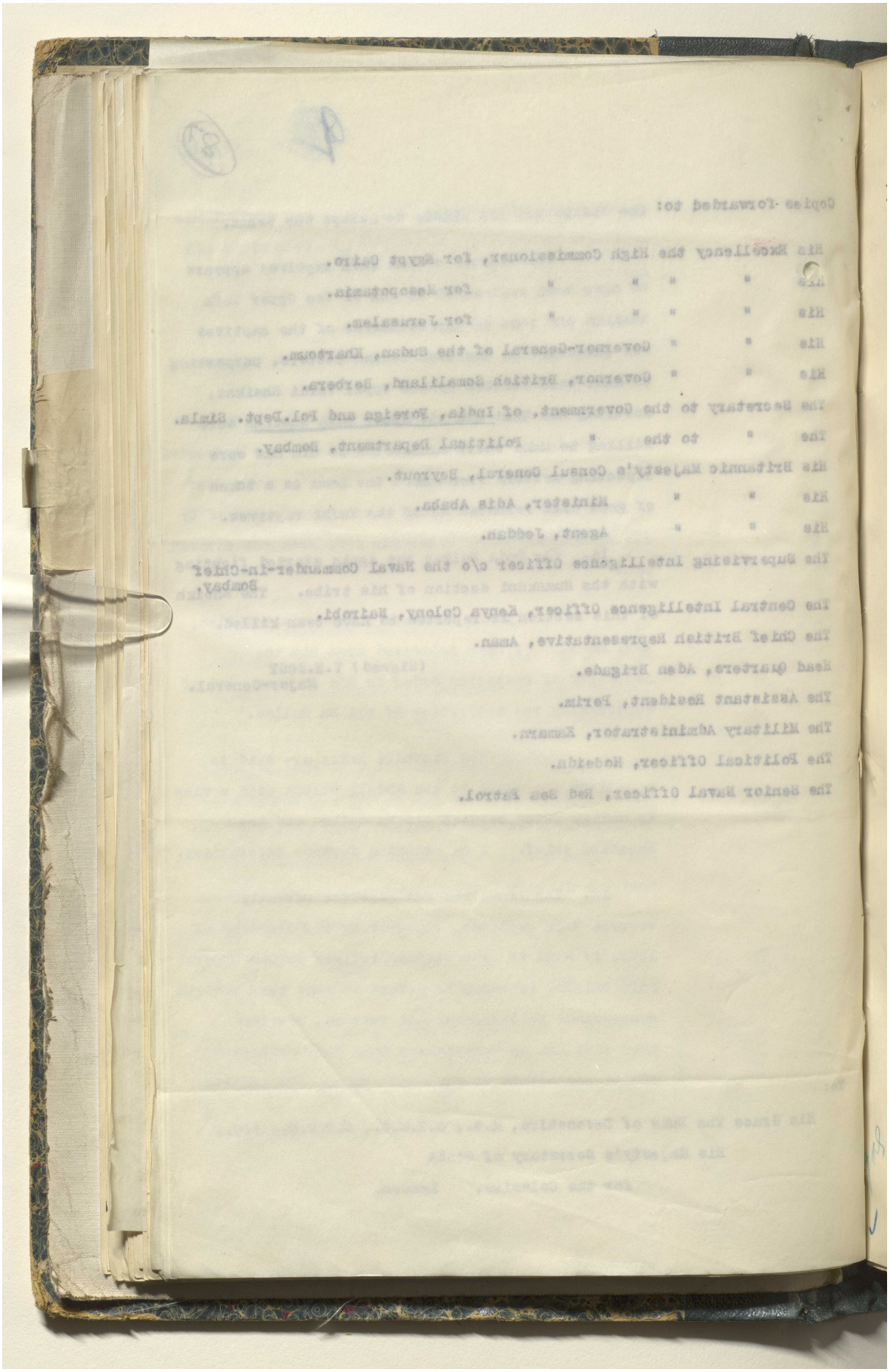

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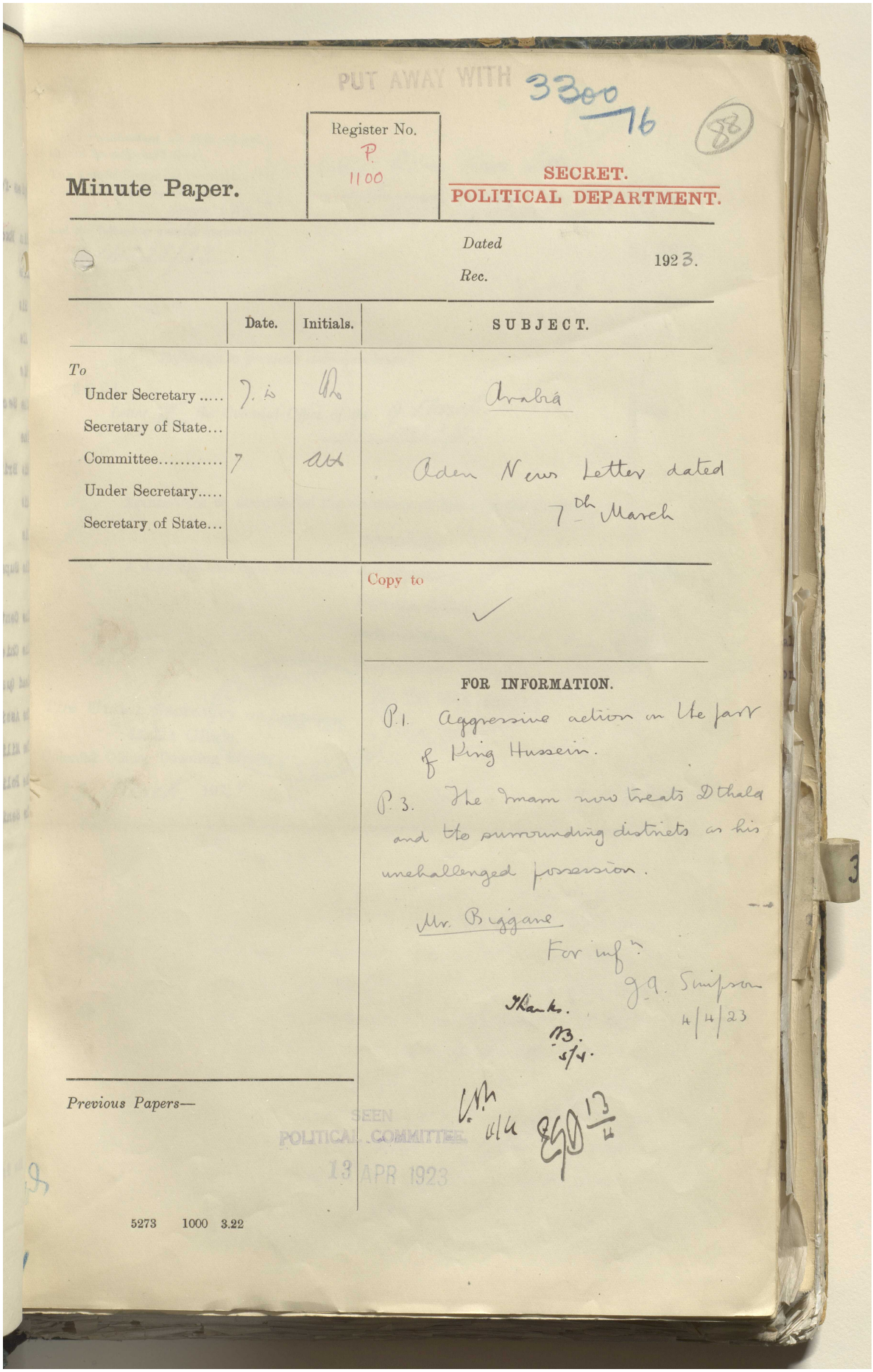

PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16

(88)

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 1100

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	7. iv	[illegible]	Arabia
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	7	[illegible]	Aden News Letter dated 7th March
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to ✓

FOR INFORMATION.

P.1. Aggressive action on the part of King Hussein.

P.3. The Imam now treats Dthala and the surrounding districts as his unchallenged possession.

Mr. Biggane

For inf[n]

G.A. Simpson
4/4/23

Thanks.
13.
8/4.

[illegible] 4/4 EGD 13/4

Previous Papers—

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
13 APR 1923

5273 1000 3.22

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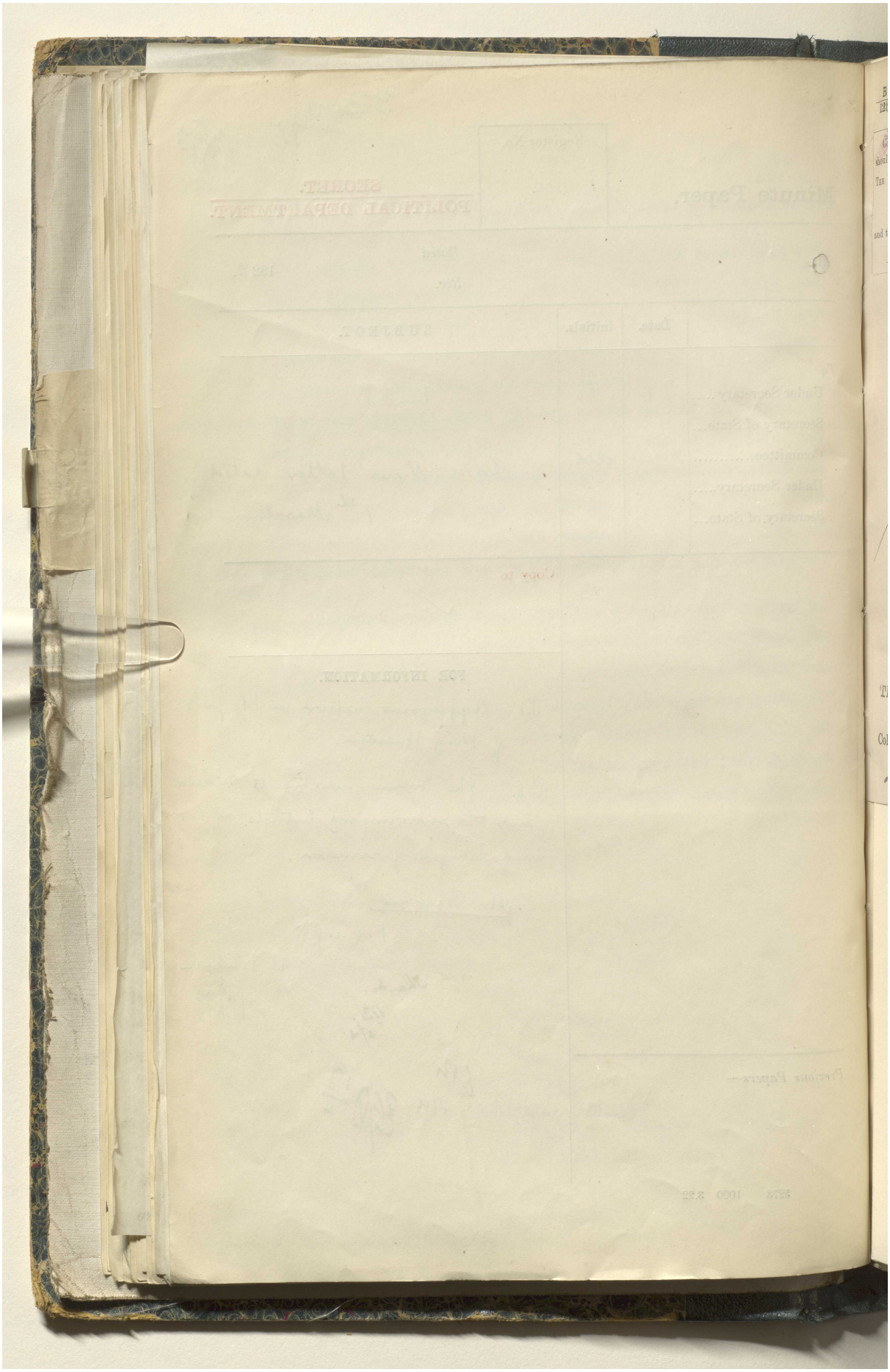

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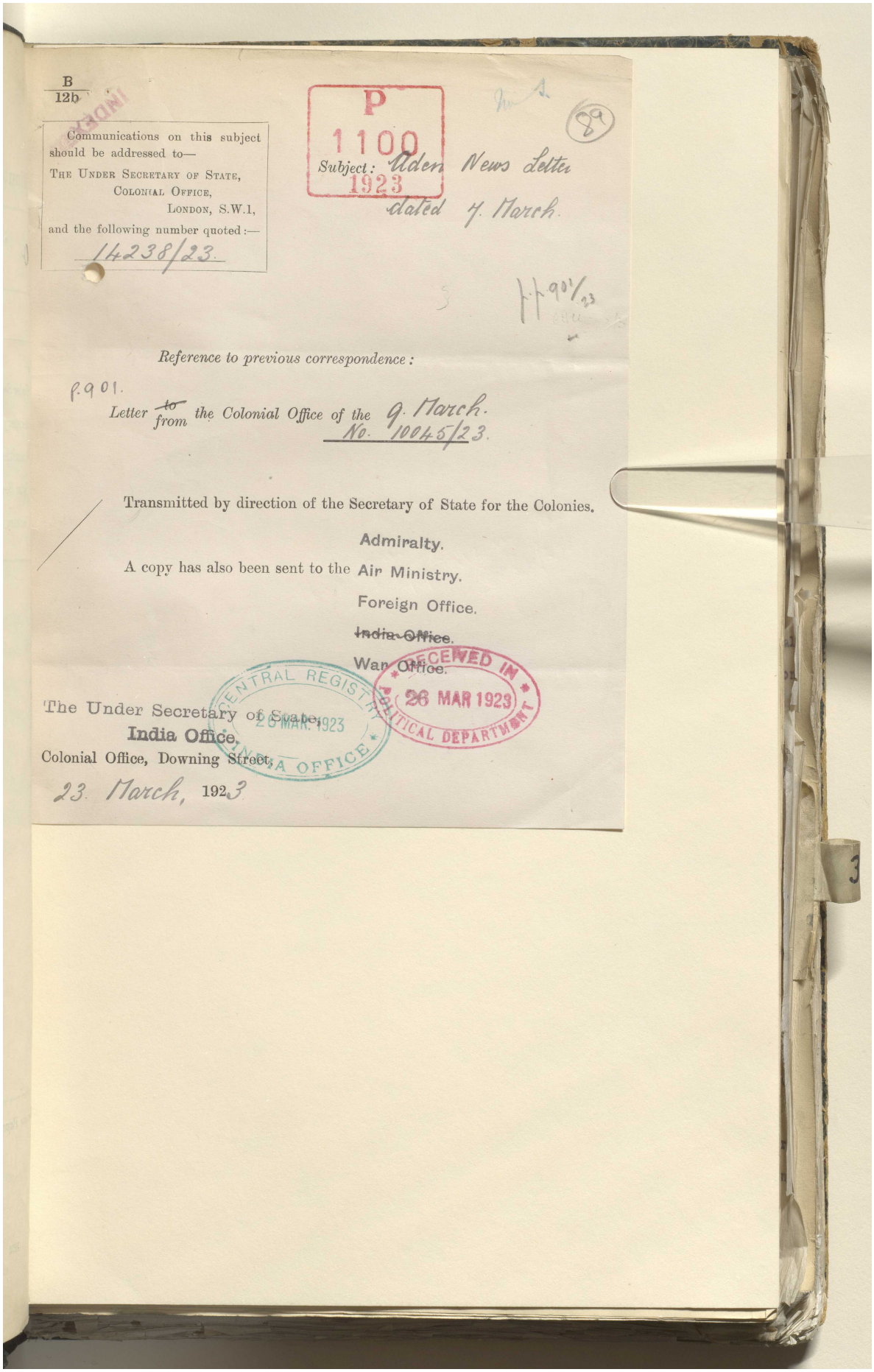

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12b

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
14238/23.

P
1100
Subject: 1923

Aden News Letter dated 7 March.

(89)

P.901/23

Reference to previous correspondence:

P.901.

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 9 March. *No.* 10045/23.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Admiralty.
A copy has also been sent to the Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

RECEIVED IN 26 MAR 1923 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL REGISTRY 26 MAR. 1923 INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office,
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
23 March, 1923.

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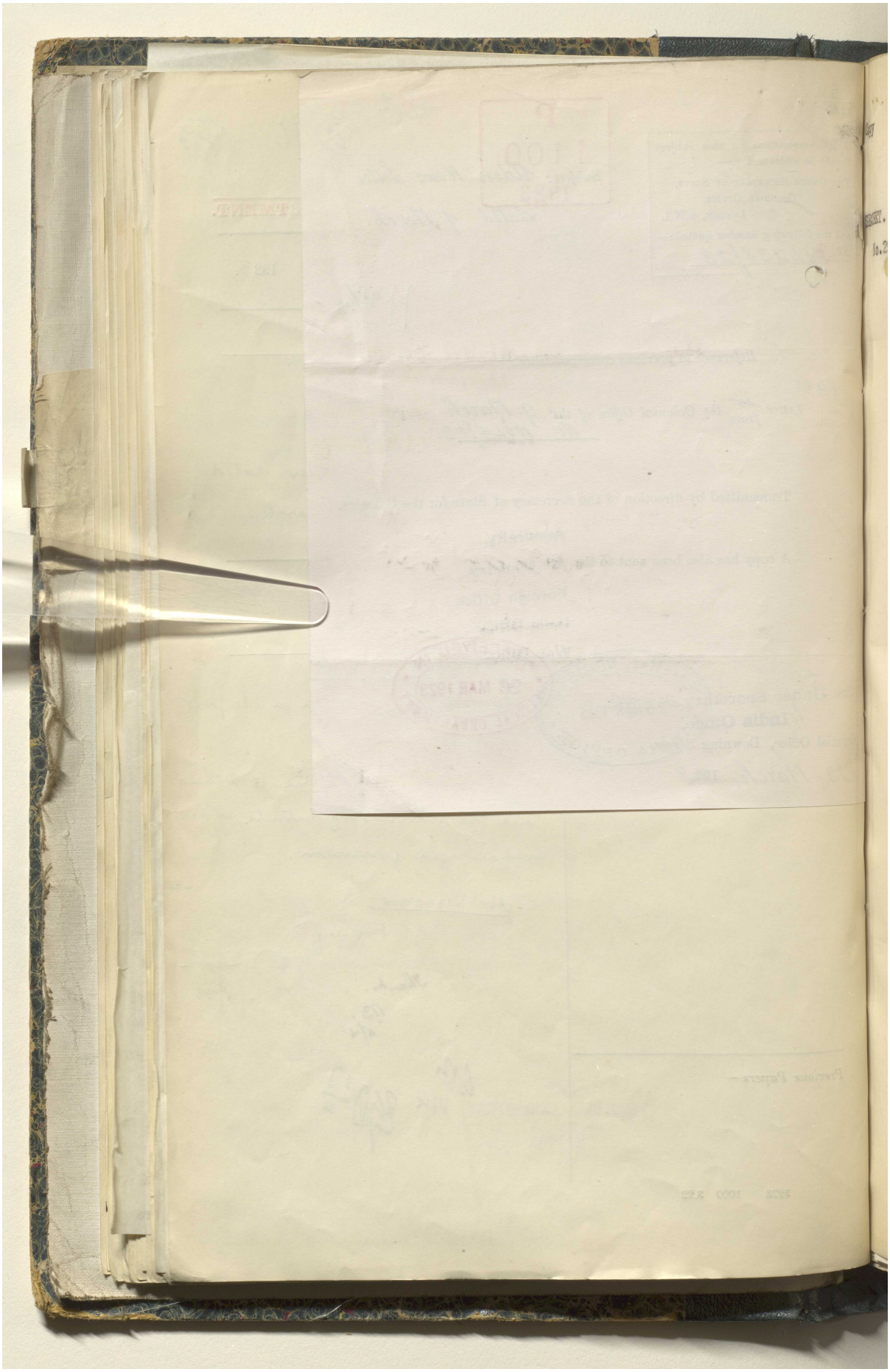

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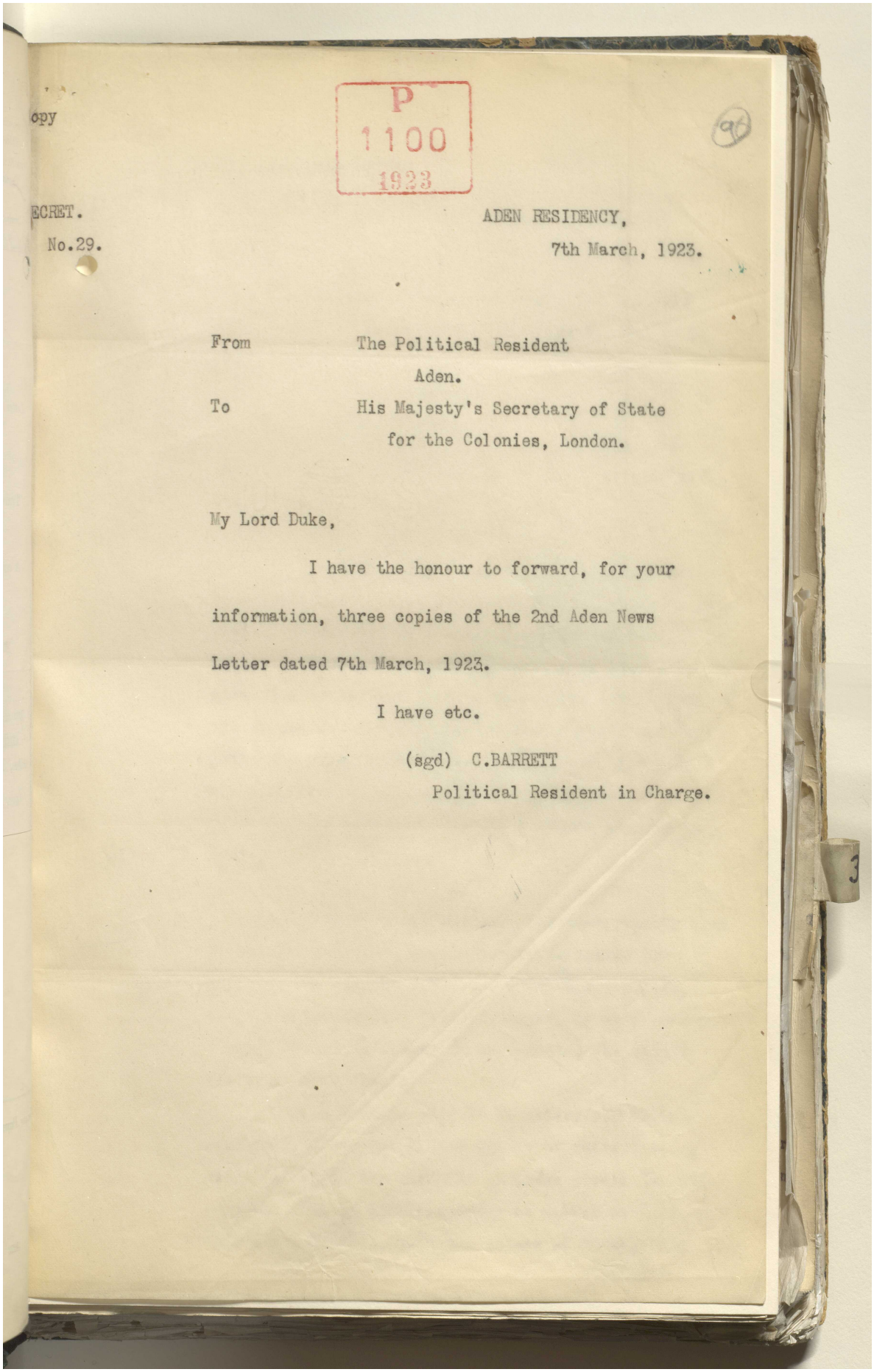

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1923

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ECRET.

No.29.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
7th March, 1923.

From The Political Resident
Aden.

To His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, three copies of the 2nd Aden News Letter dated 7th March, 1923.

I have etc.

(sgd) C.BARRETT
Political Resident in Charge.

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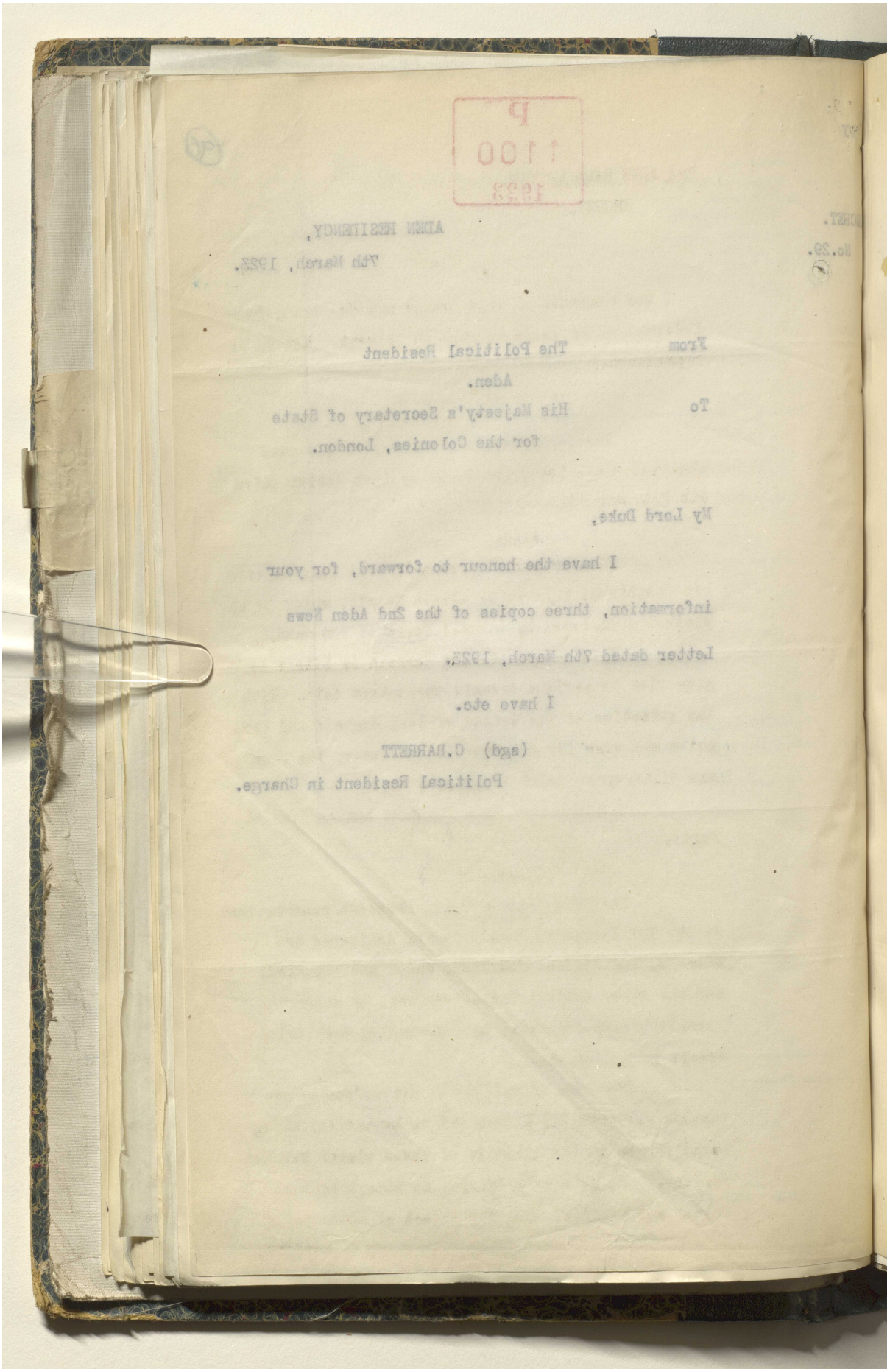

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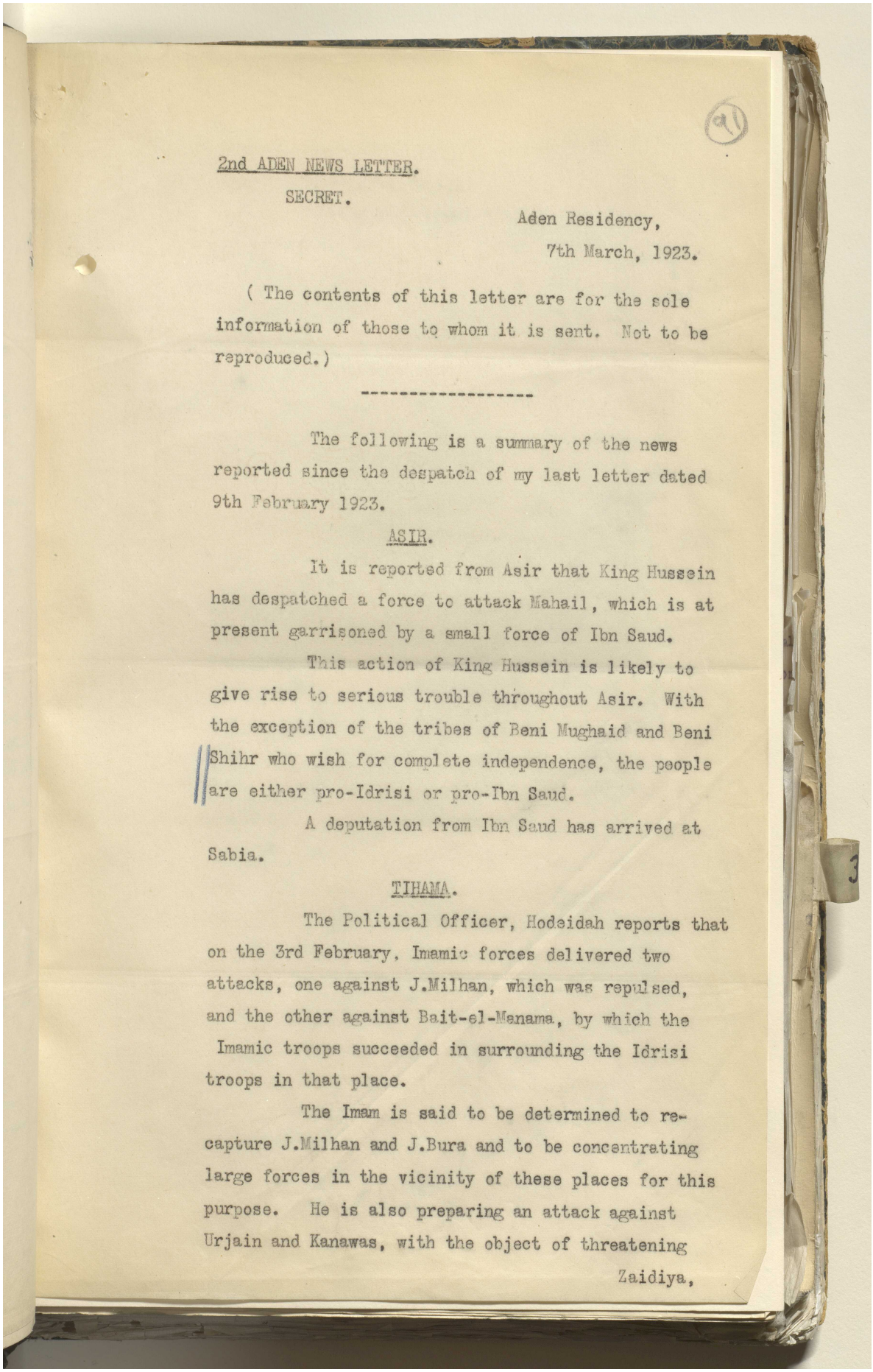

(91)

2nd ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

Aden Residency,
7th March, 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 9th February 1923.

ASIR.

It is reported from Asir that King Hussein has despatched a force to attack Mahail, which is at present garrisoned by a small force of Ibn Saud.

This action of King Hussein is likely to give rise to serious trouble throughout Asir. With the exception of the tribes of Beni Mughaid and Beni Shihr who wish for complete independence, the people are either pro-Idrisi or pro-Ibn Saud.

A deputation from Ibn Saud has arrived at Sabia.

TIHAMA.

The Political Officer, Hodeidah reports that on the 3rd February, Imamic forces delivered two attacks, one against J.Milhan, which was repulsed, and the other against Bait-el-Manama, by which the Imamic troops succeeded in surrounding the Idrisi troops in that place.

The Imam is said to be determined to re-capture J.Milhan and J.Bura and to be concentrating large forces in the vicinity of these places for this purpose. He is also preparing an attack against Urjain and Kanawas, with the object of threatening

Zaidiya,

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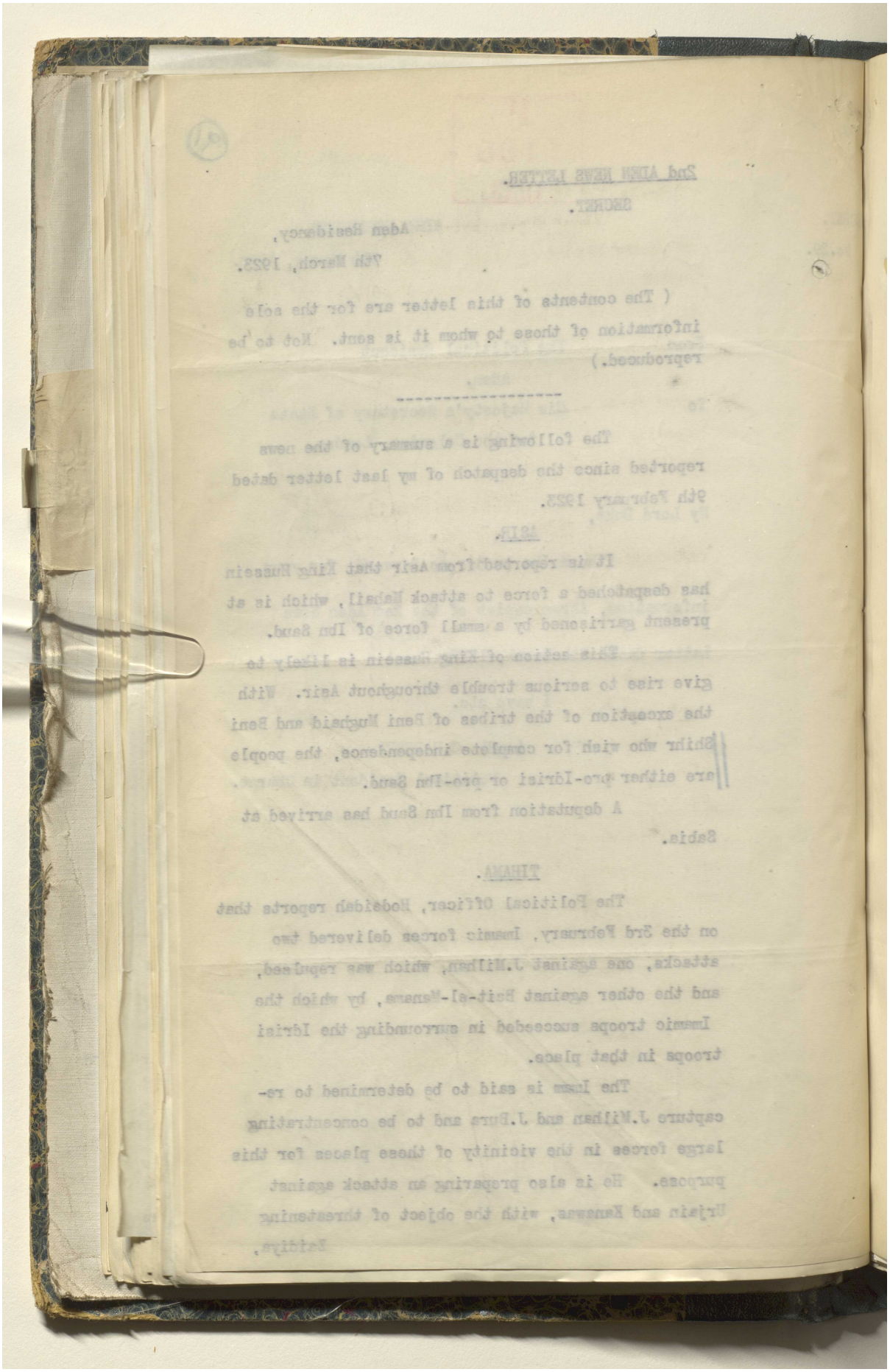

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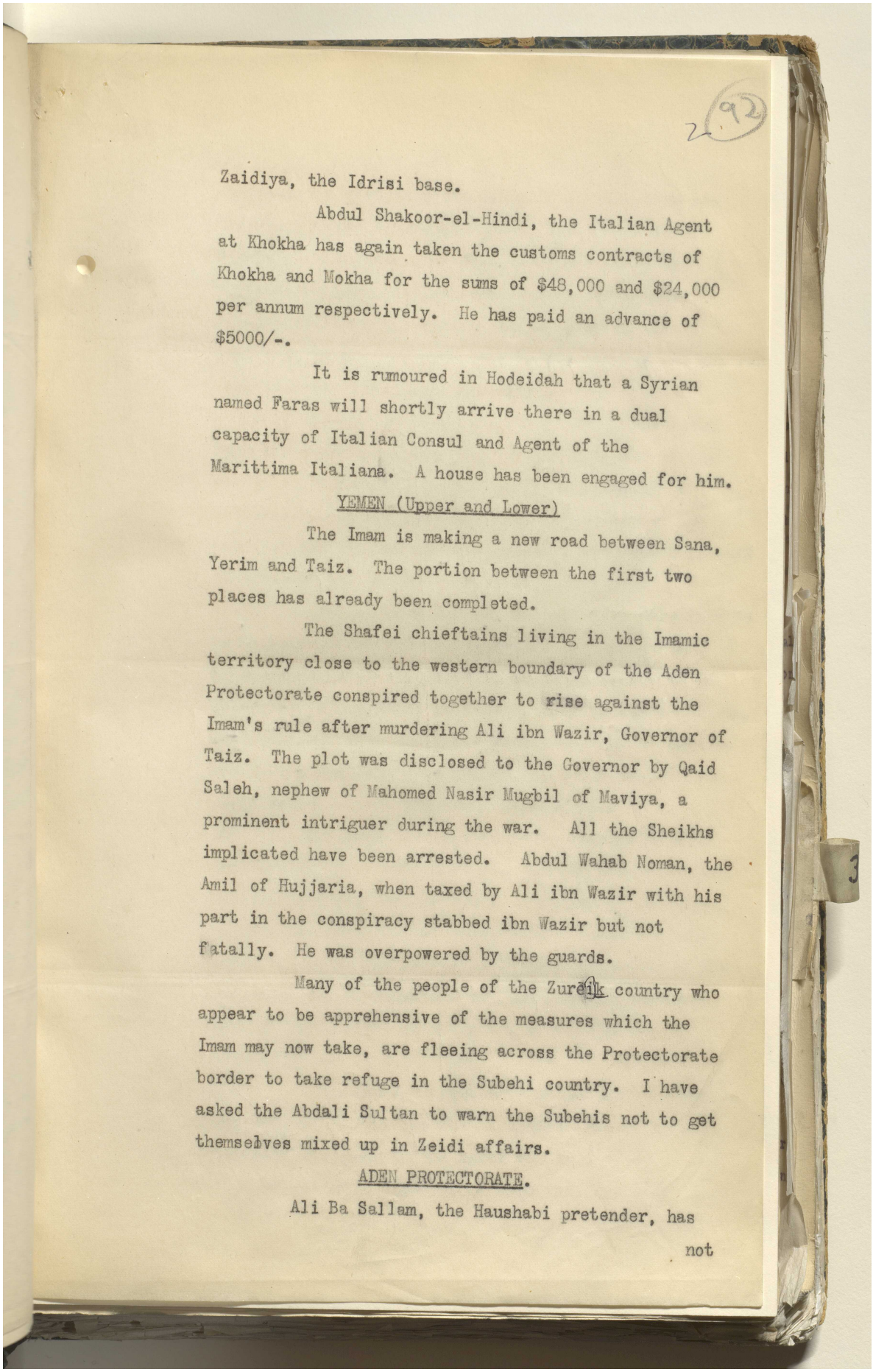

Zaidiya, the Idrisi base.

Abdul Shakoor-el-Hindi, the Italian Agent at Khokha has again taken the customs contracts of Khokha and Mokha for the sums of $48,000 and $24,000 per annum respectively. He has paid an advance of $5000/-.

It is rumoured in Hodeidah that a Syrian named Faras will shortly arrive there in a dual capacity of Italian Consul and Agent of the Marittima Italiana. A house has been engaged for him.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

The Imam is making a new road between Sana, Yerim and Taiz. The portion between the first two places has already been completed.

The Shafei chieftains living in the Imamic territory close to the western boundary of the Aden Protectorate conspired together to rise against the Imam's rule after murdering Ali ibn Wazir, Governor of Taiz. The plot was disclosed to the Governor by Qaid Saleh, nephew of Mahomed Nasir Mugbil of Maviya, a prominent intriguer during the war. All the Sheikhs implicated have been arrested. Abdul Wahab Noman, the Amil of Hujjaria, when taxed by Ali ibn Wazir with his part in the conspiracy stabbed ibn Wazir but not fatally. He was overpowered by the guards.

Many of the people of the Zuraik country who appear to be apprehensive of the measures which the Imam may now take, are fleeing across the Protectorate border to take refuge in the Subehi country. I have asked the Abdali Sultan to warn the Subehis not to get themselves mixed up in Zeidi affairs.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Ali Ba Sallam, the Haushabi pretender, has not

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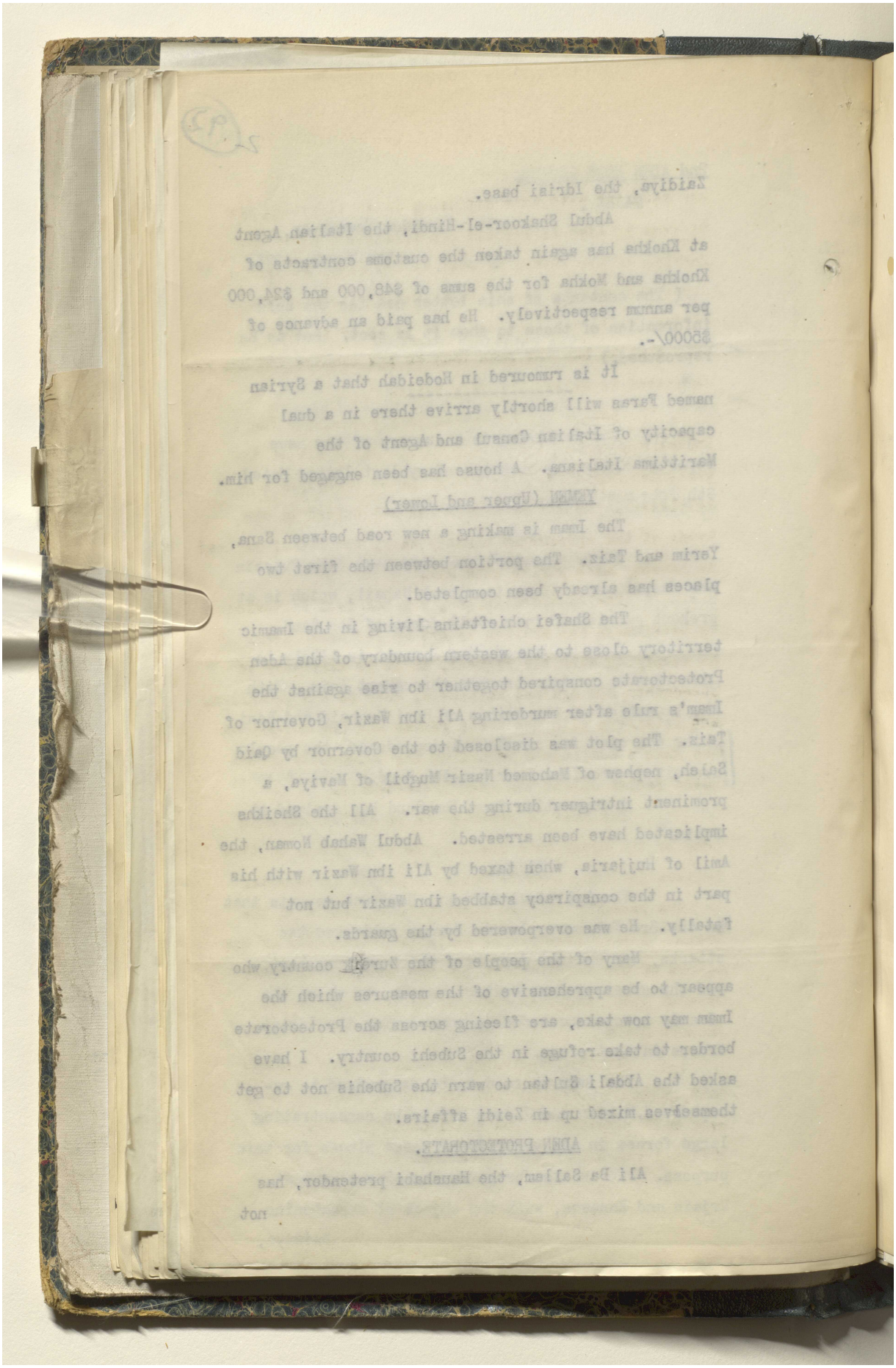

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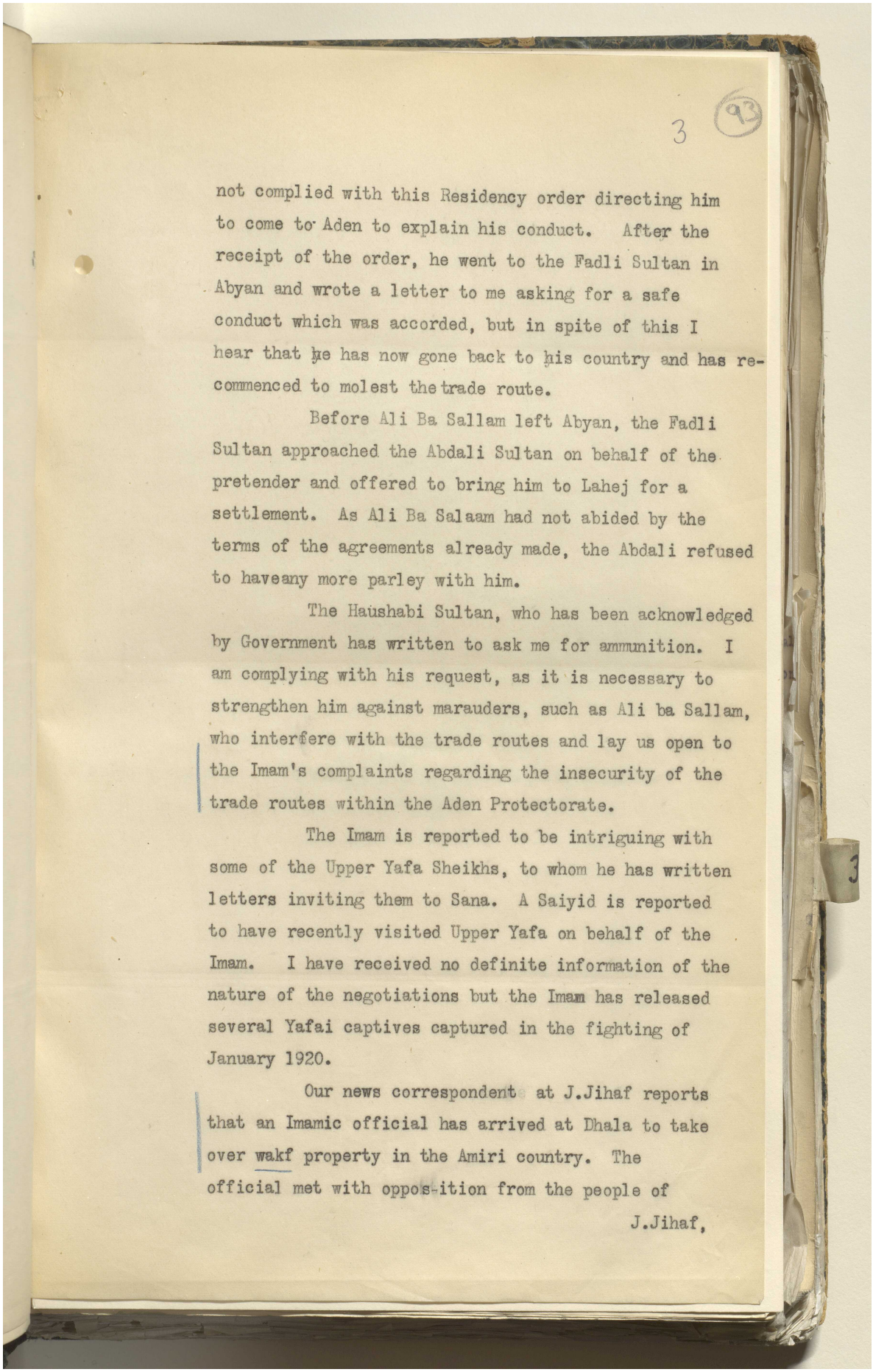

not complied with this Residency order directing him to come to Aden to explain his conduct. After the receipt of the order, he went to the Fadli Sultan in Abyan and wrote a letter to me asking for a safe conduct which was accorded, but in spite of this I hear that he has now gone back to his country and has re-commenced to molest the trade route.

Before Ali Ba Sallam left Abyan, the Fadli Sultan approached the Abdali Sultan on behalf of the pretender and offered to bring him to Lahej for a settlement. As Ali Ba Salaam had not abided by the terms of the agreements already made, the Abdali refused to have any more parley with him.

The Haushabi Sultan, who has been acknowledged by Government has written to ask me for ammunition. I am complying with his request, as it is necessary to strengthen him against marauders, such as Ali ba Sallam, who interfere with the trade routes and lay us open to the Imam's complaints regarding the insecurity of the trade routes within the Aden Protectorate.

The Imam is reported to be intriguing with some of the Upper Yafa Sheikhs, to whom he has written letters inviting them to Sana. A Saiyid is reported to have recently visited Upper Yafa on behalf of the Imam. I have received no definite information of the nature of the negotiations but the Imam has released several Yafai captives captured in the fighting of January 1920.

Our news correspondent at J.Jihaf reports that an Imamic official has arrived at Dhala to take over wakf property in the Amiri country. The official met with oppos-ition from the people of J.Jihaf,

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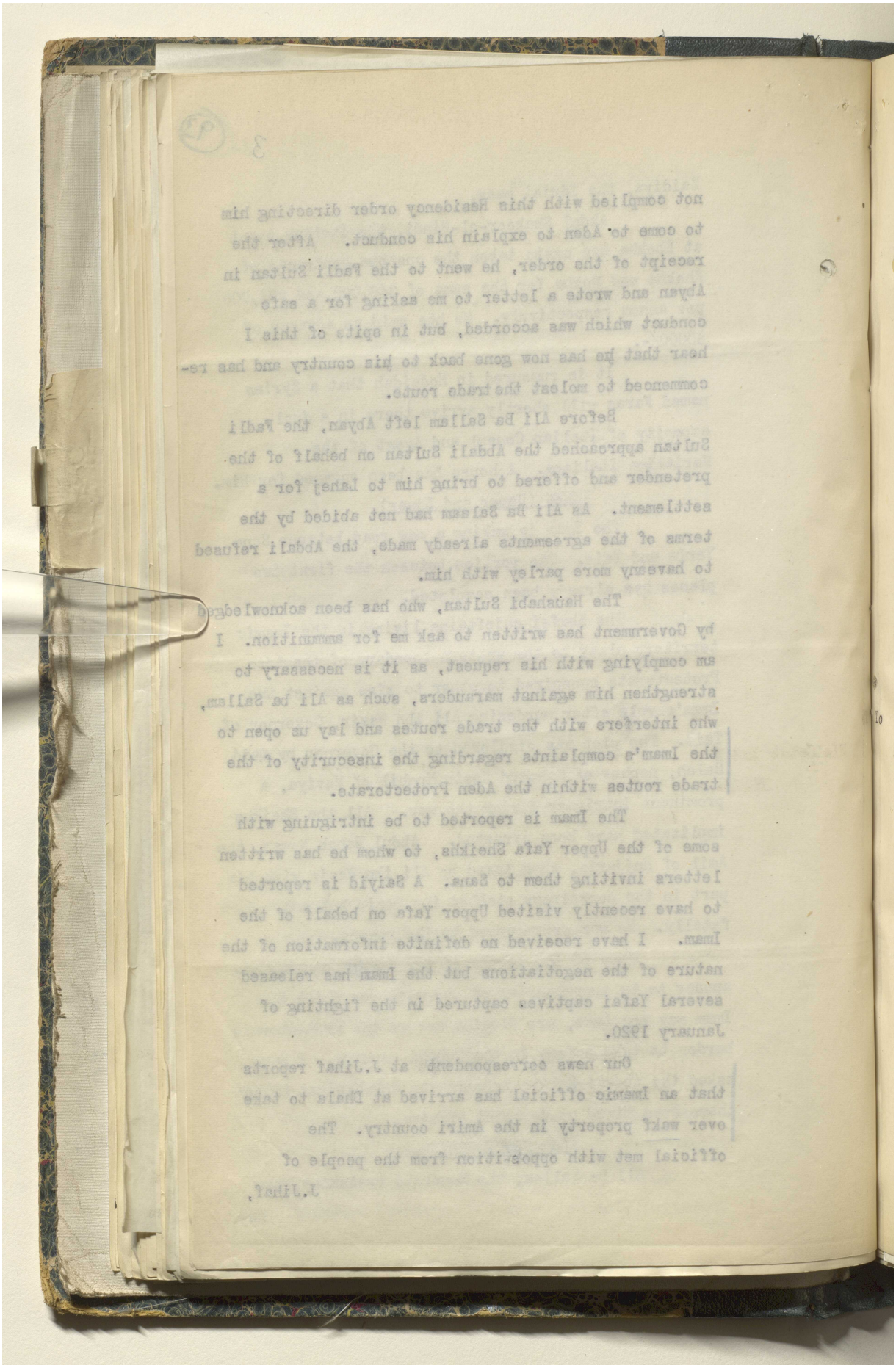

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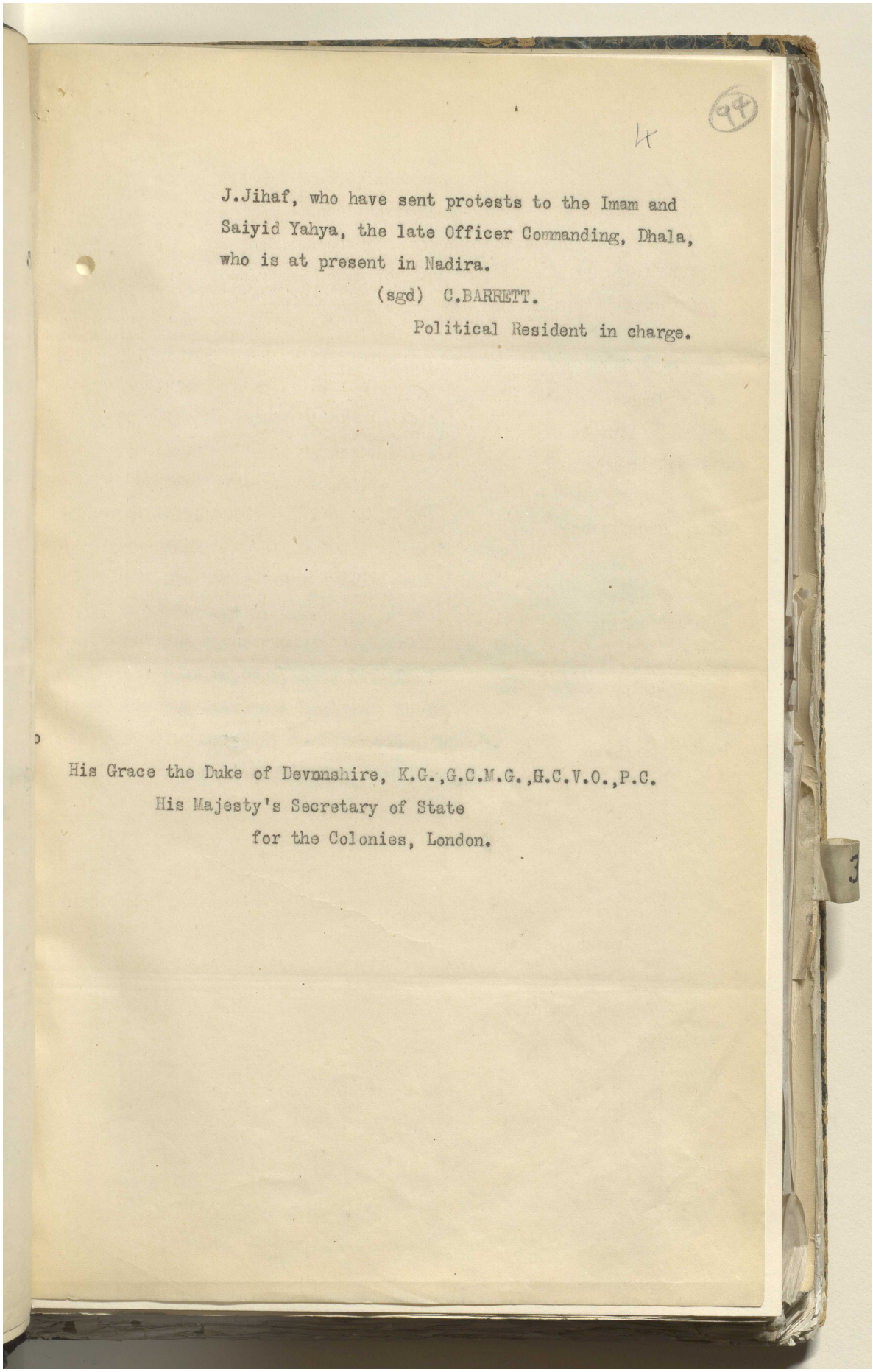

J.Jihaf, who have sent protests to the Imam and Saiyid Yahya, the late Officer Commanding, Dhala, who is at present in Nadira.

(sgd) C.BARRETT.

Political Resident in charge.

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G.,G.C.M.G.,G.C.V.O.,P.C.
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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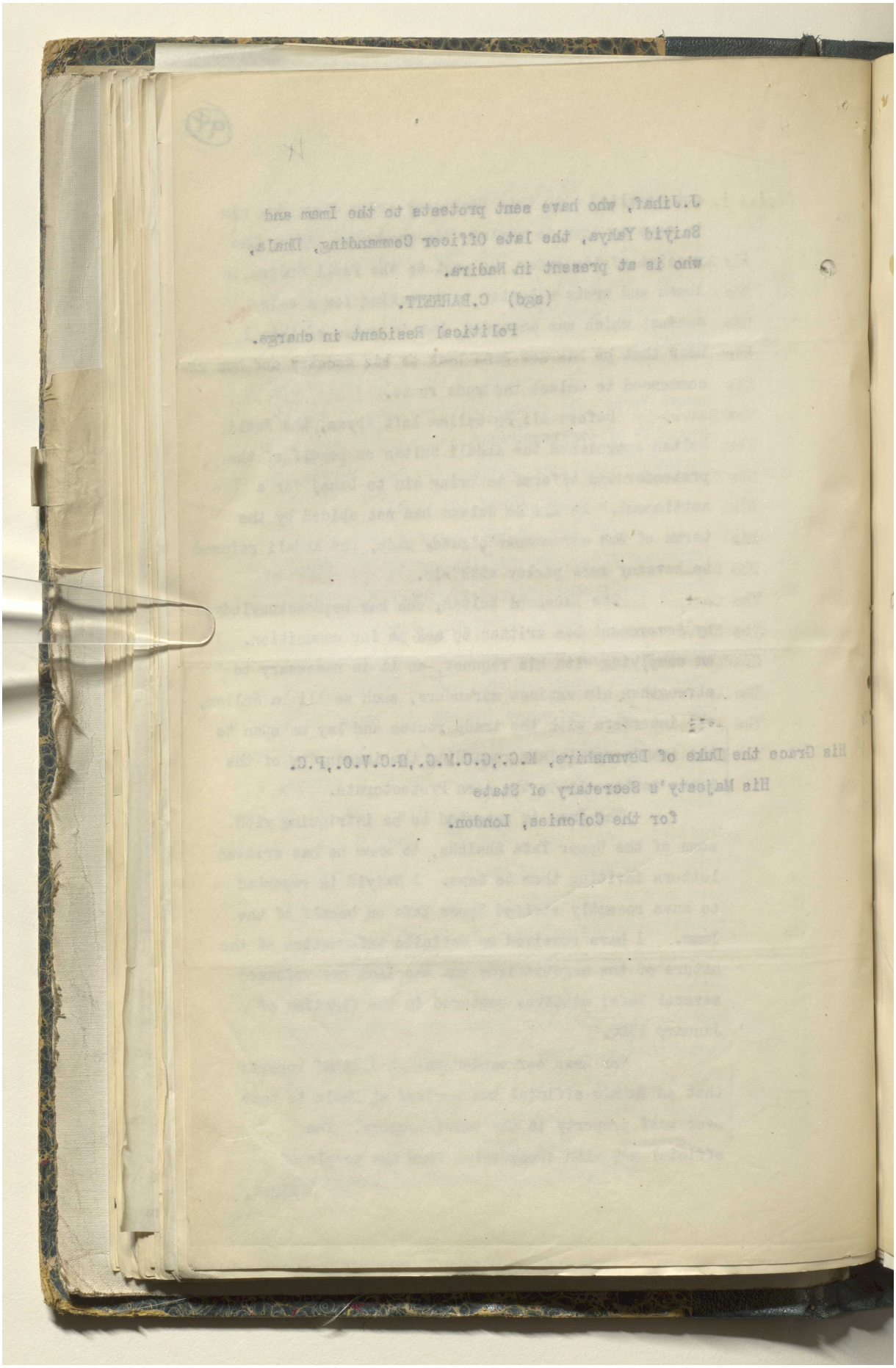

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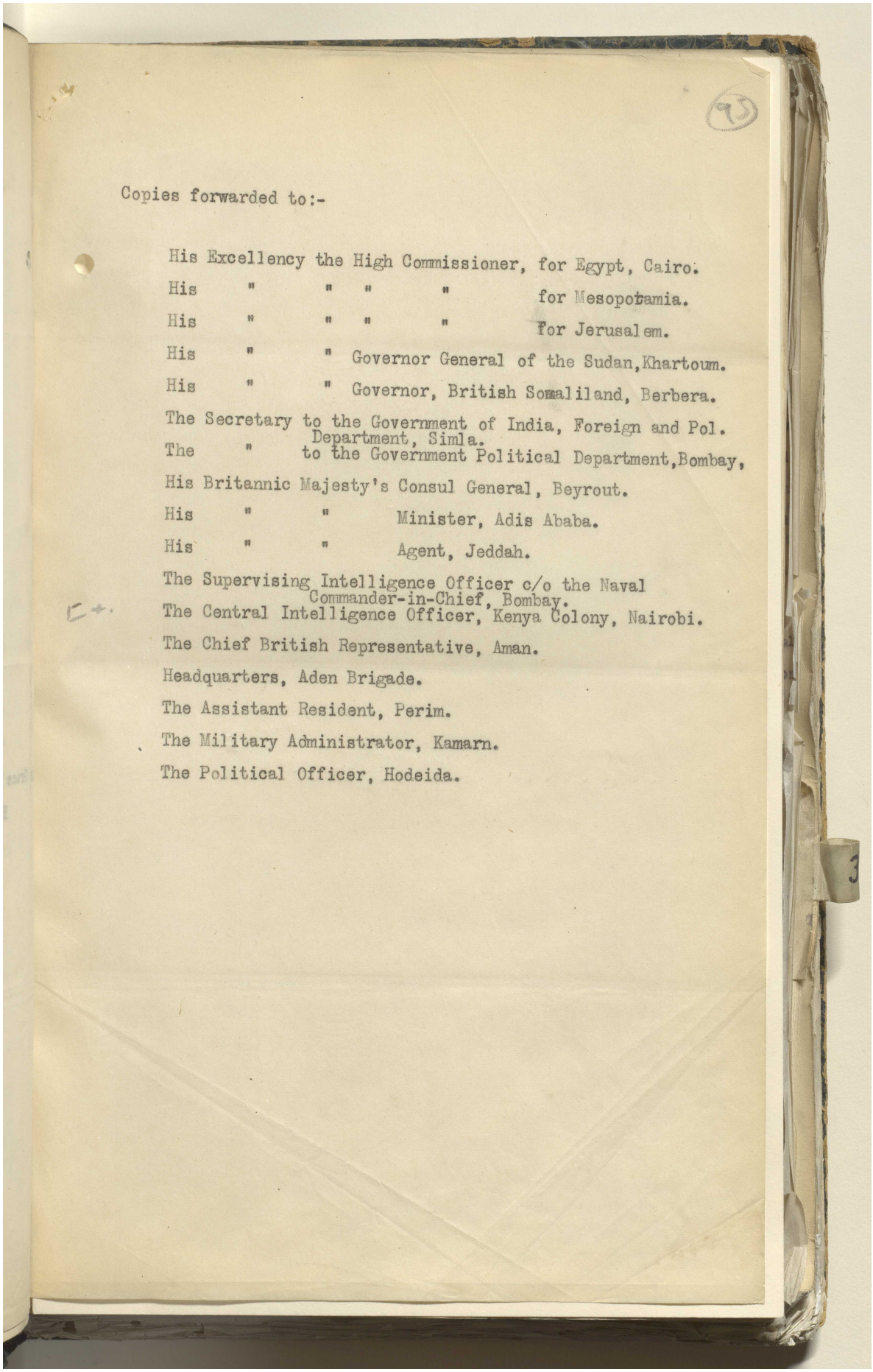

(95)

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His " " " " for Jerusalem.
His " " Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His " " Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Pol. Department, Simla.
The " to the Government Political Department, Bombay,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His " " Minister, Adis Ababa.
His " " Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
Headquarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamarn.
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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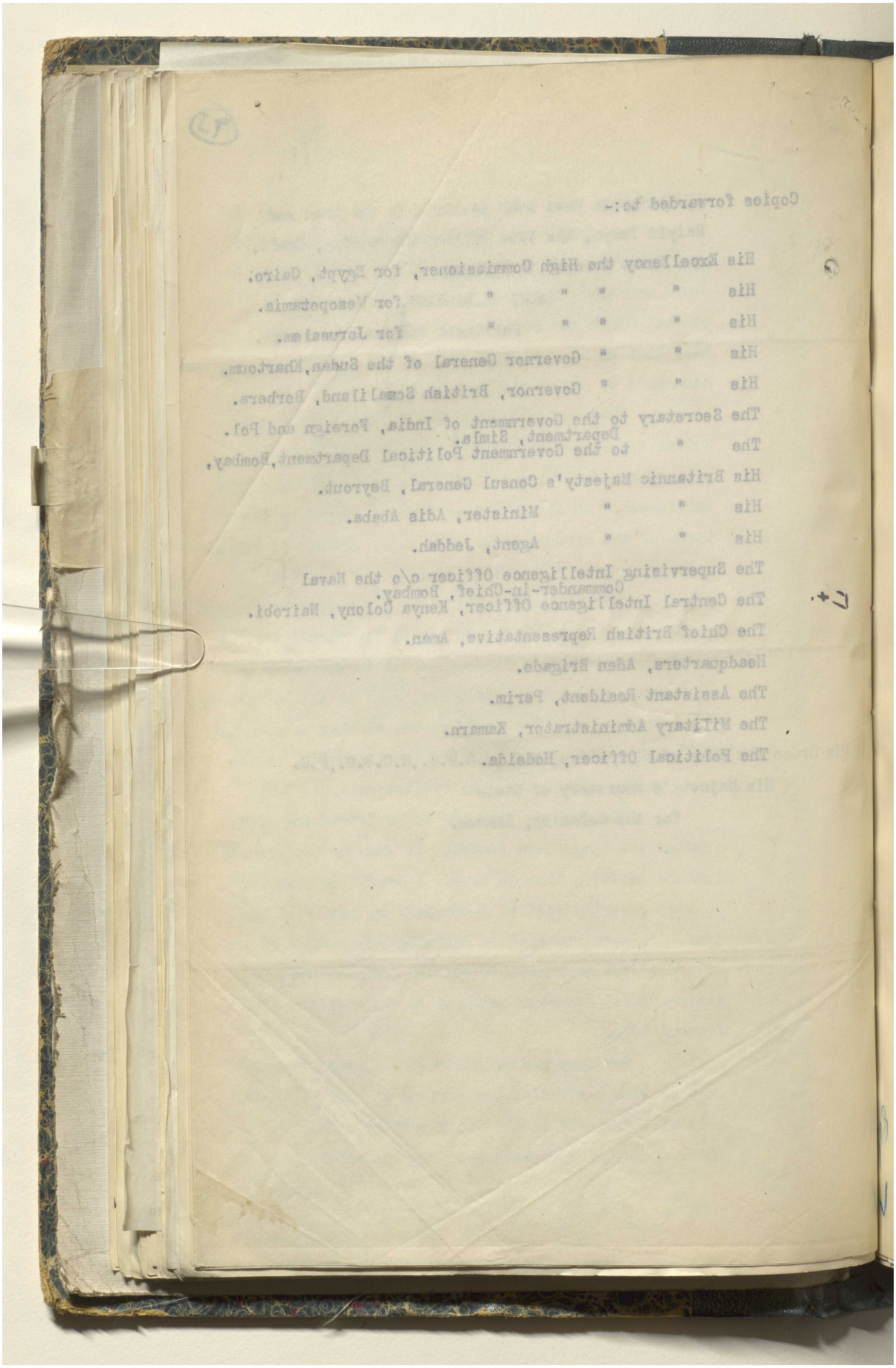

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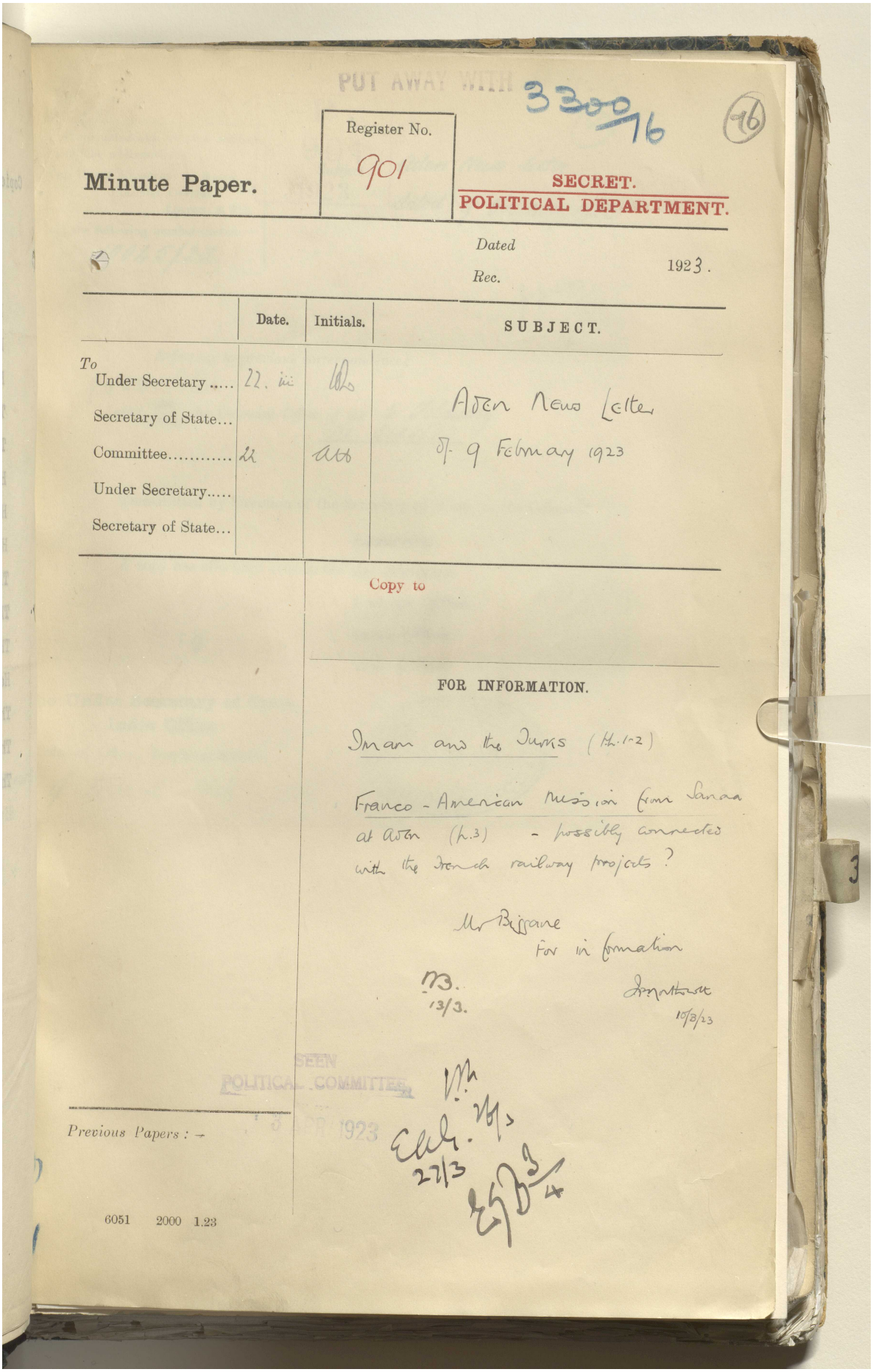

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(96)

Register No. 901

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	22. iii	WS	Aden News Letter
Secretary of State...			of 9 February 1923
Committee.....	22	ABB	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

Imam and the Turks (H.1-2)

Franco-American mission from Sanaa at Aden (H.3) - possibly connected with the French railway projects?

Mr Bissaine
For information

13.
13/3.

10/3/23

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
1923

WM
Encl. WS
22/3

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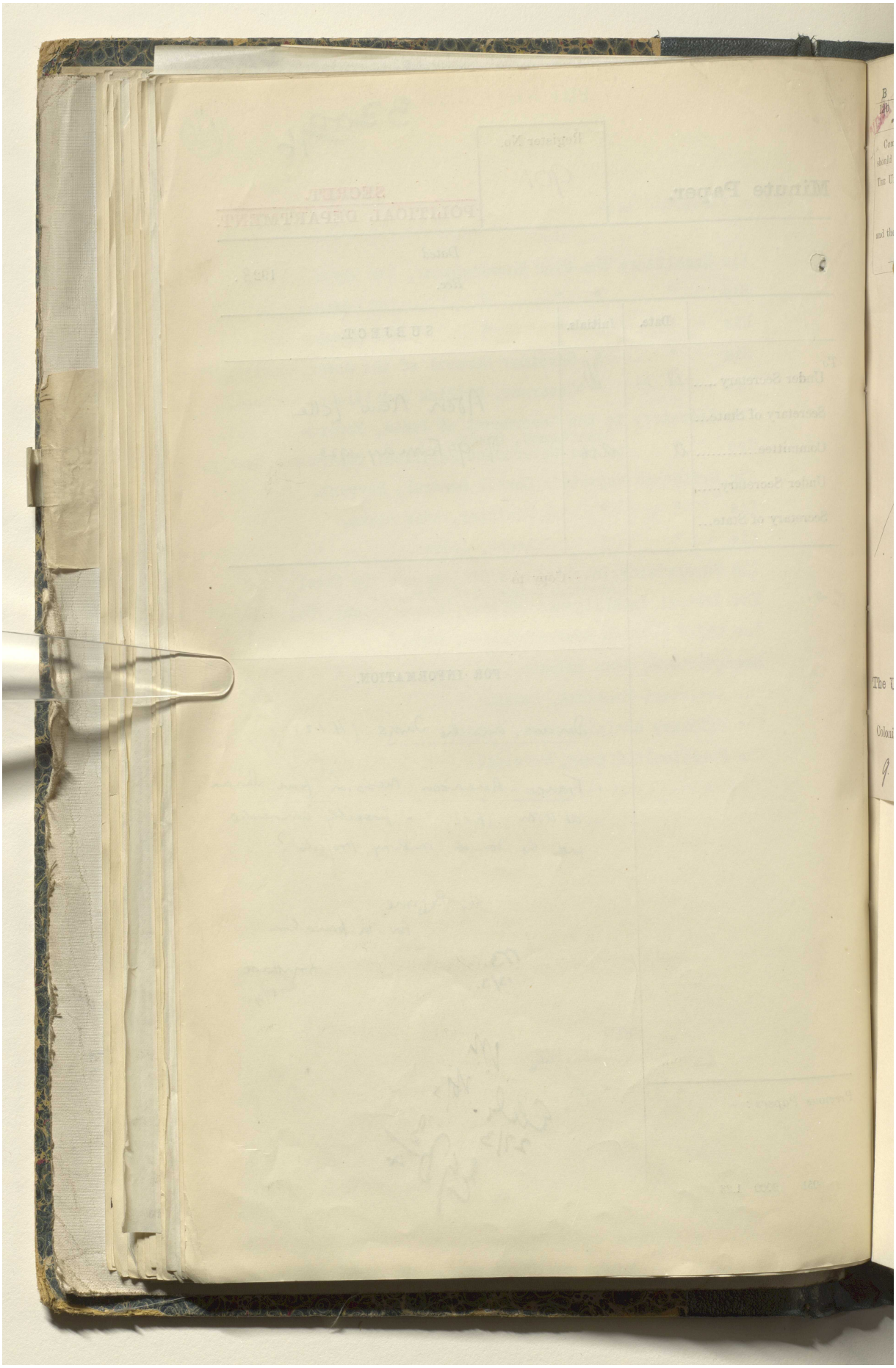

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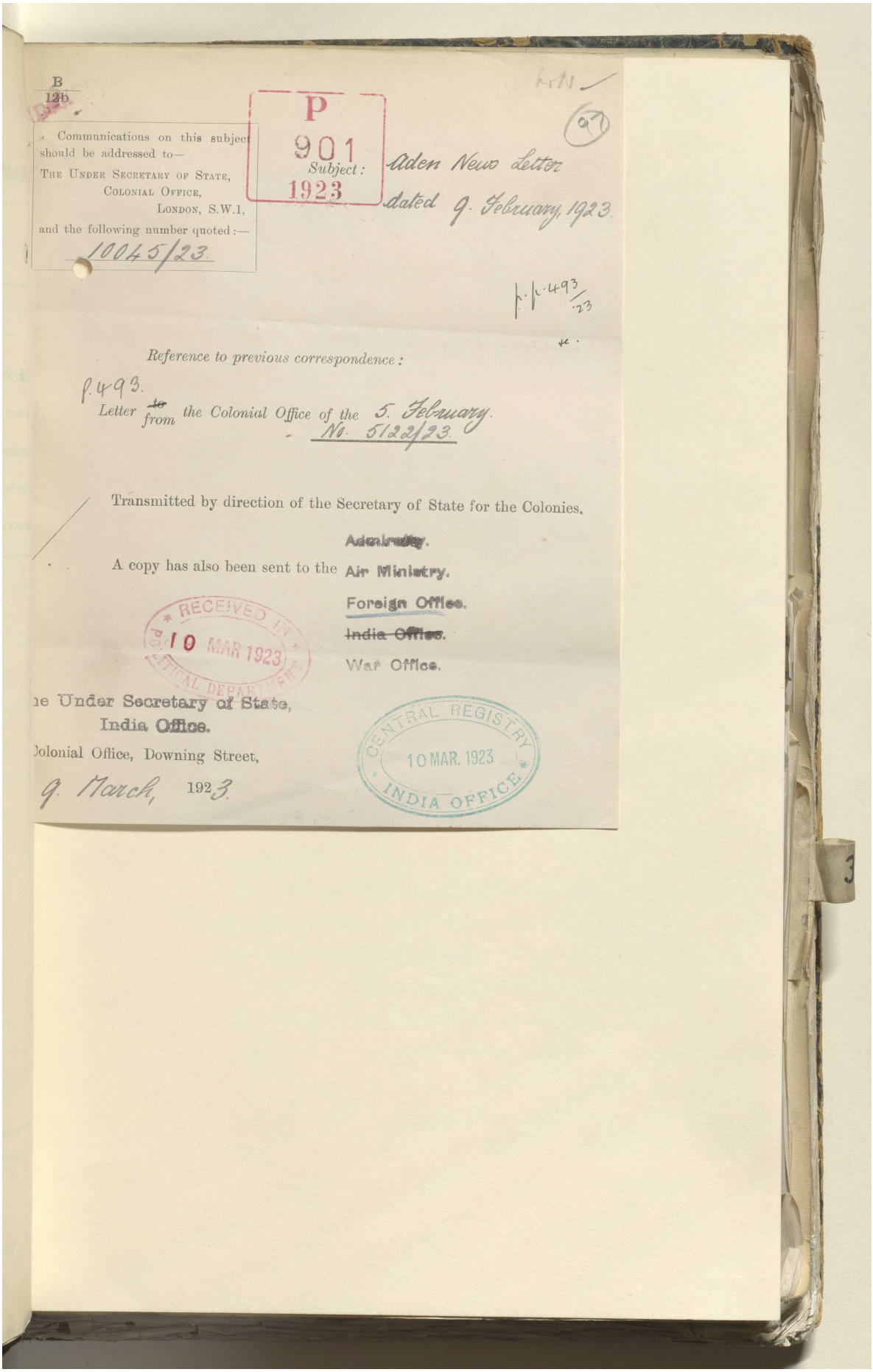

B
12b

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
10045/23.

P
901
Subject:
1923

Aden News Letter
dated 9. February, 1923.

(97)

P.L. 493/23

Reference to previous correspondence:

P.493.
Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 5. February.
No. 5122/23.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the ~~Admiralty~~.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 10 MAR 1923

CENTRAL REGISTRY 10 MAR. 1923 INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
9. March, 1923.

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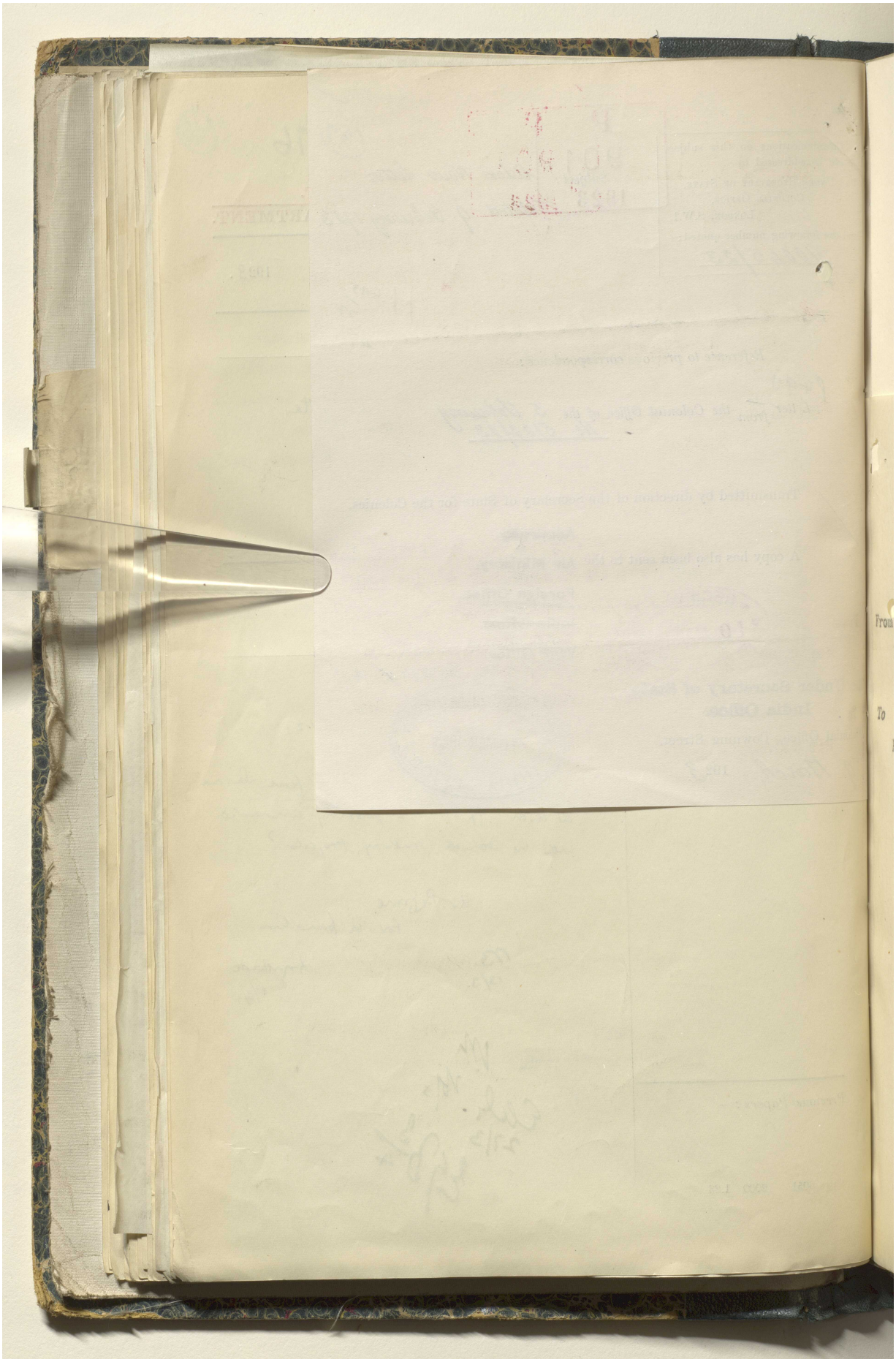

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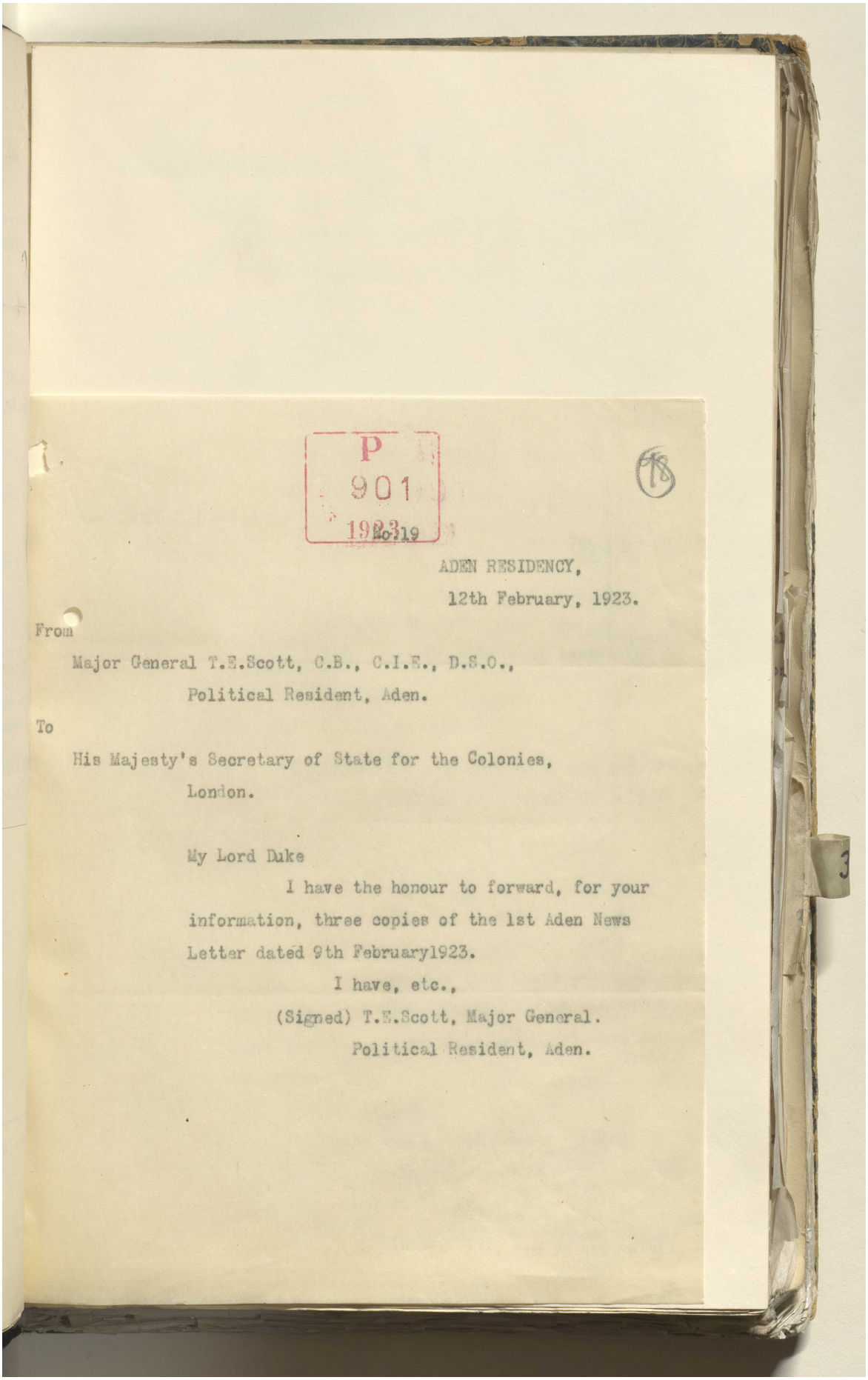

P
901
1923

No 119

ADEN RESIDENCY,
12th February, 1923.

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke

I have the honour to forward, for your information, three copies of the 1st Aden News Letter dated 9th February1923.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) T.E.Scott, Major General.
Political Resident, Aden.

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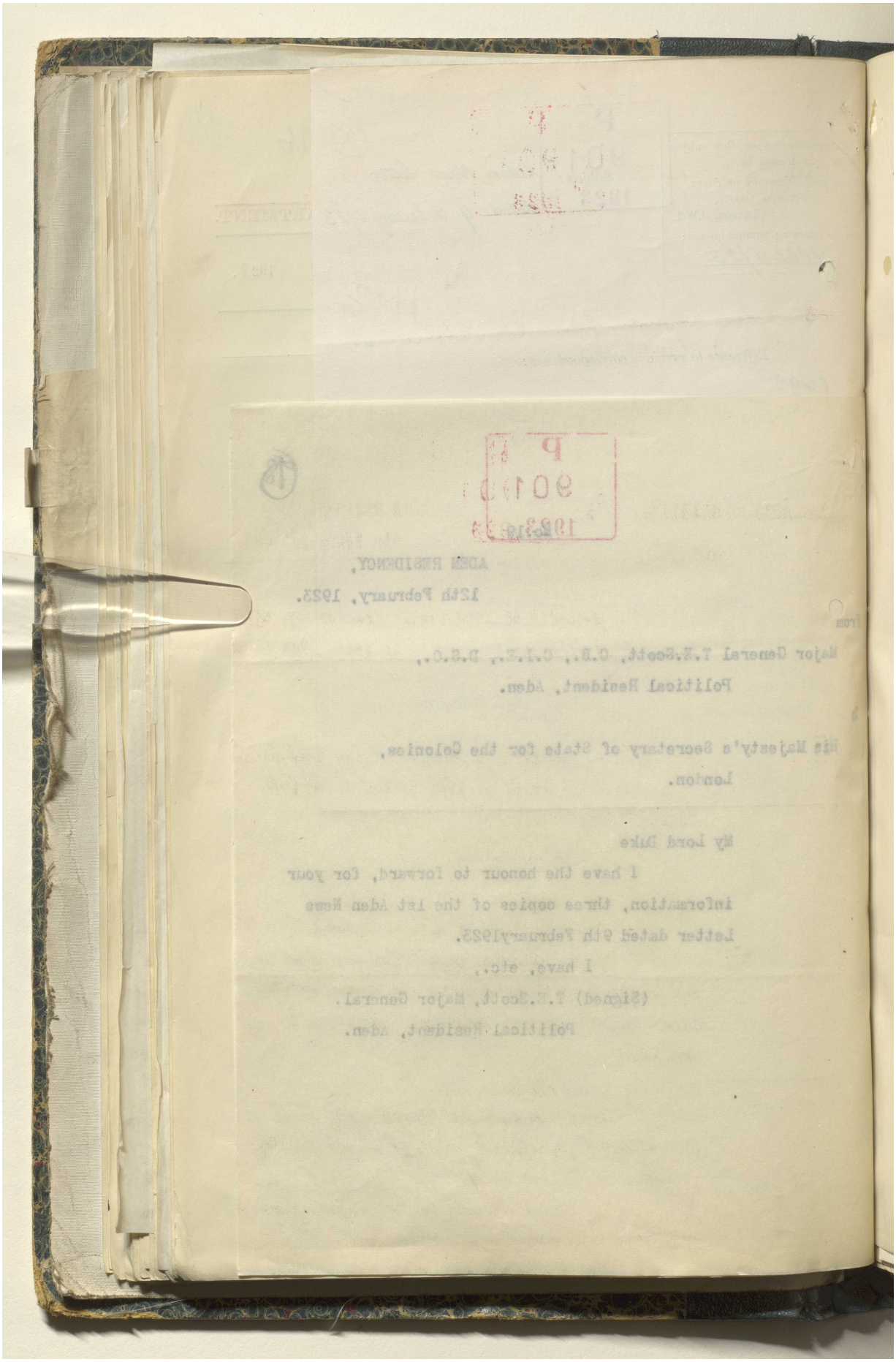

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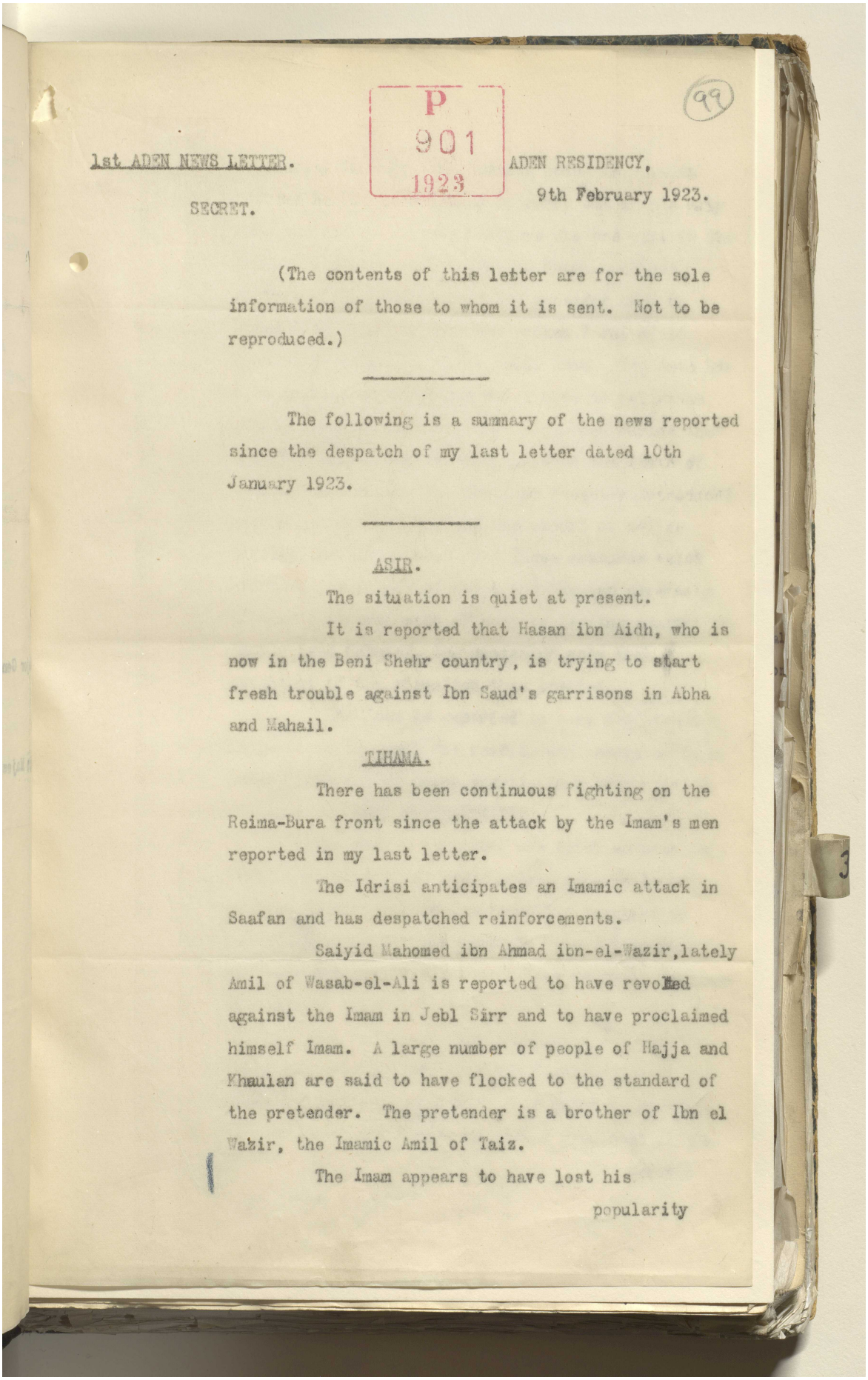

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1923

1st ADEN NEWS LETTER. ADEN RESIDENCY,

SECRET. 9th February 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 10th January 1923.

ASIR.

The situation is quiet at present.

It is reported that Hasan ibn Aidh, who is now in the Beni Shehr country, is trying to start fresh trouble against Ibn Saud's garrisons in Abha and Mahail.

TIHAMA.

There has been continuous fighting on the Reima-Bura front since the attack by the Imam's men reported in my last letter.

The Idrisi anticipates an Imamic attack in Saafan and has despatched reinforcements.

Saiyid Mahomed ibn Ahmad ibn-el-Wazir, lately Amil of Wasab-el-Ali is reported to have revolted against the Imam in Jebl Sirr and to have proclaimed himself Imam. A large number of people of Hajja and Khaulan are said to have flocked to the standard of the pretender. The pretender is a brother of Ibn el Wazir, the Imamic Amil of Taiz.

The Imam appears to have lost his

popularity

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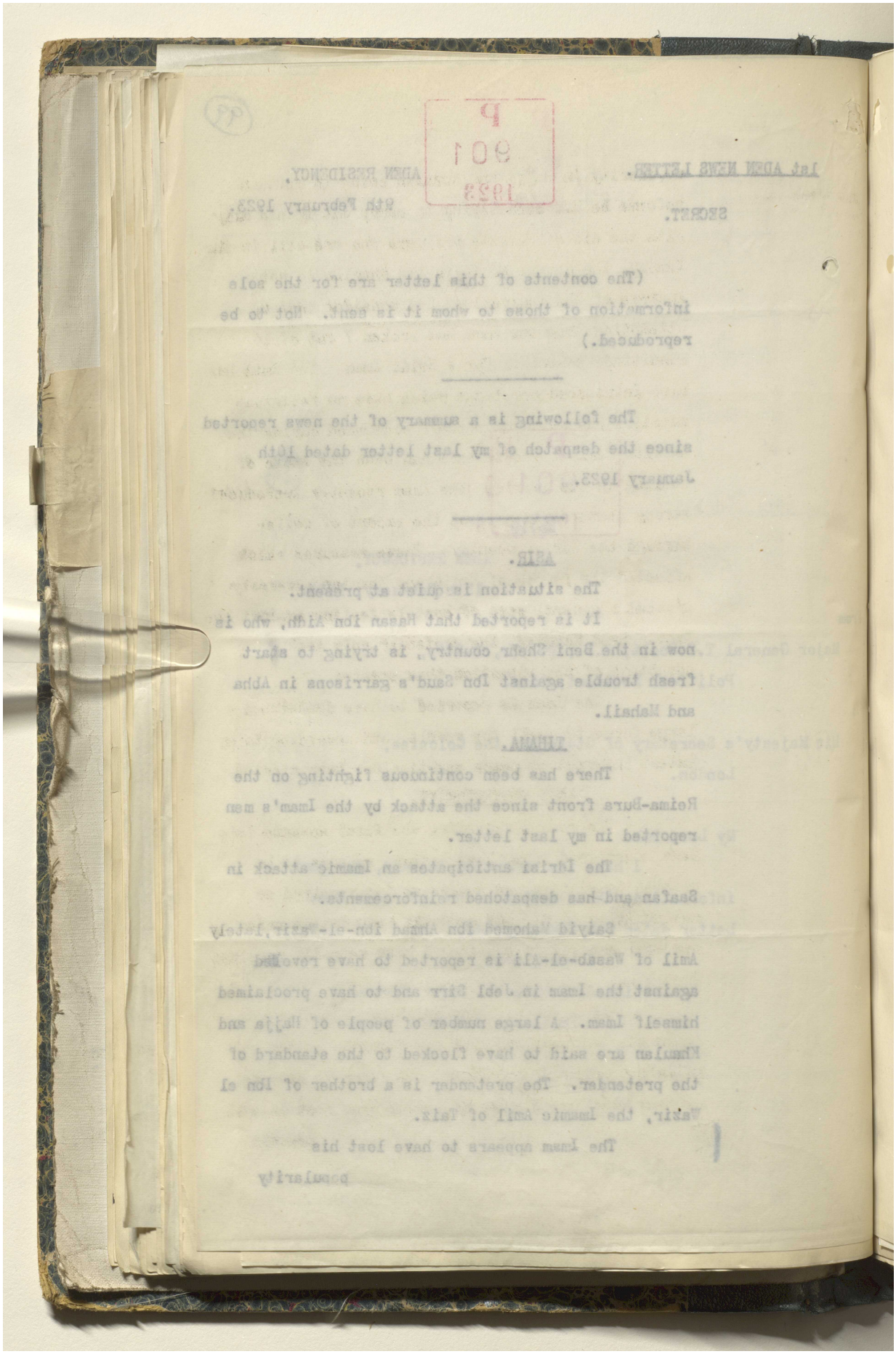

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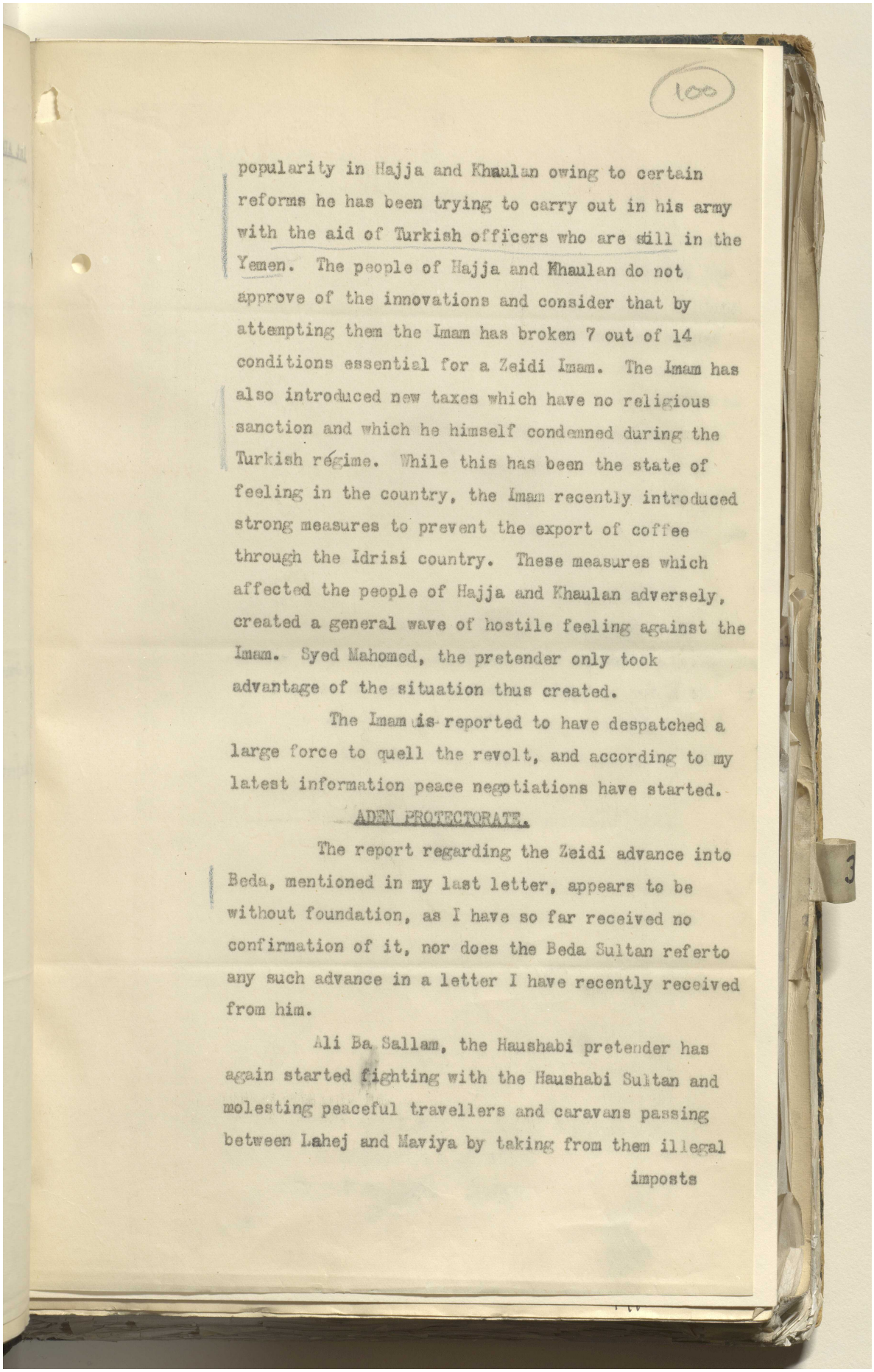

popularity in Hajja and Khaulan owing to certain reforms he has been trying to carry out in his army with the aid of Turkish officers who are still in the Yemen. The people of Hajja and Khaulan do not approve of the innovations and consider that by attempting them the Imam has broken 7 out of 14 conditions essential for a Zeidi Imam. The Imam has also introduced new taxes which have no religious sanction and which he himself condemned during the Turkish régime. While this has been the state of feeling in the country, the Imam recently introduced strong measures to prevent the export of coffee through the Idrisi country. These measures which affected the people of Hajja and Khaulan adversely, created a general wave of hostile feeling against the Imam. Syed Mahomed, the pretender only took advantage of the situation thus created.

The Imam is reported to have despatched a large force to quell the revolt, and according to my latest information peace negotiations have started.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The report regarding the Zeidi advance into Beda, mentioned in my last letter, appears to be without foundation, as I have so far received no confirmation of it, nor does the Beda Sultan refer to any such advance in a letter I have recently received from him.

Ali Ba Sallam, the Haushabi pretender has again started fighting with the Haushabi Sultan and molesting peaceful travellers and caravans passing between Lahej and Maviya by taking from them illegal imposts

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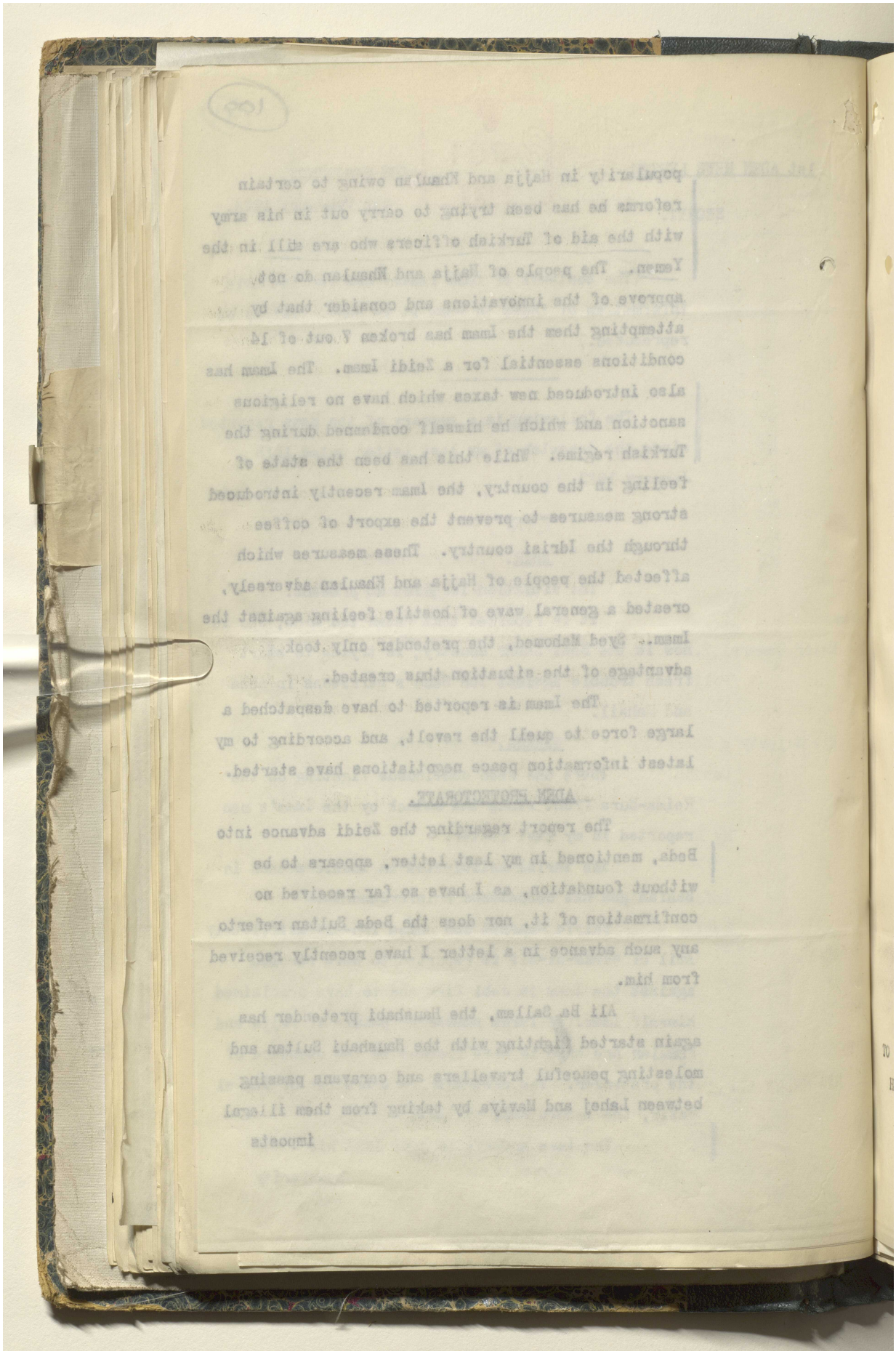

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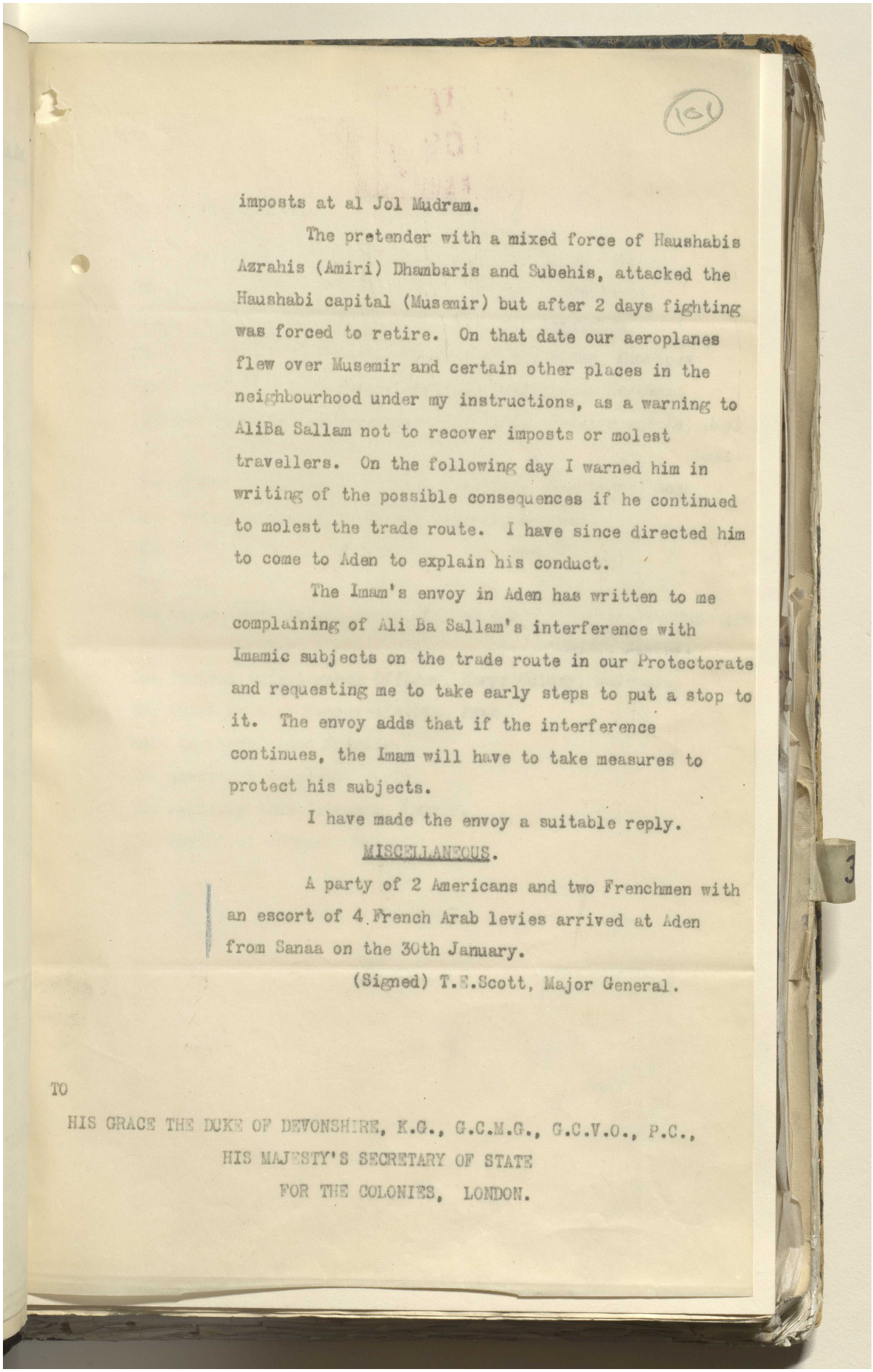

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imposts at al Jol Mudram.

The pretender with a mixed force of Haushabis Azrahis (Amiri) Dhambaris and Subehis, attacked the Haushabi capital (Musemir) but after 2 days fighting was forced to retire. On that date our aeroplanes flew over Musemir and certain other places in the neighbourhood under my instructions, as a warning to AliBa Sallam not to recover imposts or molest travellers. On the following day I warned him in writing of the possible consequences if he continued to molest the trade route. I have since directed him to come to Aden to explain his conduct.

The Imam's envoy in Aden has written to me complaining of Ali Ba Sallam's interference with Imamic subjects on the trade route in our Protectorate and requesting me to take early steps to put a stop to it. The envoy adds that if the interference continues, the Imam will have to take measures to protect his subjects.

I have made the envoy a suitable reply.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A party of 2 Americans and two Frenchmen with an escort of 4 French Arab levies arrived at Aden from Sanaa on the 30th January.

(Signed) T.E.Scott, Major General.

TO

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES, LONDON.

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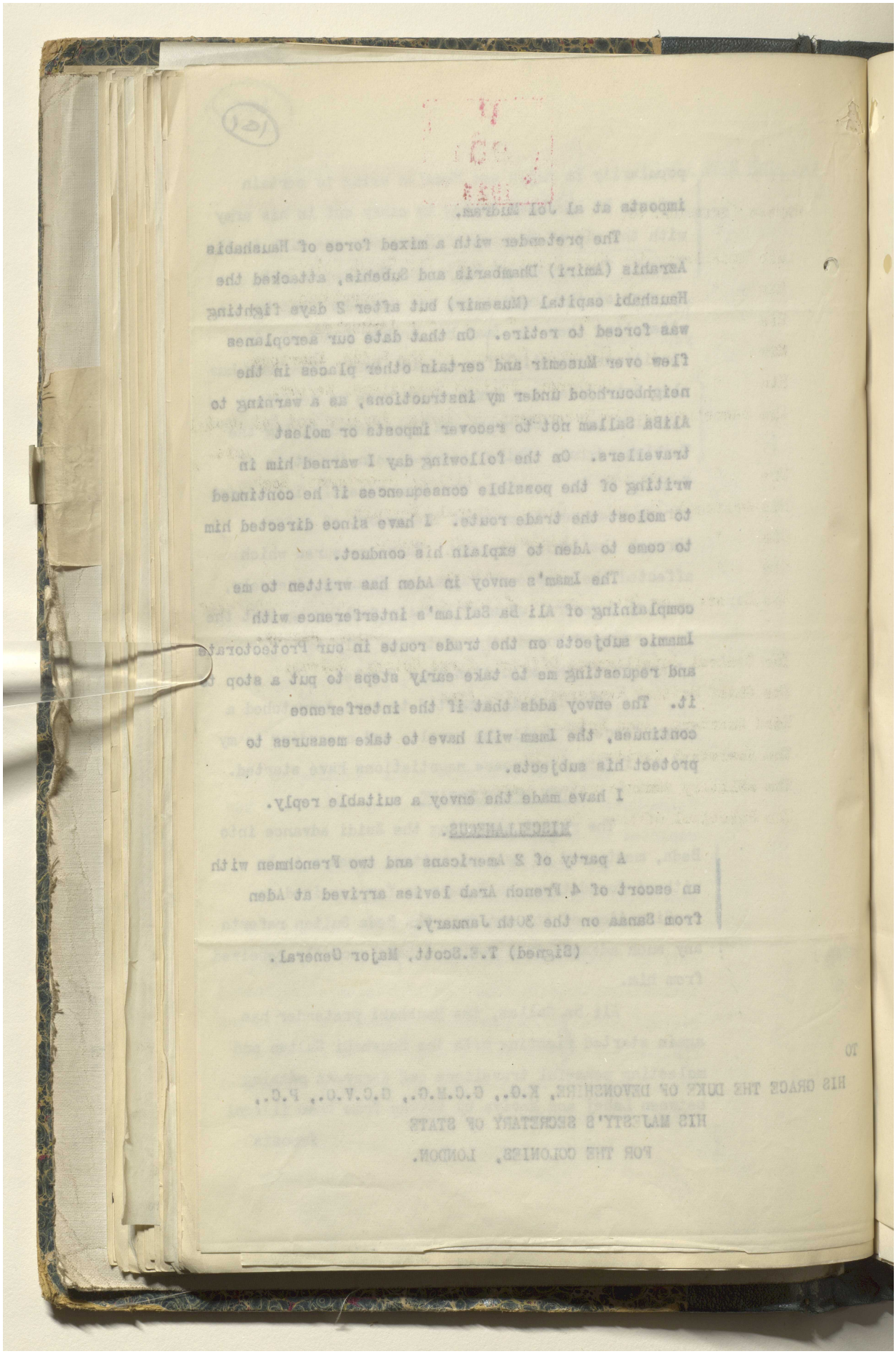

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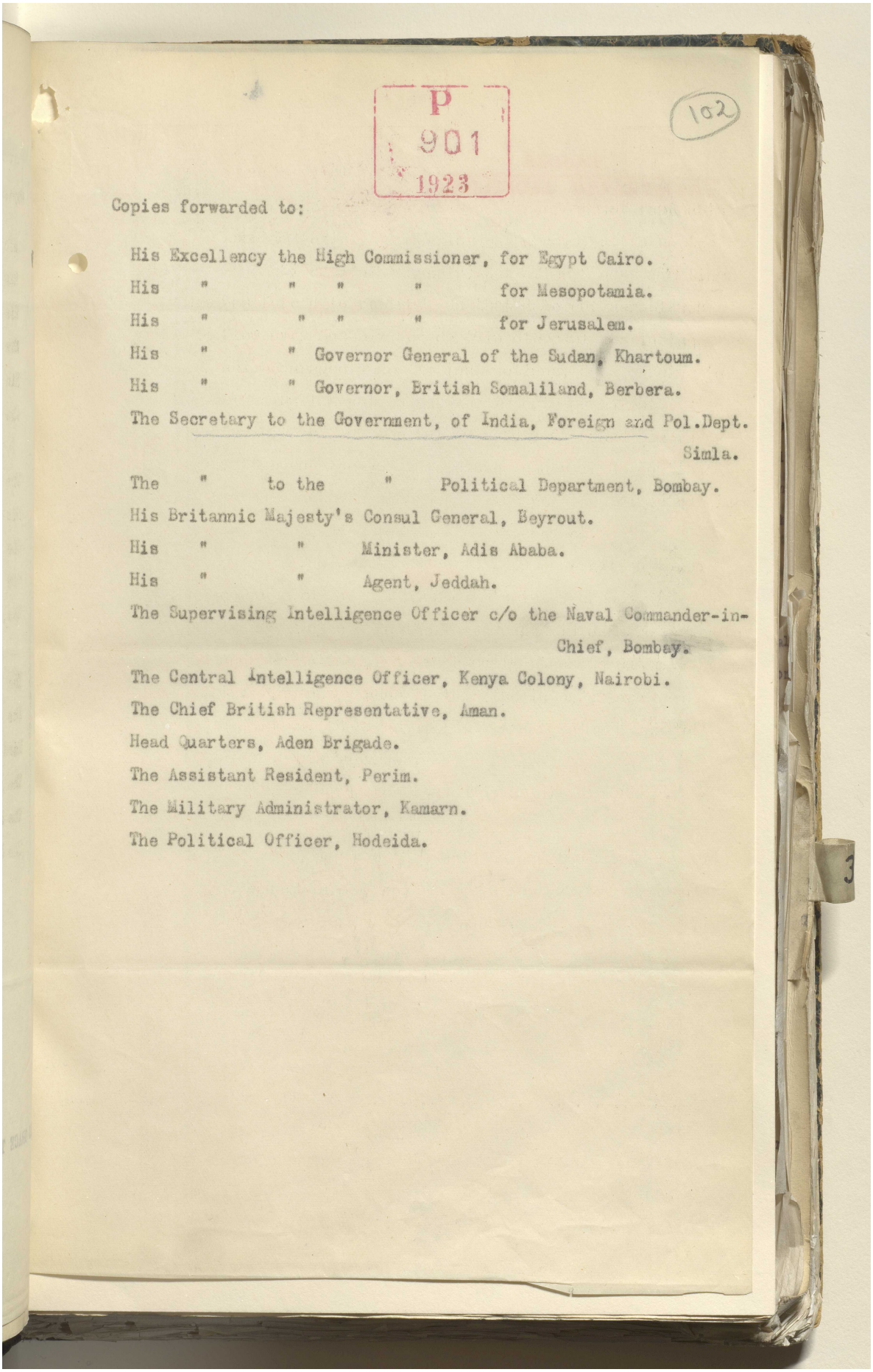

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1923

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His " " " " for Jerusalem.
His " " Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His " " Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Government, of India, Foreign and Pol.Dept. Simla.
The " to the " Political Department, Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His " " Minister, Adis Ababa.
His " " Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
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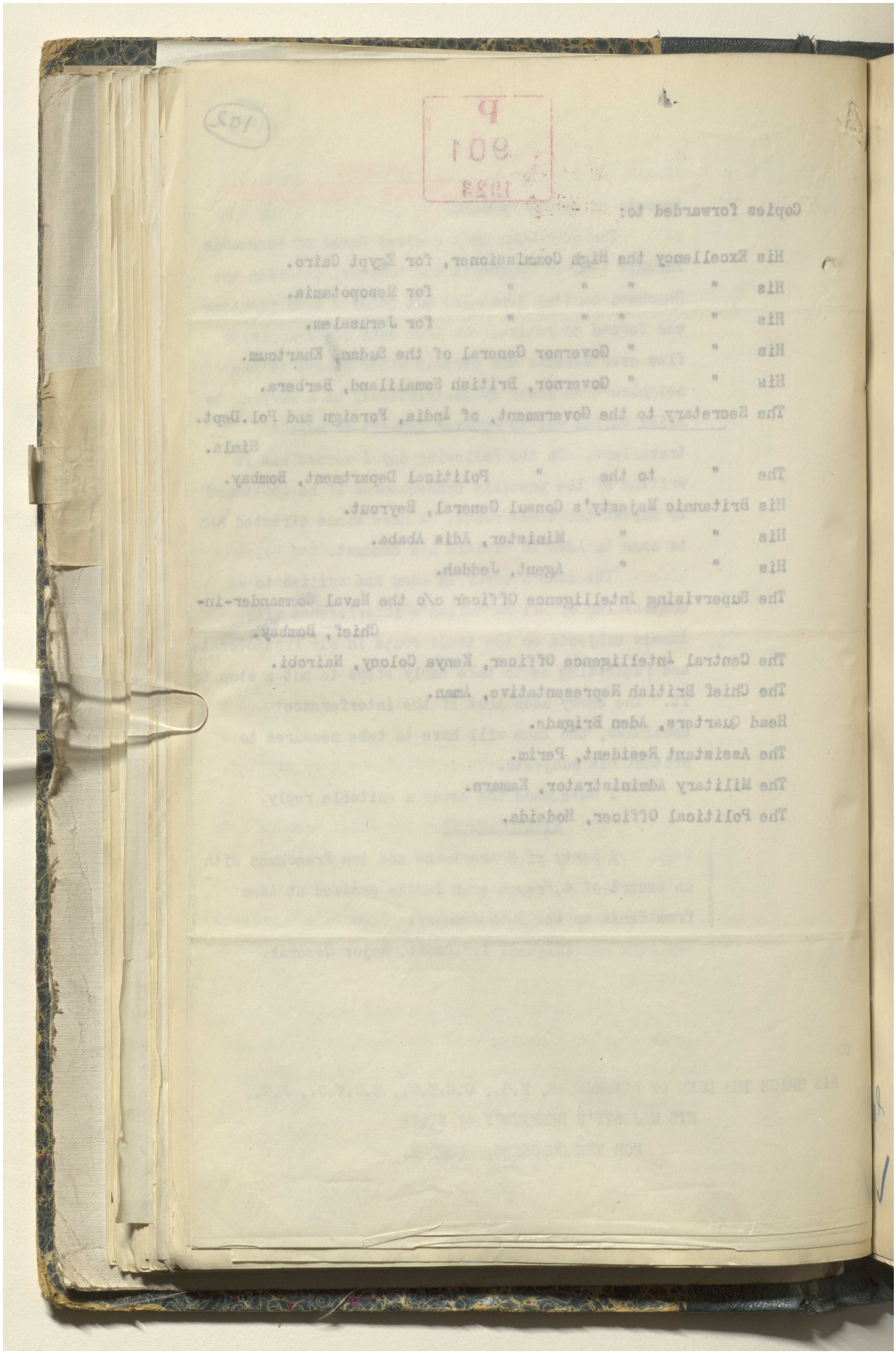

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Register No. 493

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1923.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..	14.ä		Aden News Letter of 10 January
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	14		
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

P.4. French project for a railway from Sanaa to Mocha.

The French, as long ago as 1910, completed a survey from Hodeida to Sanaa, and also obtained concessions to make surveys from Hodeida to Taiz, and from Taiz to Sanaa.

The existing railway in the Aden Protectorate runs from Aden to Lahej, to which place it was extended from Sheikh Othman, during the war, for purely military purposes. The future of railways in the Aden Protectorate is bound up with the question of the future administration of Aden.

P.5. Visit of Mrs Rosita Forbes to the Yemen

Previous Papers :—

Seen. 7.2

Mr Bisgrave for information 6/1/23

19/2

10 1717 I 1351 2000 9/19

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE 19 FEB 1923

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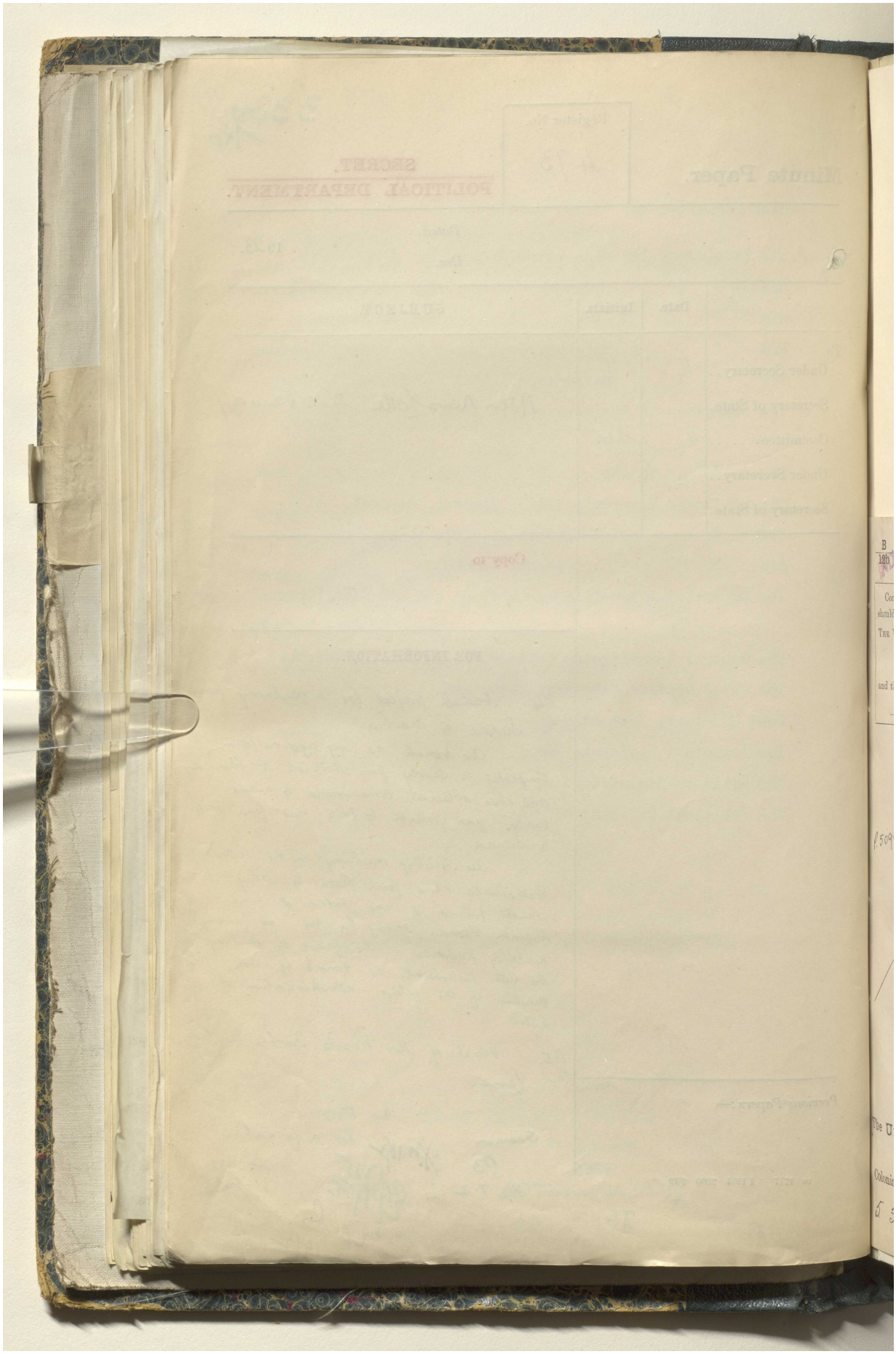

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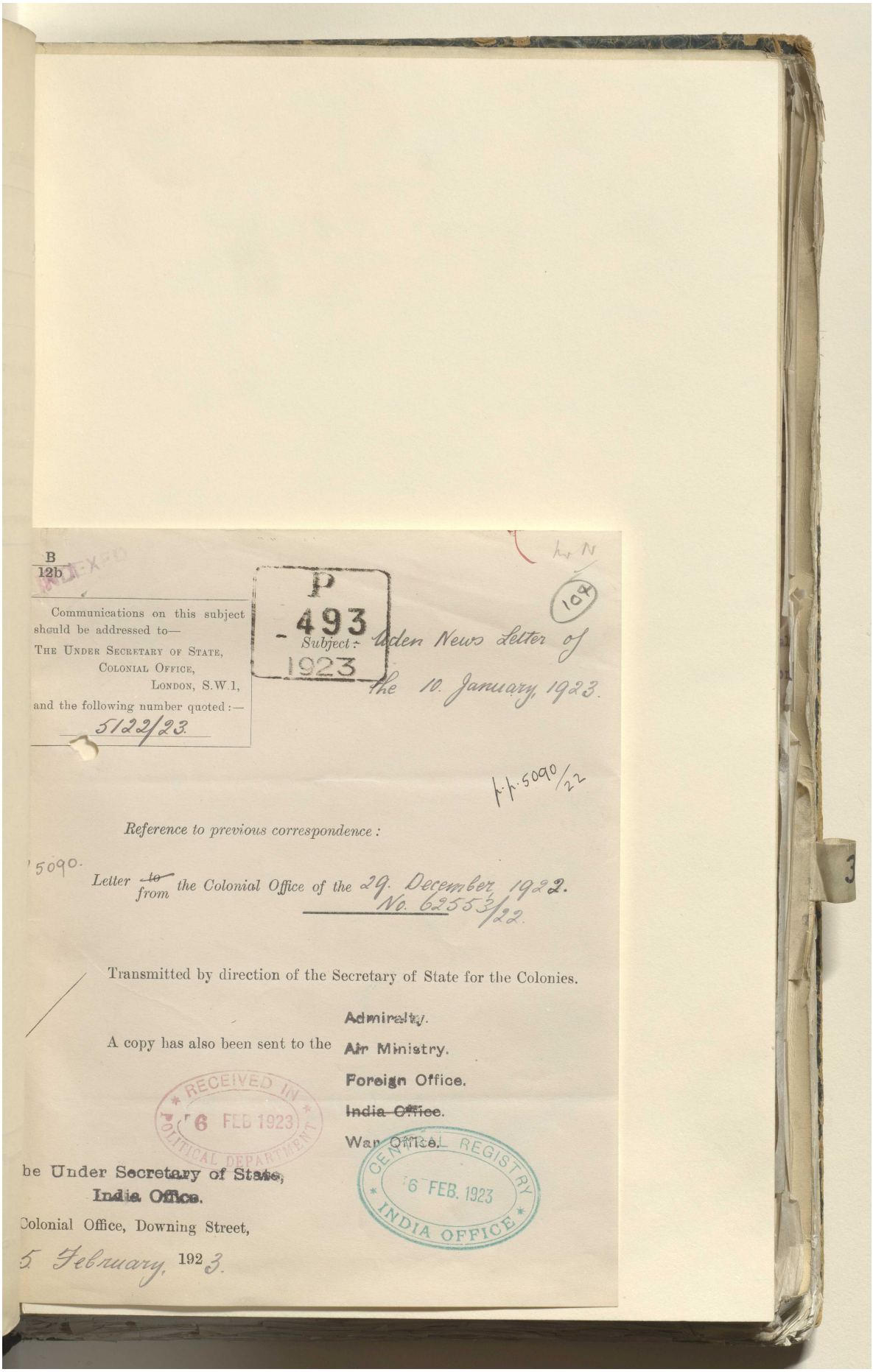

B
12b

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
5122/23.

P
493
1923

Subject: Aden News Letter of the 10. January, 1923.

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H.P. 5090/22

Reference to previous correspondence:

5090.

Letter ~~to~~ *from* the Colonial Office of the 29. December 1922.
No. 62553/22.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
~~Admiralty.~~
~~Air~~ Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 6 FEB 1923

CENTRAL REGISTRY 6 FEB. 1923 INDIA OFFICE

he Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
5 February, 1923.

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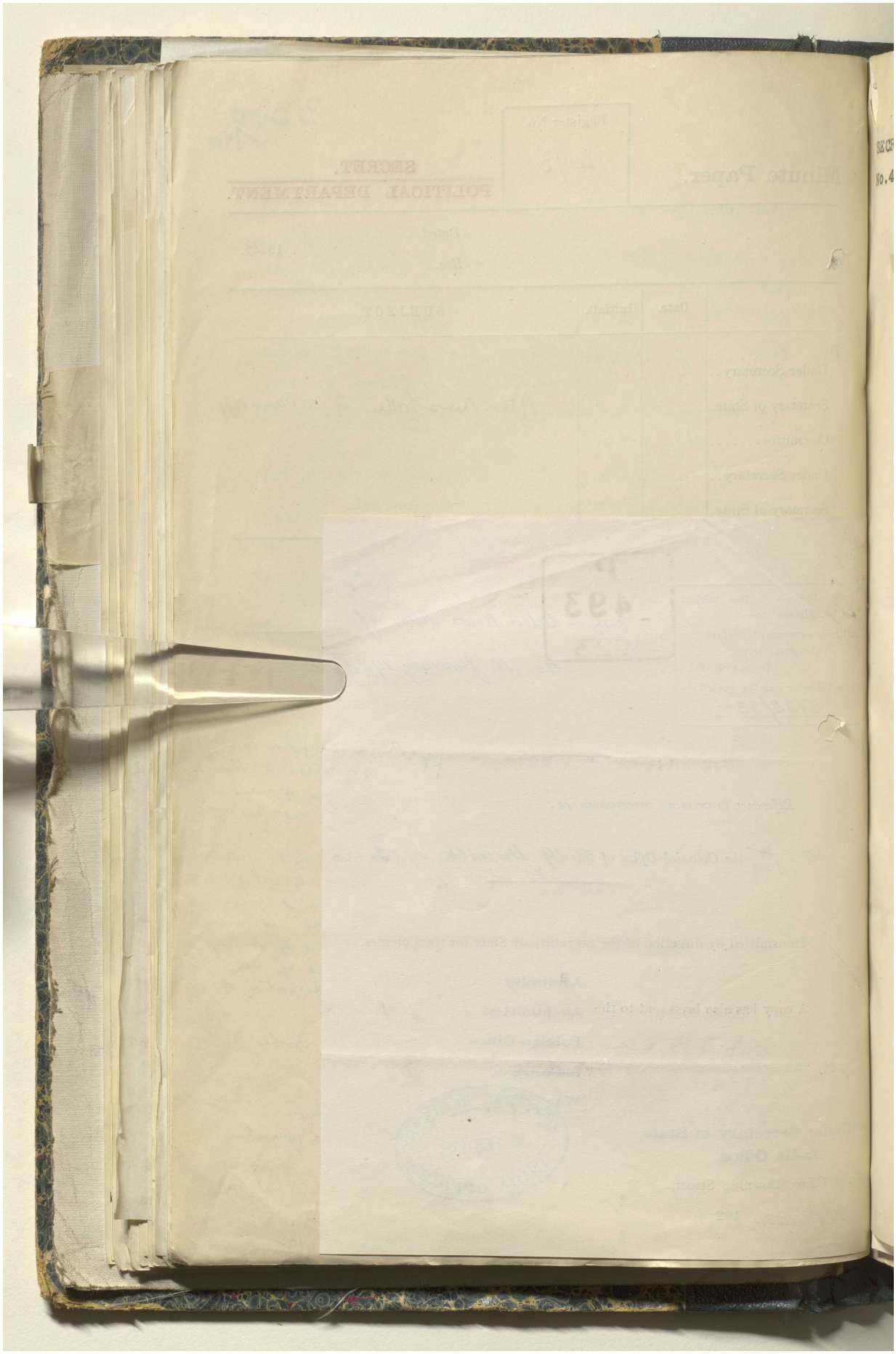

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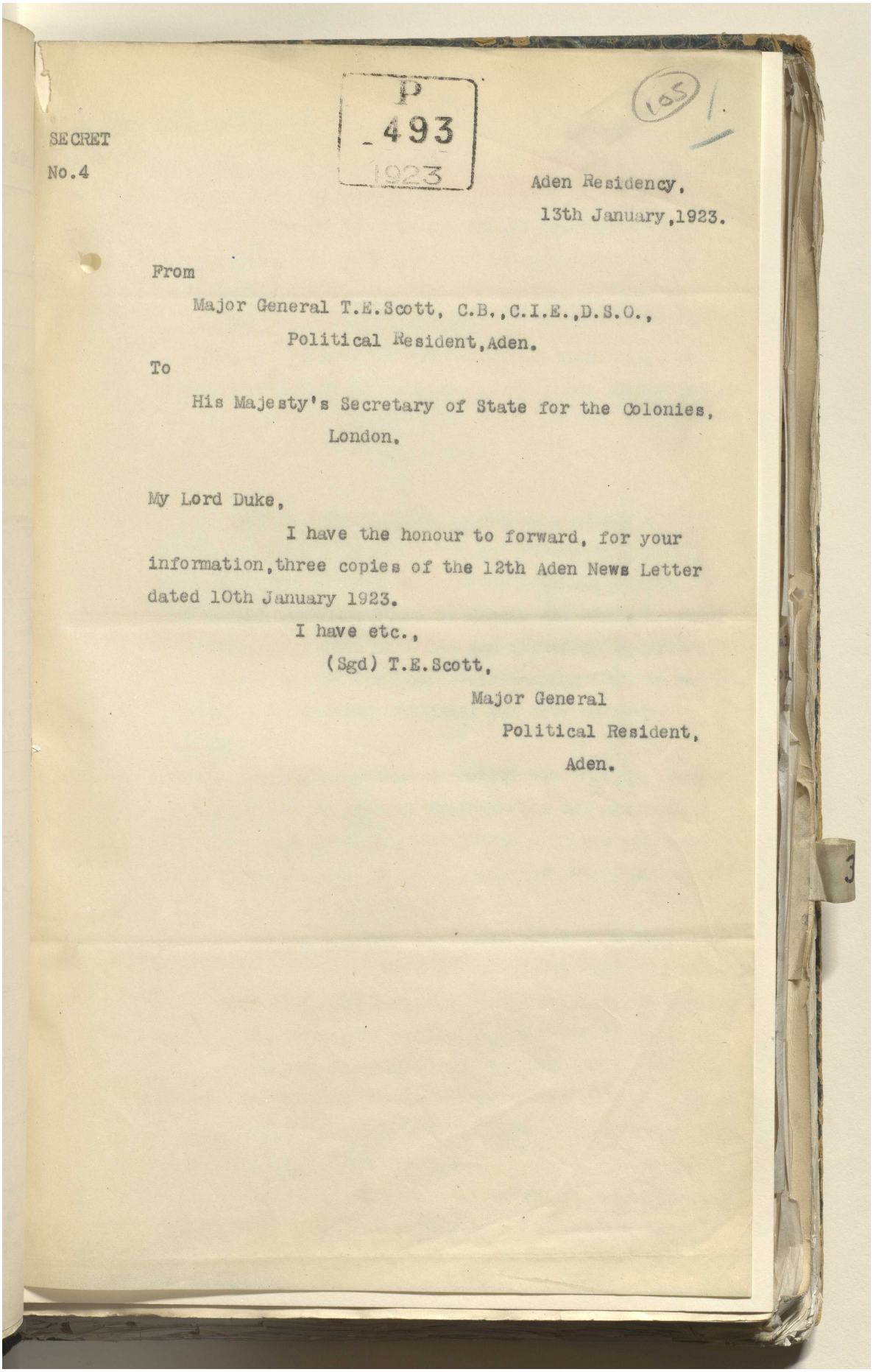

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1923

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SECRET

No.4

Aden Residency,
13th January,1923.

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.,
Political Resident,Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for your information,three copies of the 12th Aden News Letter dated 10th January 1923.

I have etc.,
(Sgd) T.E.Scott,
Major General
Political Resident,
Aden.

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12th Aden News Letter
Secret.

Aden Residency,
10 January 1923.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 30th November 1922.

ASIR.

The Political Officer, Hodeidah, reported that Feisul Ibn Saud with his force has returned to Riadh, leaving behind 400 men to garrison Abha and Mahail and that Sheikh Suleiman Pasha of Mahail who was a prisoner with Feisul has been released and permitted to return to his country on the distinct understanding that he and his tribe will henceforth recognize Ibn Saud as their suzerain.

Fearing an attack by Feisul Ibn Saud, the King of the Hedjaz had reinforced Kunfida with 400 men with 2 big guns and 2 machine guns. These soldiers who are still there are said to be looting the inhabitants.

TIHAMA

Having suffered continued defeats at the hands of Hashids, the Imam is reported to have made a temporary truce with them. The Imam blames the Idrisi as being the cause of the hostility of the Hashids towards him.

Captain Fazluddin reports that there is a general movement of Imamic troops behind all the fronts in the Tihama, though there has been no actual fighting. During the month of November the Imamic troops on the Jabel Bura front made a raid on a village while the Idrisi soldiers were sleeping and carried away large booty

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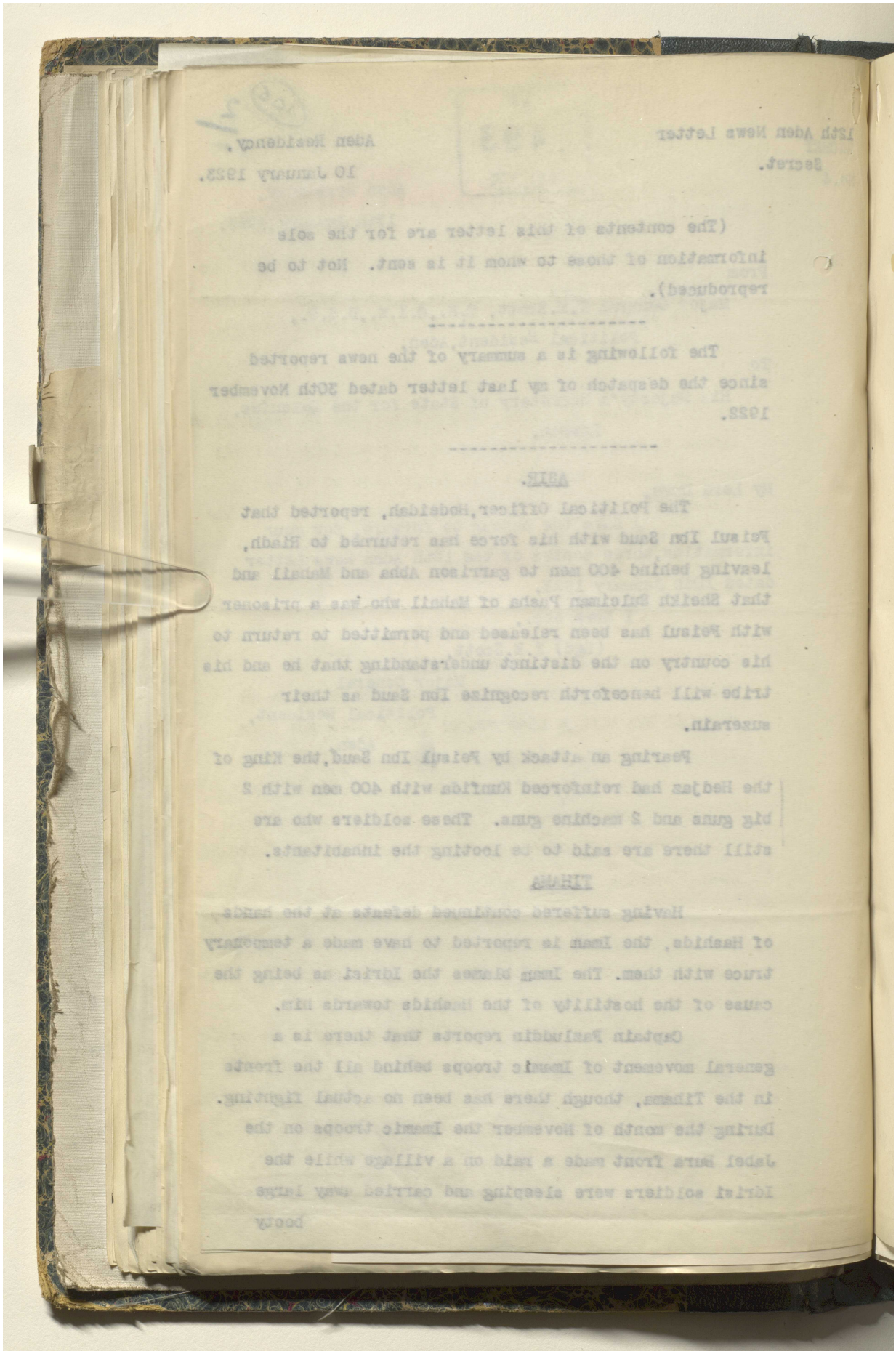

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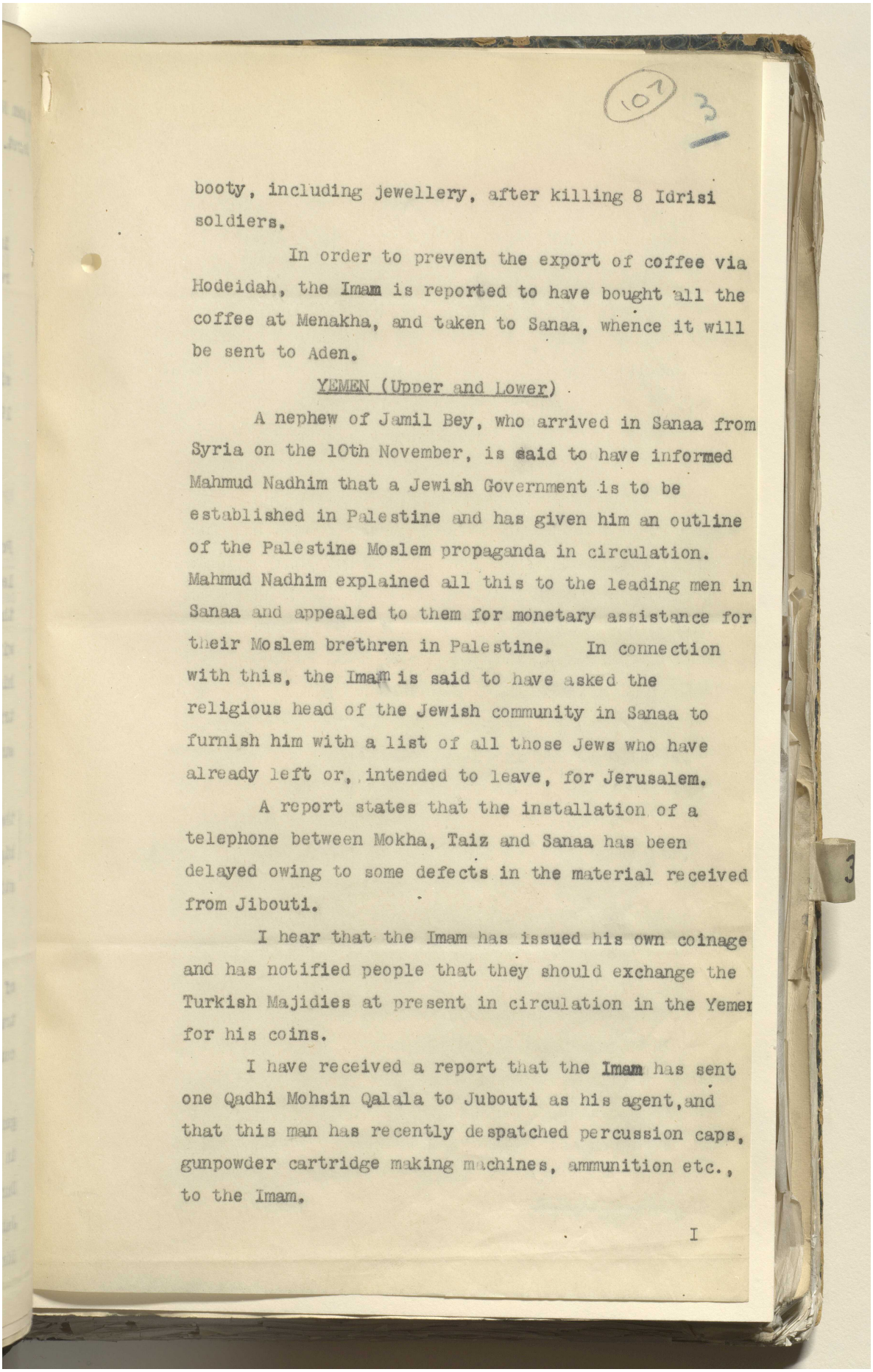

(107) 3

booty, including jewellery, after killing 8 Idrisi soldiers.

In order to prevent the export of coffee via Hodeidah, the Imam is reported to have bought all the coffee at Menakha, and taken to Sanaa, whence it will be sent to Aden.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

A nephew of Jamil Bey, who arrived in Sanaa from Syria on the 10th November, is said to have informed Mahmud Nadhim that a Jewish Government is to be established in Palestine and has given him an outline of the Palestine Moslem propaganda in circulation. Mahmud Nadhim explained all this to the leading men in Sanaa and appealed to them for monetary assistance for their Moslem brethren in Palestine. In connection with this, the Imam is said to have asked the religious head of the Jewish community in Sanaa to furnish him with a list of all those Jews who have already left or, intended to leave, for Jerusalem.

A report states that the installation of a telephone between Mokha, Taiz and Sanaa has been delayed owing to some defects in the material received from Jibouti.

I hear that the Imam has issued his own coinage and has notified people that they should exchange the Turkish Majidies at present in circulation in the Yemen for his coins.

I have received a report that the Imam has sent one Qadhi Mohsin Qalala to Jubouti as his agent, and that this man has recently despatched percussion caps, gunpowder cartridge making machines, ammunition etc., to the Imam.

I

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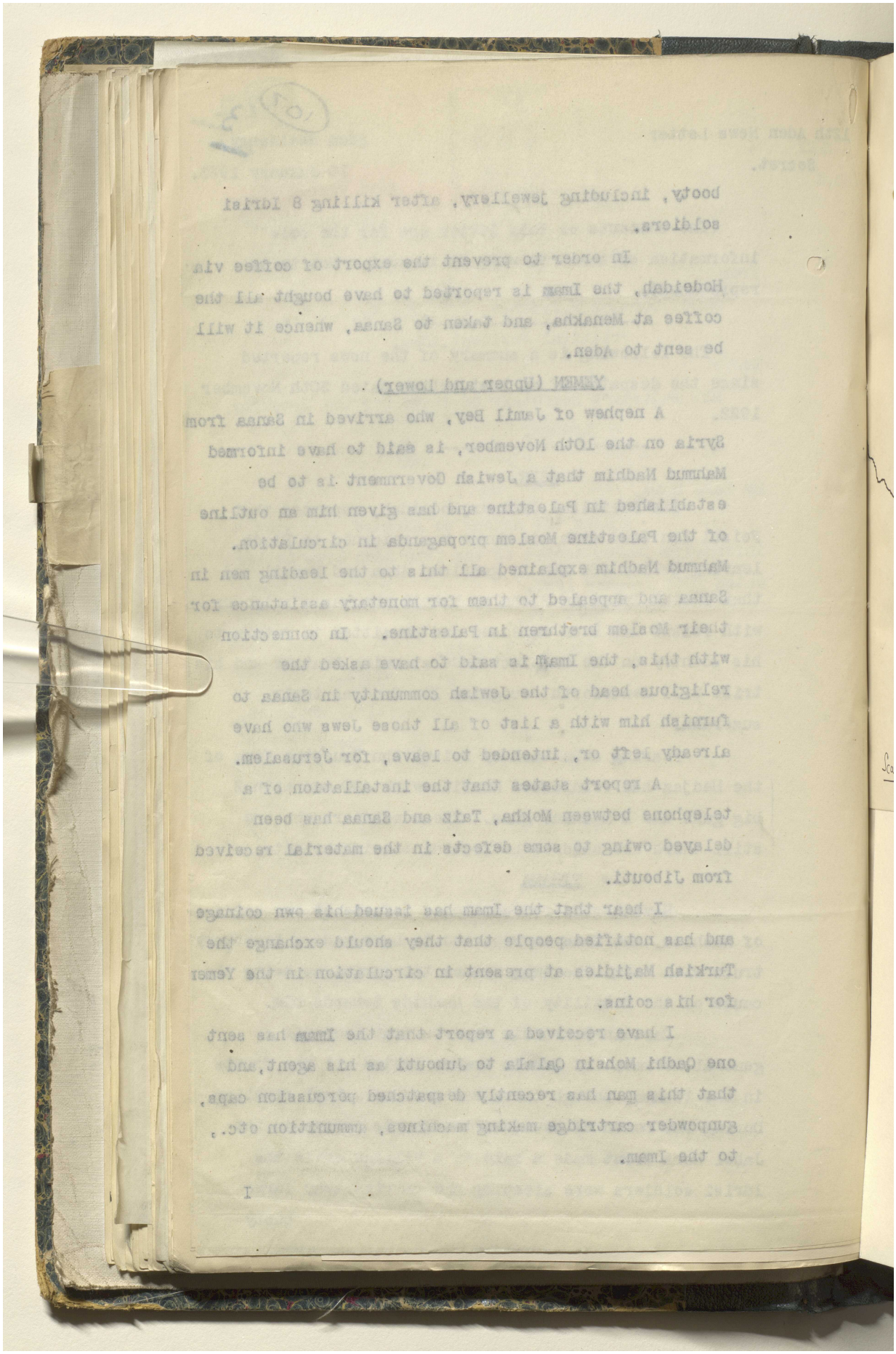

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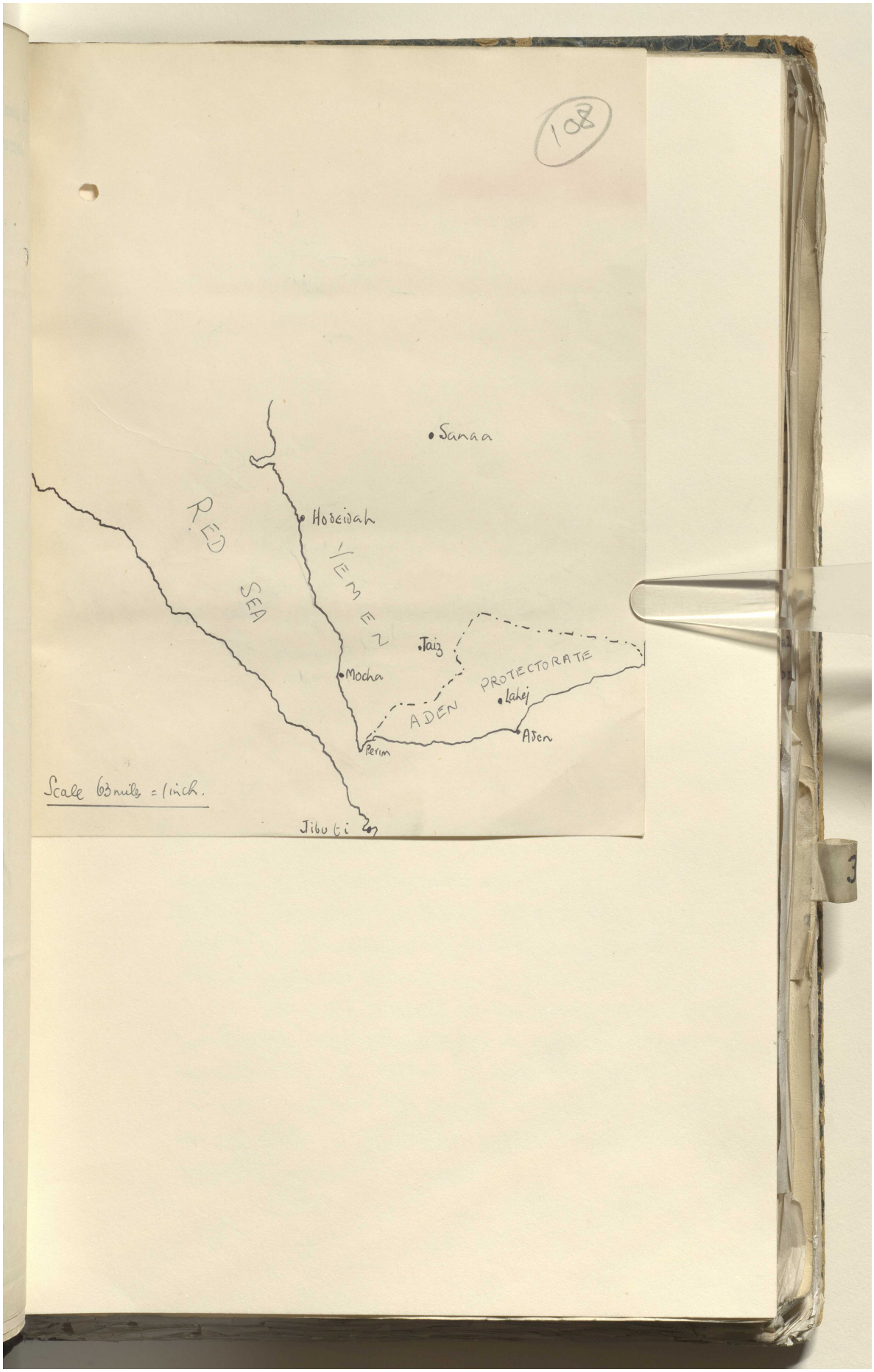

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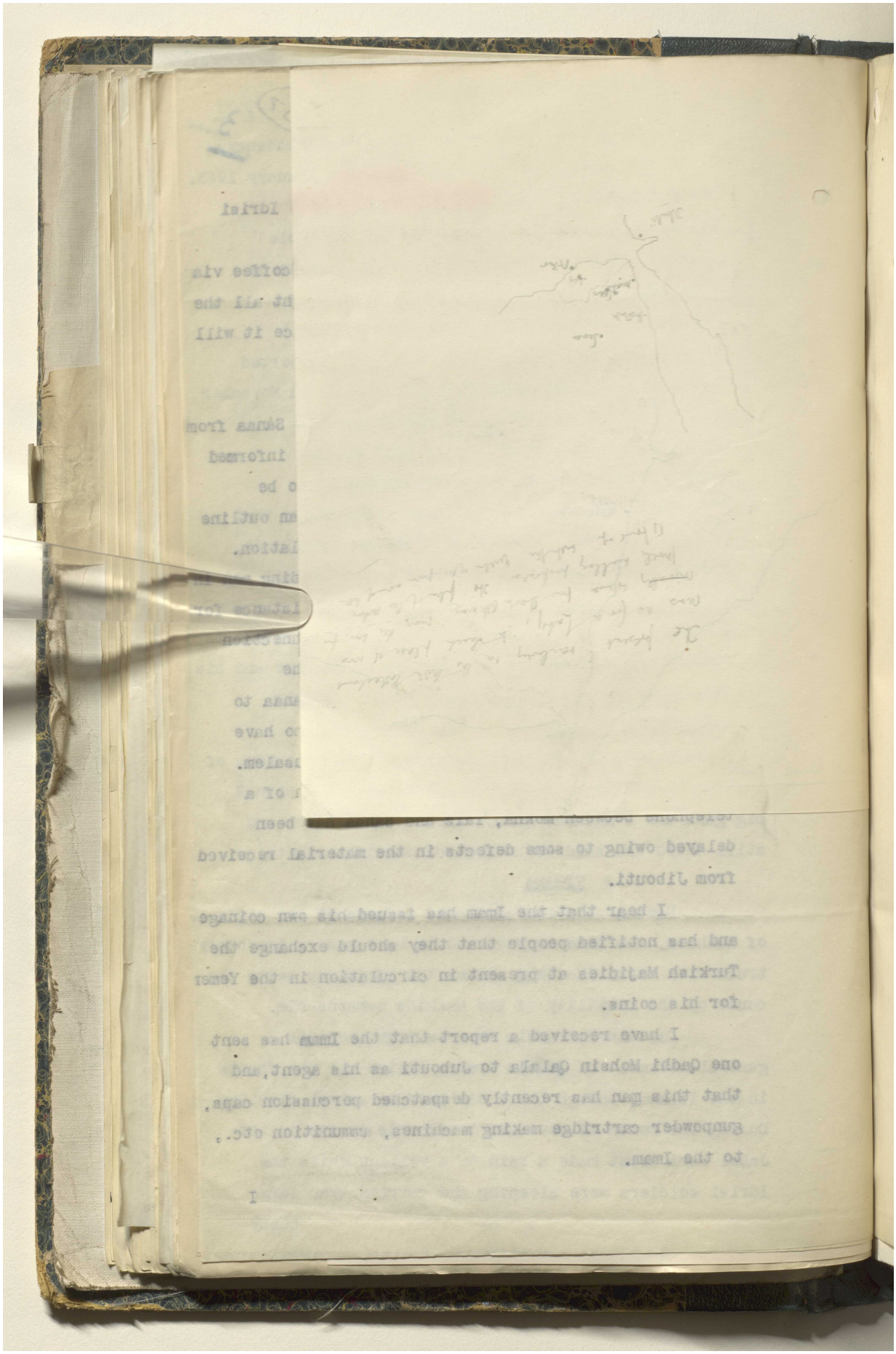

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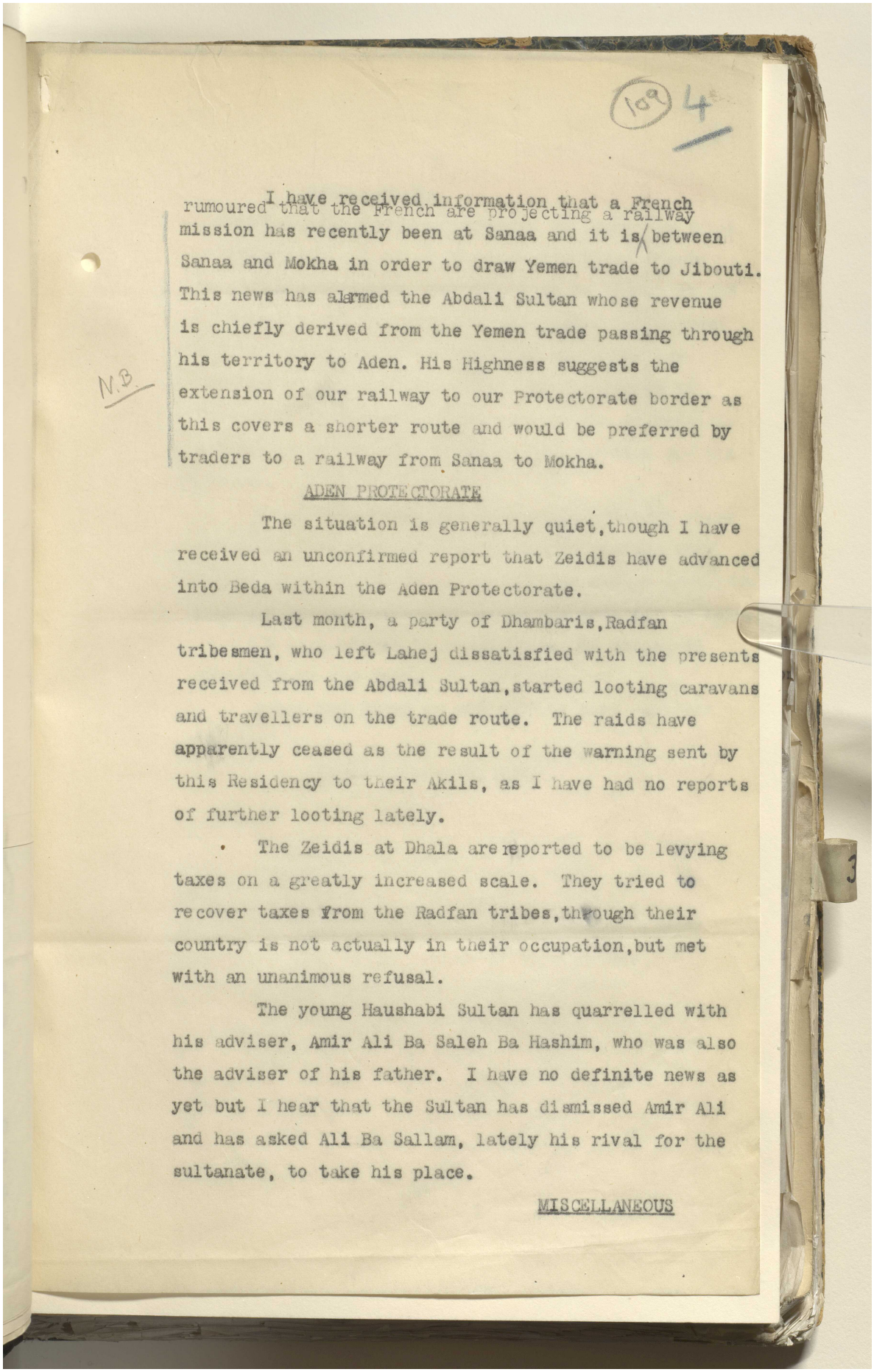

(109) 4

I have received information that a French mission has recently been at Sanaa and it is rumoured that the French are projecting a railway between Sanaa and Mokha in order to draw Yemen trade to Jibouti. This news has alarmed the Abdali Sultan whose revenue is chiefly derived from the Yemen trade passing through his territory to Aden. His Highness suggests the extension of our railway to our Protectorate border as this covers a shorter route and would be preferred by traders to a railway from Sanaa to Mokha.

N.B.

ADEN PROTECTORATE

The situation is generally quiet, though I have received an unconfirmed report that Zeidis have advanced into Beda within the Aden Protectorate.

Last month, a party of Dhambaris, Radfan tribesmen, who left Lahej dissatisfied with the presents received from the Abdali Sultan, started looting caravans and travellers on the trade route. The raids have apparently ceased as the result of the warning sent by this Residency to their Akils, as I have had no reports of further looting lately.

The Zeidis at Dhala are reported to be levying taxes on a greatly increased scale. They tried to recover taxes from the Radfan tribes, through their country is not actually in their occupation, but met with an unanimous refusal.

The young Haushabi Sultan has quarrelled with his adviser, Amir Ali Ba Saleh Ba Hashim, who was also the adviser of his father. I have no definite news as yet but I hear that the Sultan has dismissed Amir Ali and has asked Ali Ba Sallam, lately his rival for the sultanate, to take his place.

MISCELLANEOUS

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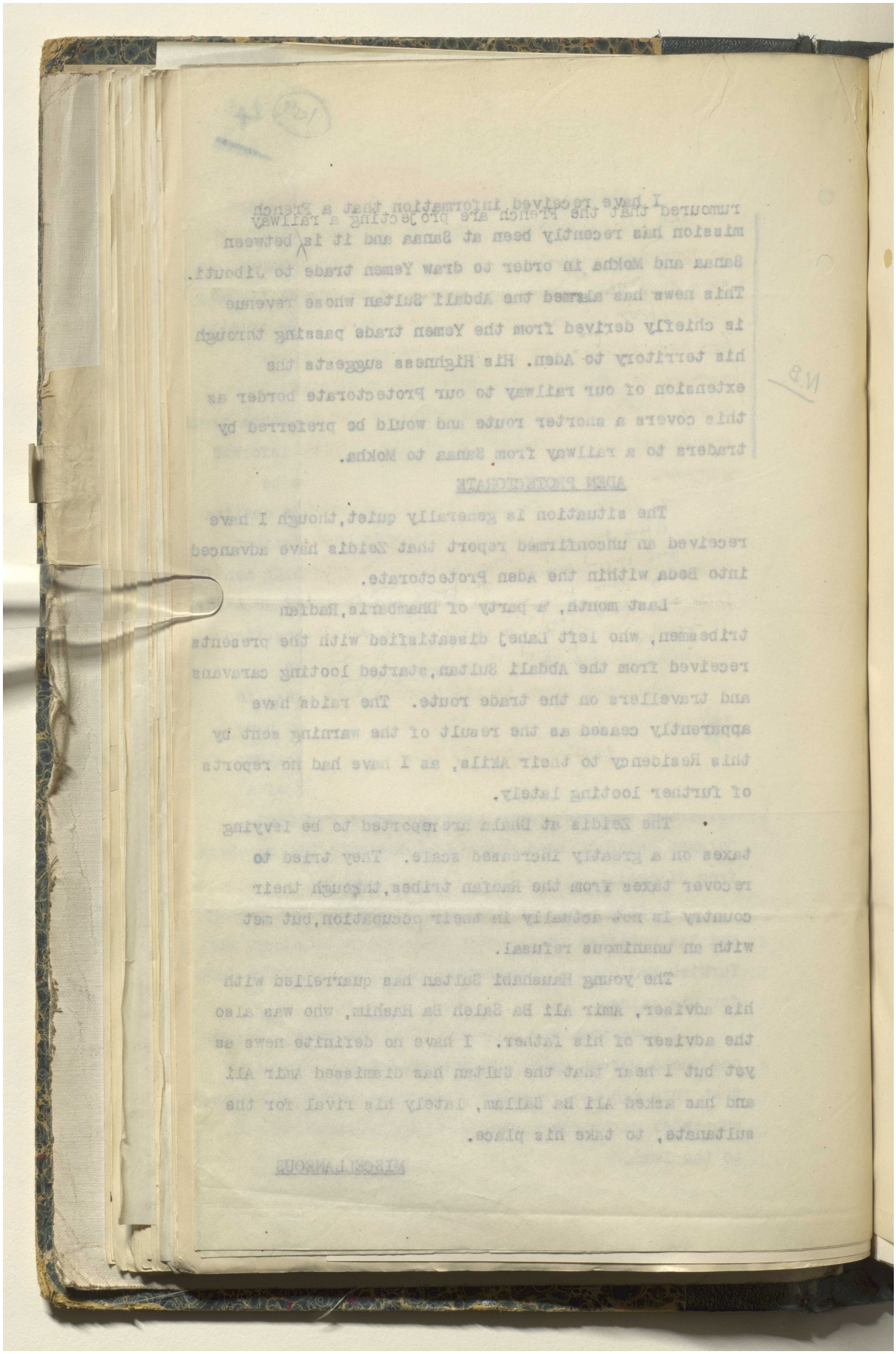

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MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs.Rosita Forbes accompanied by Kamil Bey Fahmi, an Egyptian, arrived at Jizan on the 25th November in a dhow from Egypt. Her object is to travel in the interior of the country, but the Idrisi has refused her permission as he is unable to guarantee her safety. He has, however, given her permission to visit all the places on the coast as far as Hodeidah and placed his own motor car at her disposal for the purpose.

On December 10th, she arrived at Hodeidah where she is awaiting the arrival of Saiyid Mustafa from Egypt, as she hopes he may be able to obtain permission from the Idrisi for her to visit the interior of Asir.

She also wishes to visit Sanaa and Saada, if permitted by the Iman.

Kamil Bey Fahmi is reported to have left for Cairo.

(Sgd) T.E.Scott, M.G.

To

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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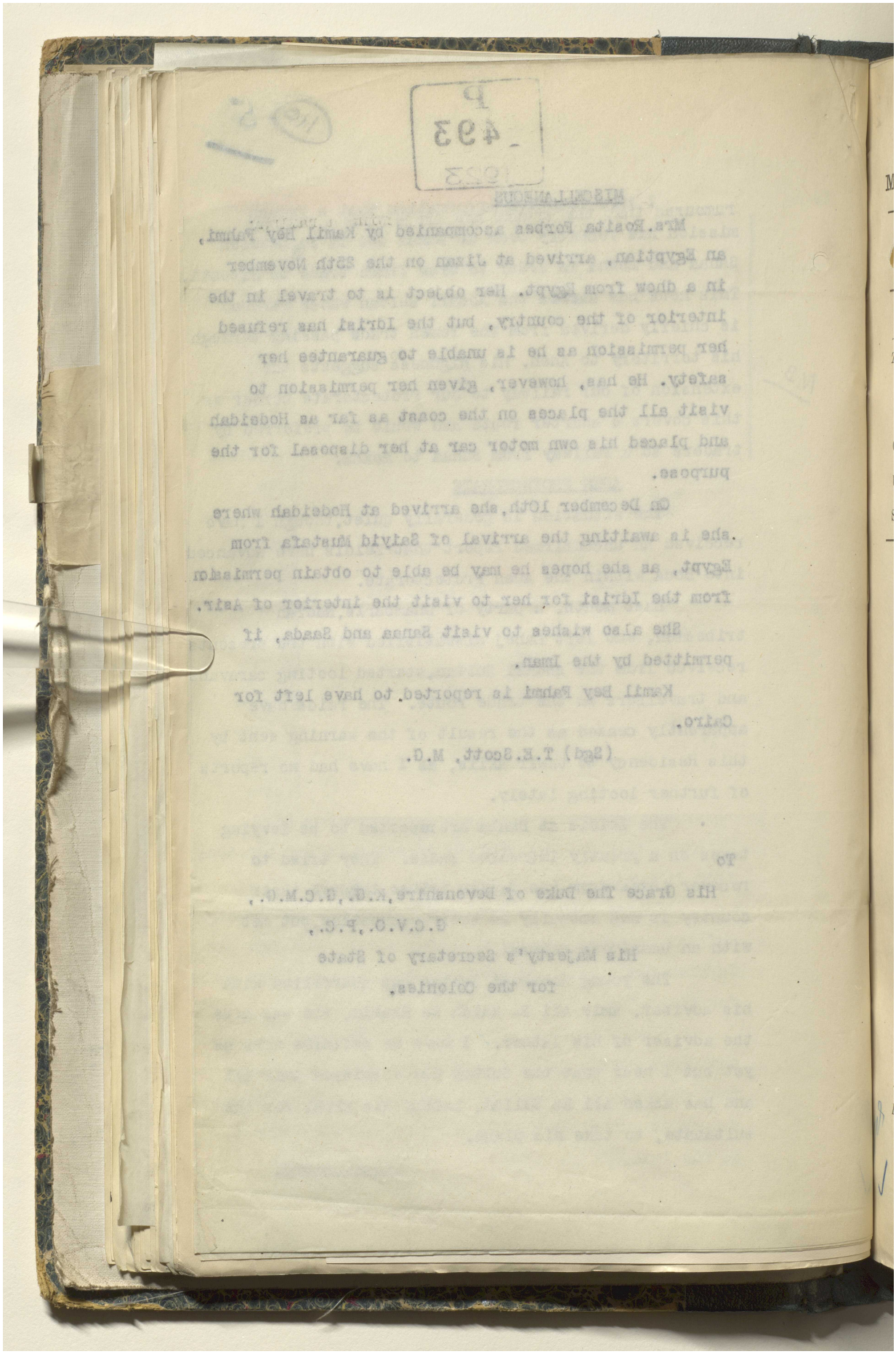

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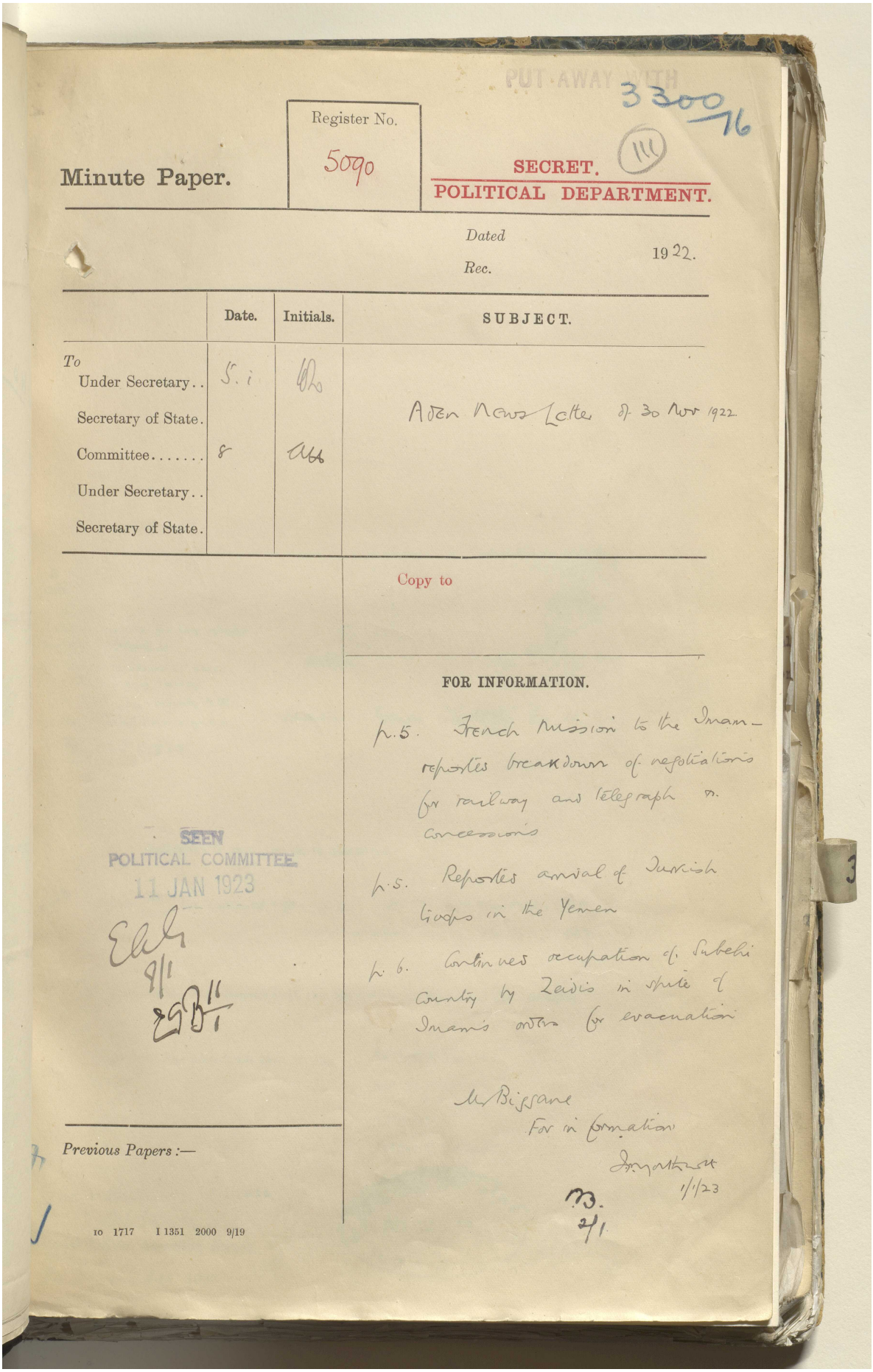

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Register No. 5090

SECRET. (111)
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1922.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..	5. i	[illegible]	Aden News Letter of 30 Nov 1922
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	8	[illegible]	
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 5. French mission to the Imam – reported breakdown of negotiations for railway and telegraph concessions

p. 5. Reported arrival of Turkish troops in the Yemen

p. 6. Continued occupation of Subehi country by Zaidis in spite of Imam's orders for evacuation

Mr Bigsane
For information
[illegible]
1/1/23

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
11 JAN 1923

Previous Papers :—

10 1717 I 1351 2000 9/19

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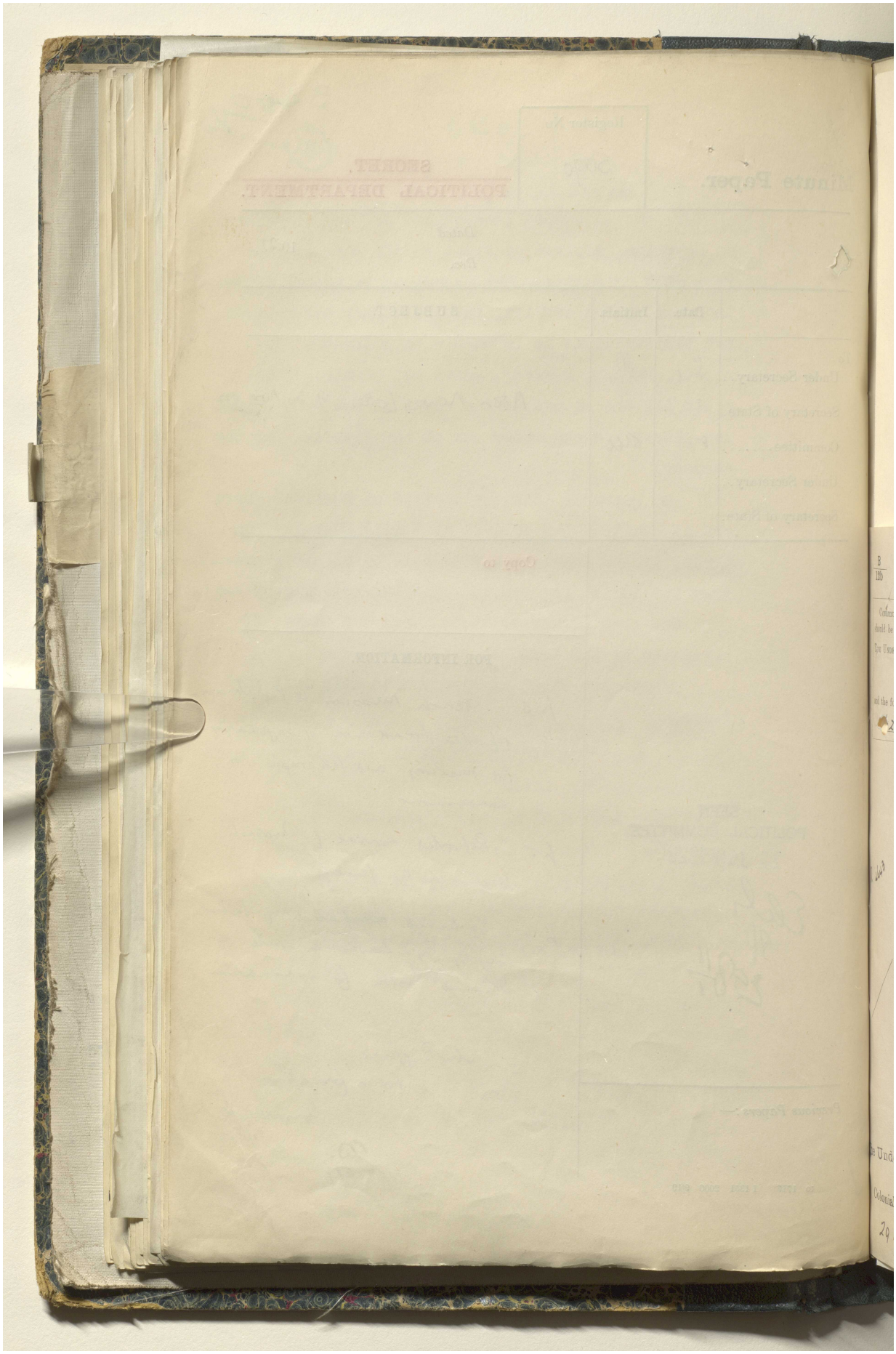

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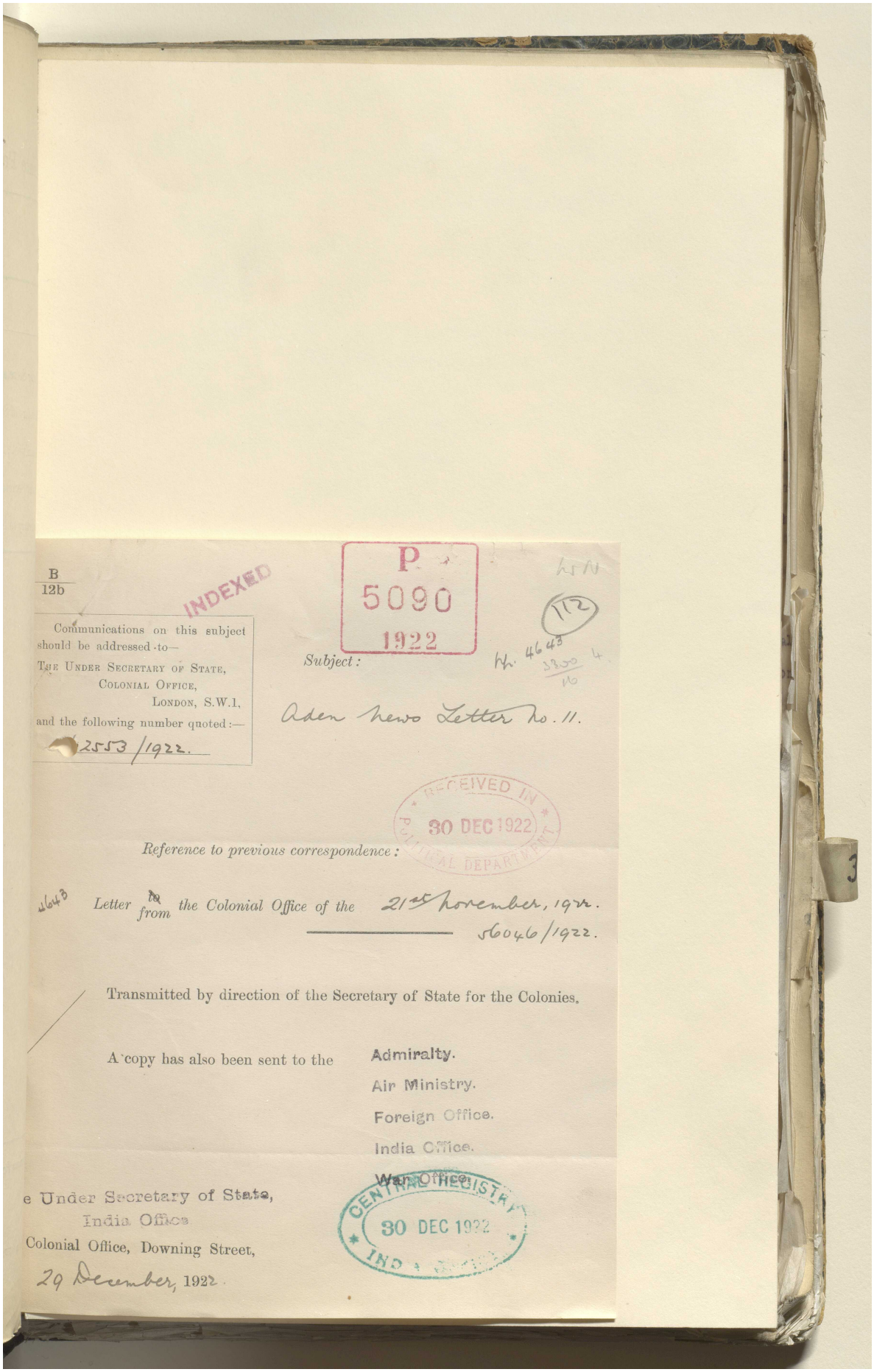

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INDEXED

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
2553/1922.

Subject:

Aden News Letter No. 11.

RECEIVED IN
30 DEC 1922
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 21st November, 1922.
56046/1922.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
India Office.
War Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
30 DEC 1922
IND

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
29 December, 1922.

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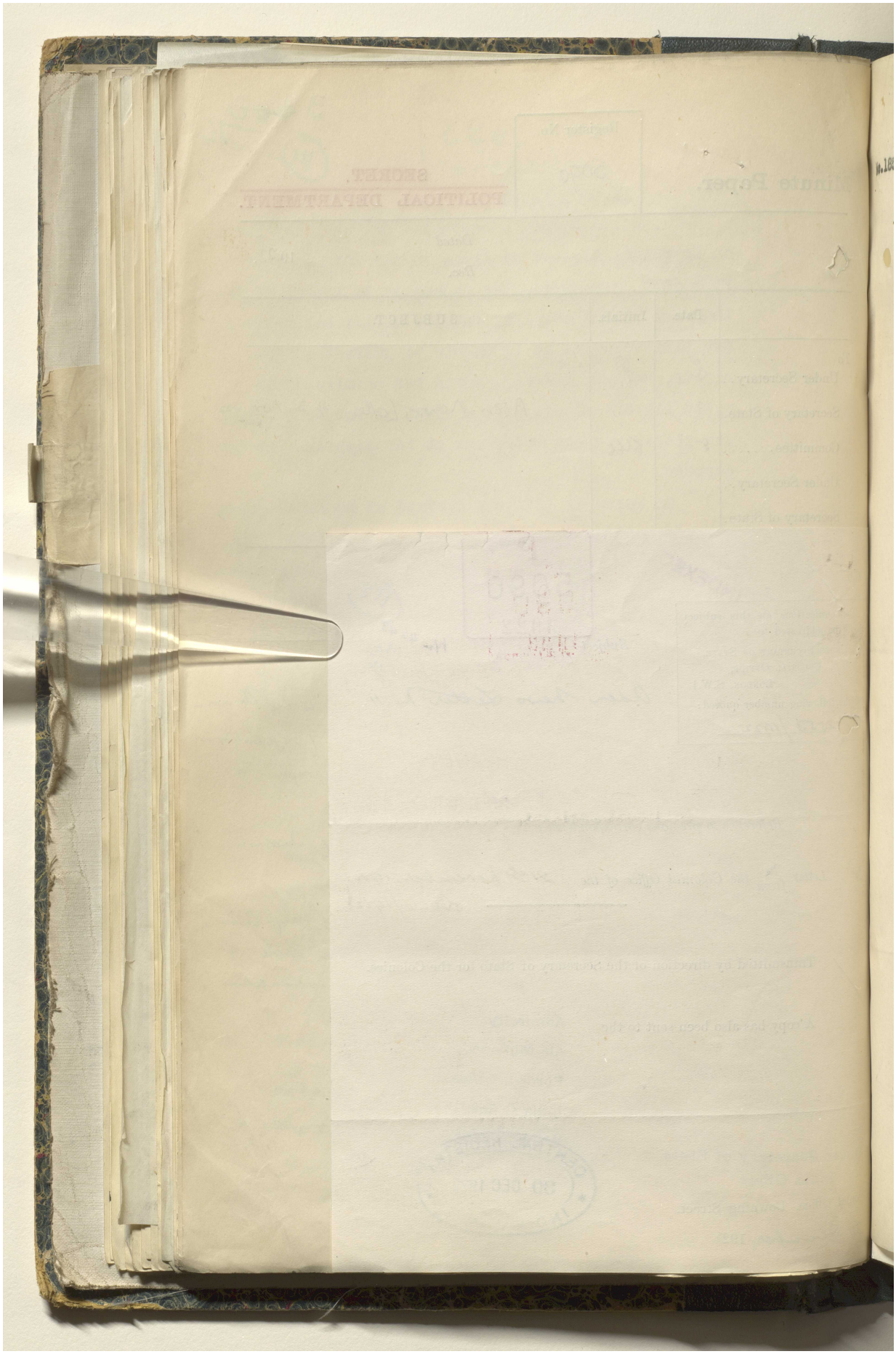

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1922

No.185. ,

Aden, Residency,
5th December,1922.

SECRET.

From,

Major General T.E. Scott, C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, three copies of the 11th Aden News Letter dated 30th November, 1922.

I have etc.,
T.E.Scott,
Major General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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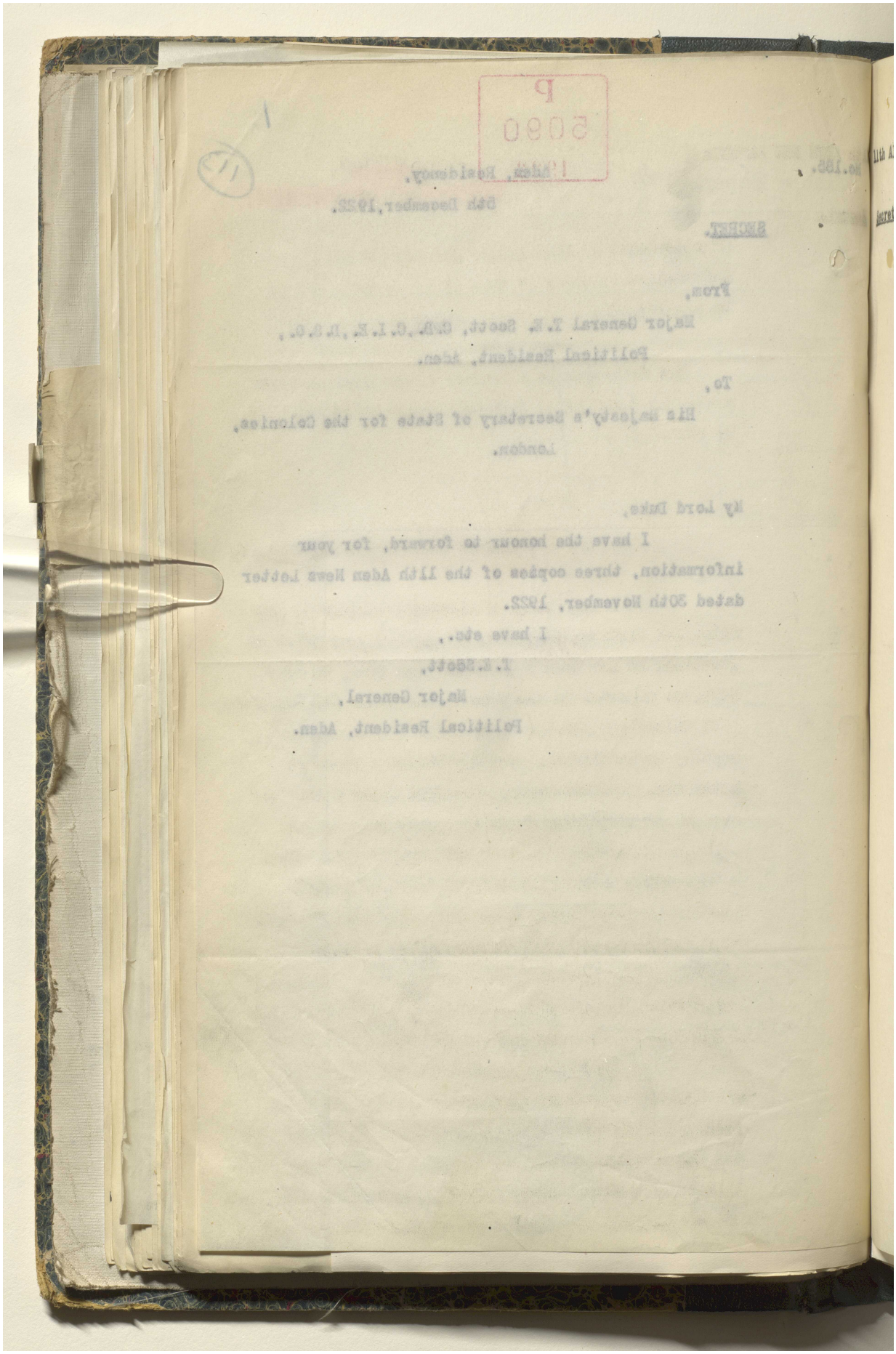

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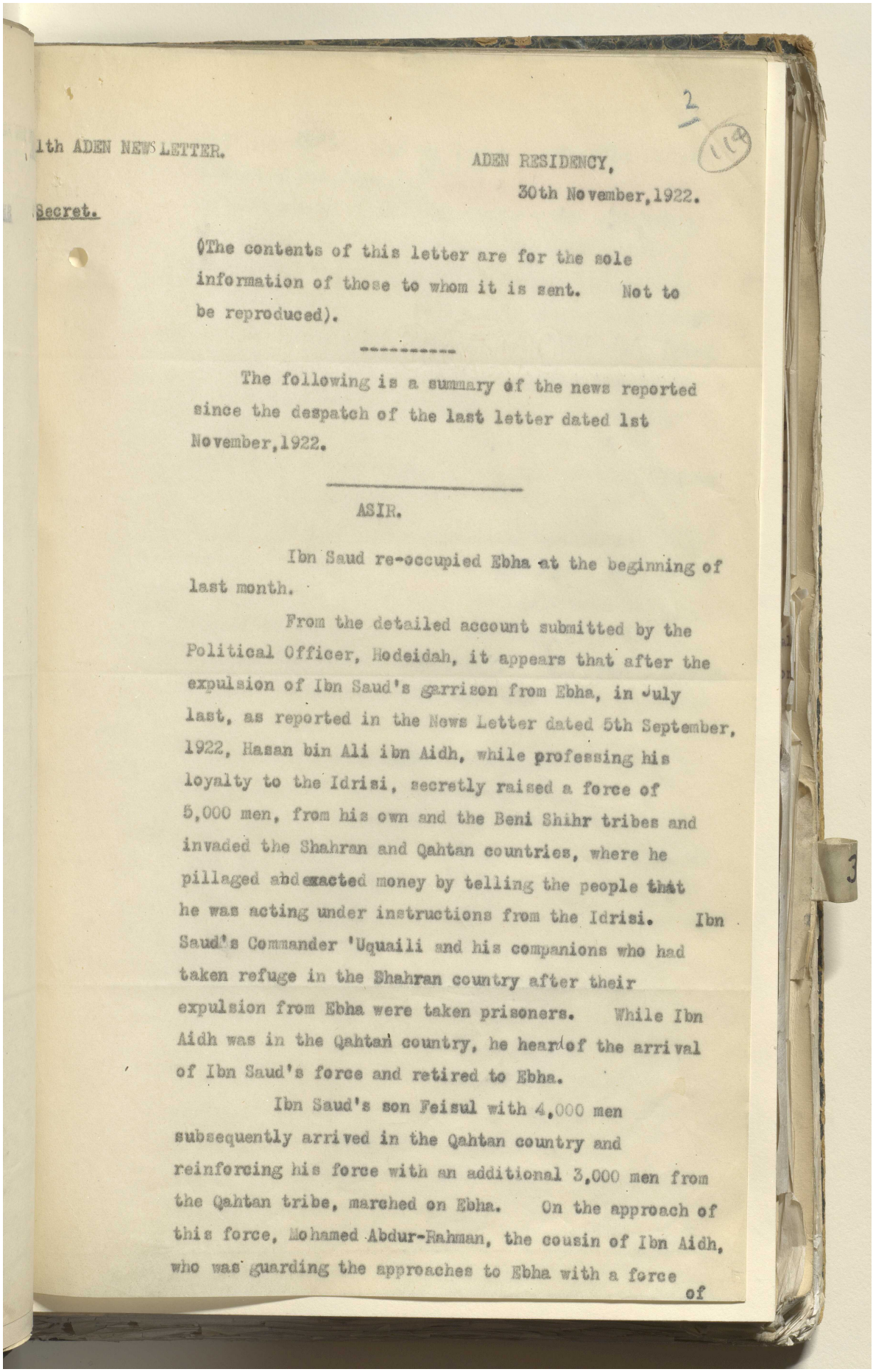

11th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
30th November,1922.

Secret.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of the last letter dated 1st November,1922.

ASIR.

Ibn Saud re-occupied Ebha at the beginning of last month.

From the detailed account submitted by the Political Officer, Hodeidah, it appears that after the expulsion of Ibn Saud's garrison from Ebha, in July last, as reported in the News Letter dated 5th September, 1922, Hasan bin Ali ibn Aidh, while professing his loyalty to the Idrisi, secretly raised a force of 5,000 men, from his own and the Beni Shihr tribes and invaded the Shahran and Qahtan countries, where he pillaged and exacted money by telling the people that he was acting under instructions from the Idrisi. Ibn Saud's Commander 'Uquaili and his companions who had taken refuge in the Shahran country after their expulsion from Ebha were taken prisoners. While Ibn Aidh was in the Qahtan country, he heard of the arrival of Ibn Saud's force and retired to Ebha.

Ibn Saud's son Feisul with 4,000 men subsequently arrived in the Qahtan country and reinforcing his force with an additional 3,000 men from the Qahtan tribe, marched on Ebha. On the approach of this force, Mohamed Abdur-Rahman, the cousin of Ibn Aidh, who was guarding the approaches to Ebha with a force of

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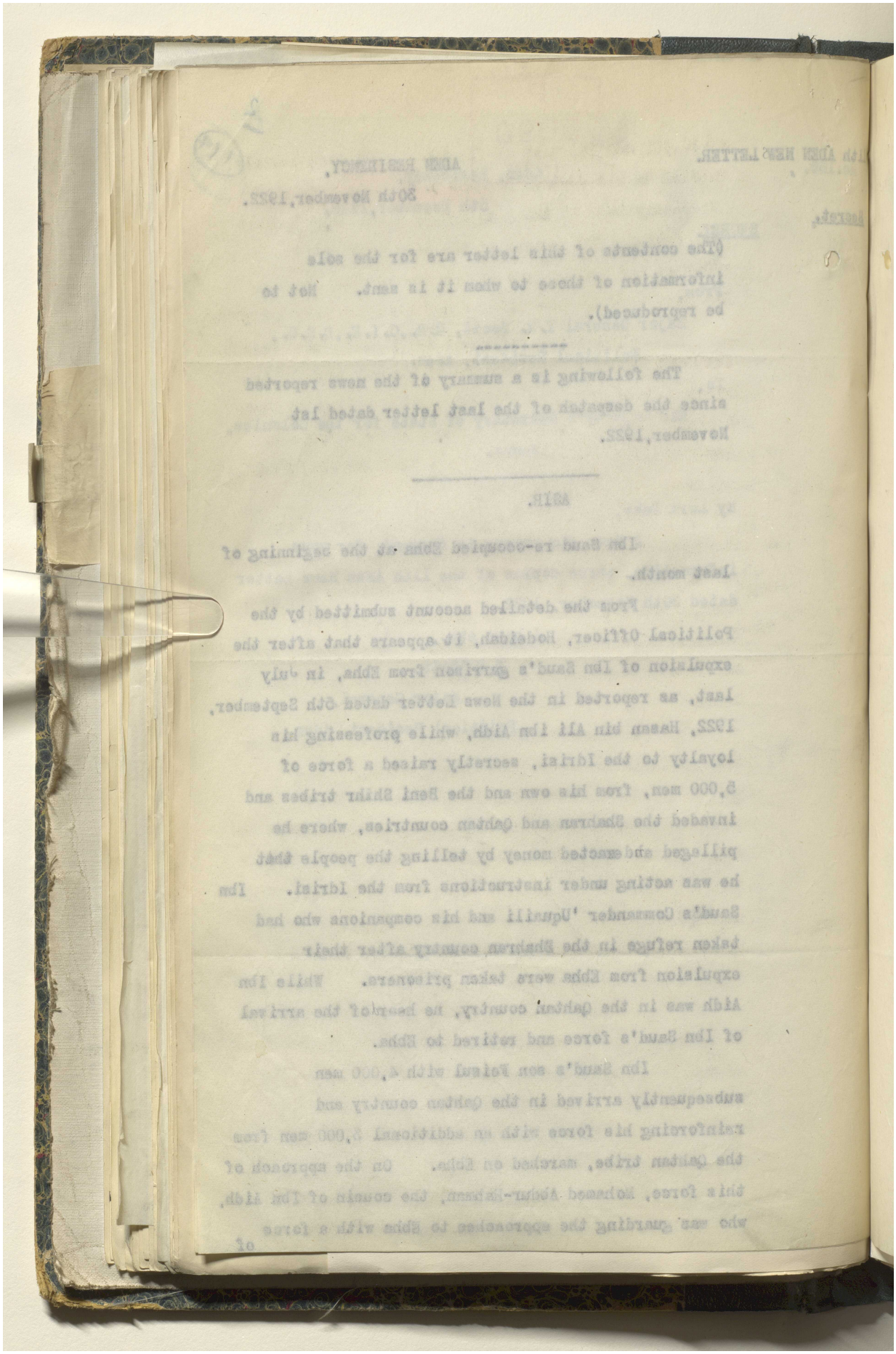

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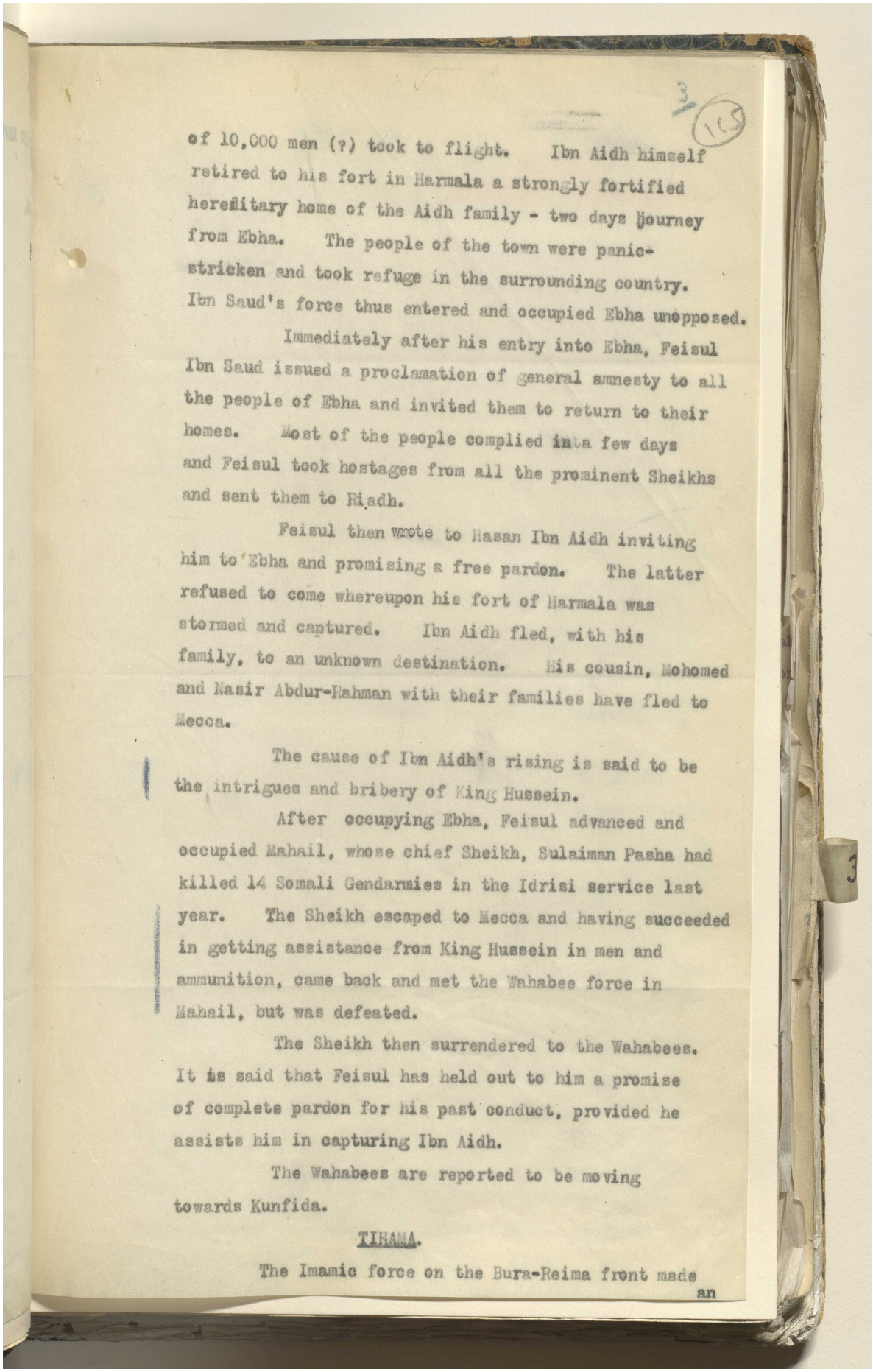

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of 10,000 men (?) took to flight. Ibn Aidh himself retired to his fort in Harmala a strongly fortified hereditary home of the Aidh family - two days journey from Ebha. The people of the town were panic-stricken and took refuge in the surrounding country. Ibn Saud's force thus entered and occupied Ebha unopposed.

Immediately after his entry into Ebha, Feisul Ibn Saud issued a proclamation of general amnesty to all the people of Ebha and invited them to return to their homes. Most of the people complied in a few days and Feisul took hostages from all the prominent Sheikhs and sent them to Riadh.

Feisul then wrote to Hasan Ibn Aidh inviting him to Ebha and promising a free pardon. The latter refused to come whereupon his fort of Harmala was stormed and captured. Ibn Aidh fled, with his family, to an unknown destination. His cousin, Mohomed and Nasir Abdur-Rahman with their families have fled to Mecca.

The cause of Ibn Aidh's rising is said to be the intrigues and bribery of King Hussein.

After occupying Ebha, Feisul advanced and occupied Mahail, whose chief Sheikh, Sulaiman Pasha had killed 14 Somali Gendarmies in the Idrisi service last year. The Sheikh escaped to Mecca and having succeeded in getting assistance from King Hussein in men and ammunition, came back and met the Wahabee force in Mahail, but was defeated.

The Sheikh then surrendered to the Wahabees. It is said that Feisul has held out to him a promise of complete pardon for his past conduct, provided he assists him in capturing Ibn Aidh.

The Wahabees are reported to be moving towards Kunfida.

TIHAMA.

The Imamic force on the Bura-Reima front made an

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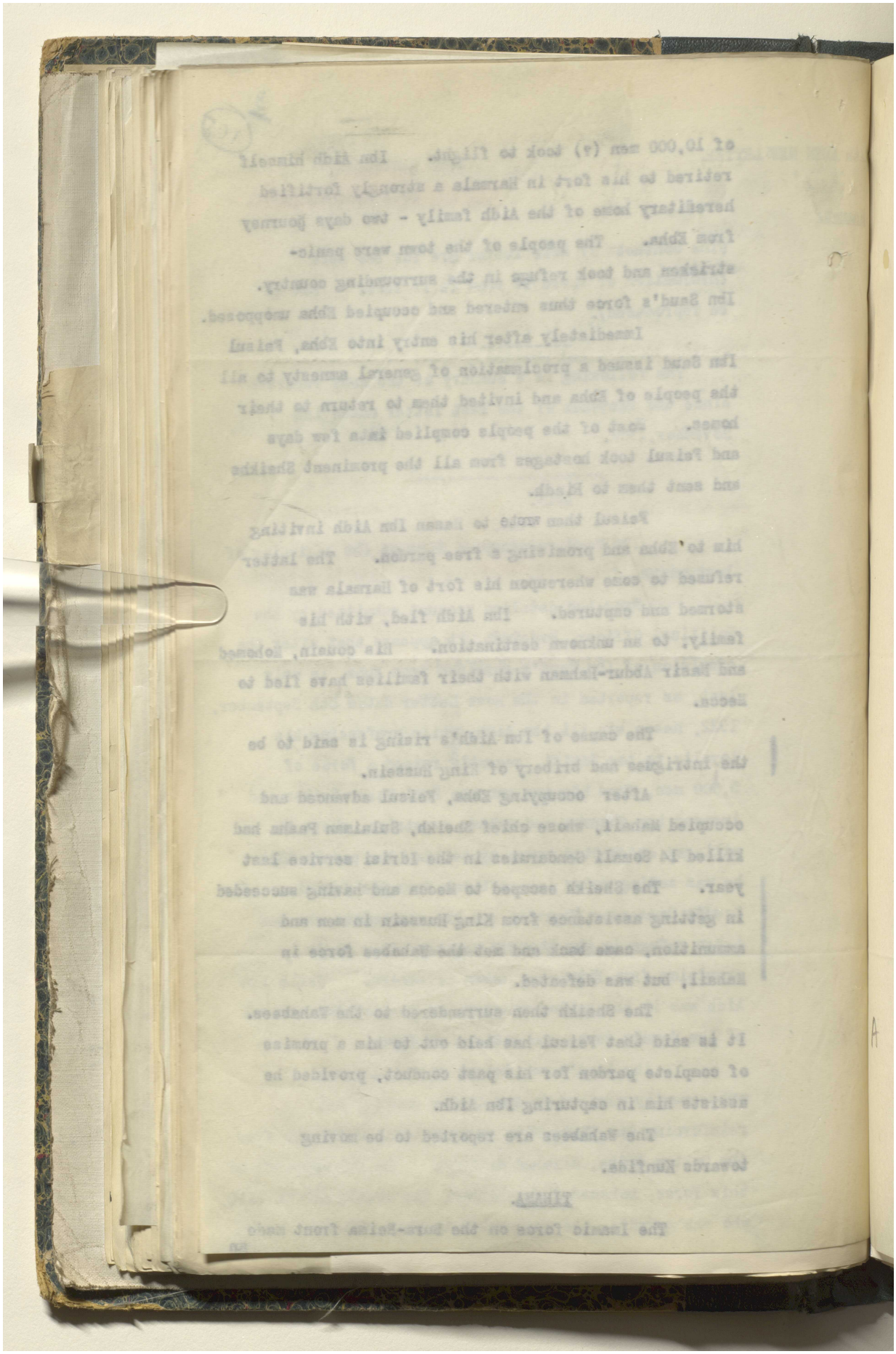

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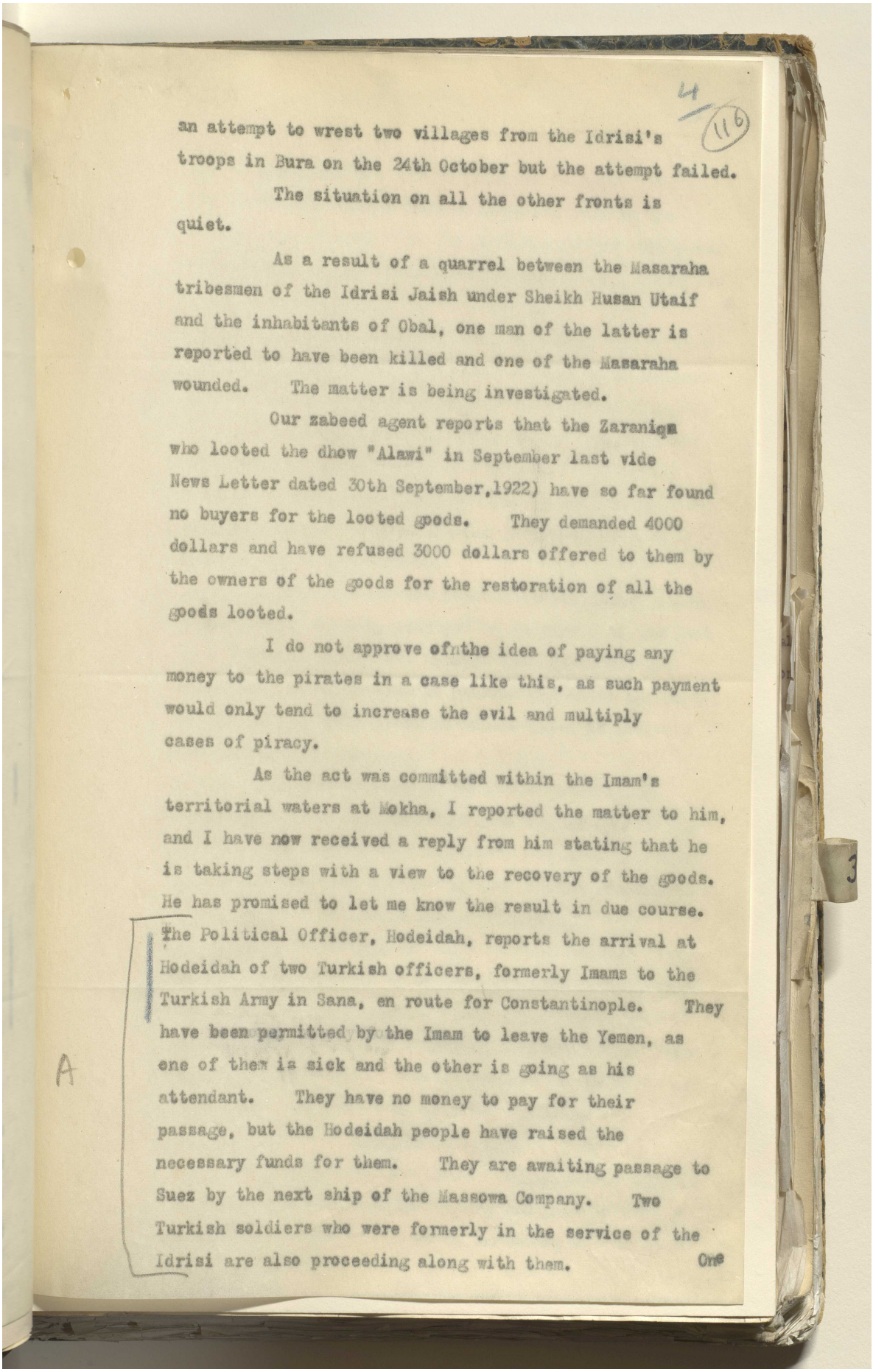

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an attempt to wrest two villages from the Idrisi's troops in Bura on the 24th October but the attempt failed.

The situation on all the other fronts is quiet.

As a result of a quarrel between the Masaraha tribesmen of the Idrisi Jaish under Sheikh Husan Utaif and the inhabitants of Obal, one man of the latter is reported to have been killed and one of the Masaraha wounded. The matter is being investigated.

Our zabeed agent reports that the Zaraniqa who looted the dhow "Alawi" in September last vide News Letter dated 30th September,1922) have so far found no buyers for the looted goods. They demanded 4000 dollars and have refused 3000 dollars offered to them by the owners of the goods for the restoration of all the goods looted.

I do not approve ofnthe idea of paying any money to the pirates in a case like this, as such payment would only tend to increase the evil and multiply cases of piracy.

As the act was committed within the Imam's territorial waters at Mokha, I reported the matter to him, and I have now received a reply from him stating that he is taking steps with a view to the recovery of the goods. He has promised to let me know the result in due course.

The Political Officer, Hodeidah, reports the arrival at Hodeidah of two Turkish officers, formerly Imams to the Turkish Army in Sana, en route for Constantinople. They have been permitted by the Imam to leave the Yemen, as one of them is sick and the other is going as his attendant. They have no money to pay for their passage, but the Hodeidah people have raised the necessary funds for them. They are awaiting passage to Suez by the next ship of the Massowa Company. Two Turkish soldiers who were formerly in the service of the Idrisi are also proceeding along with them. One

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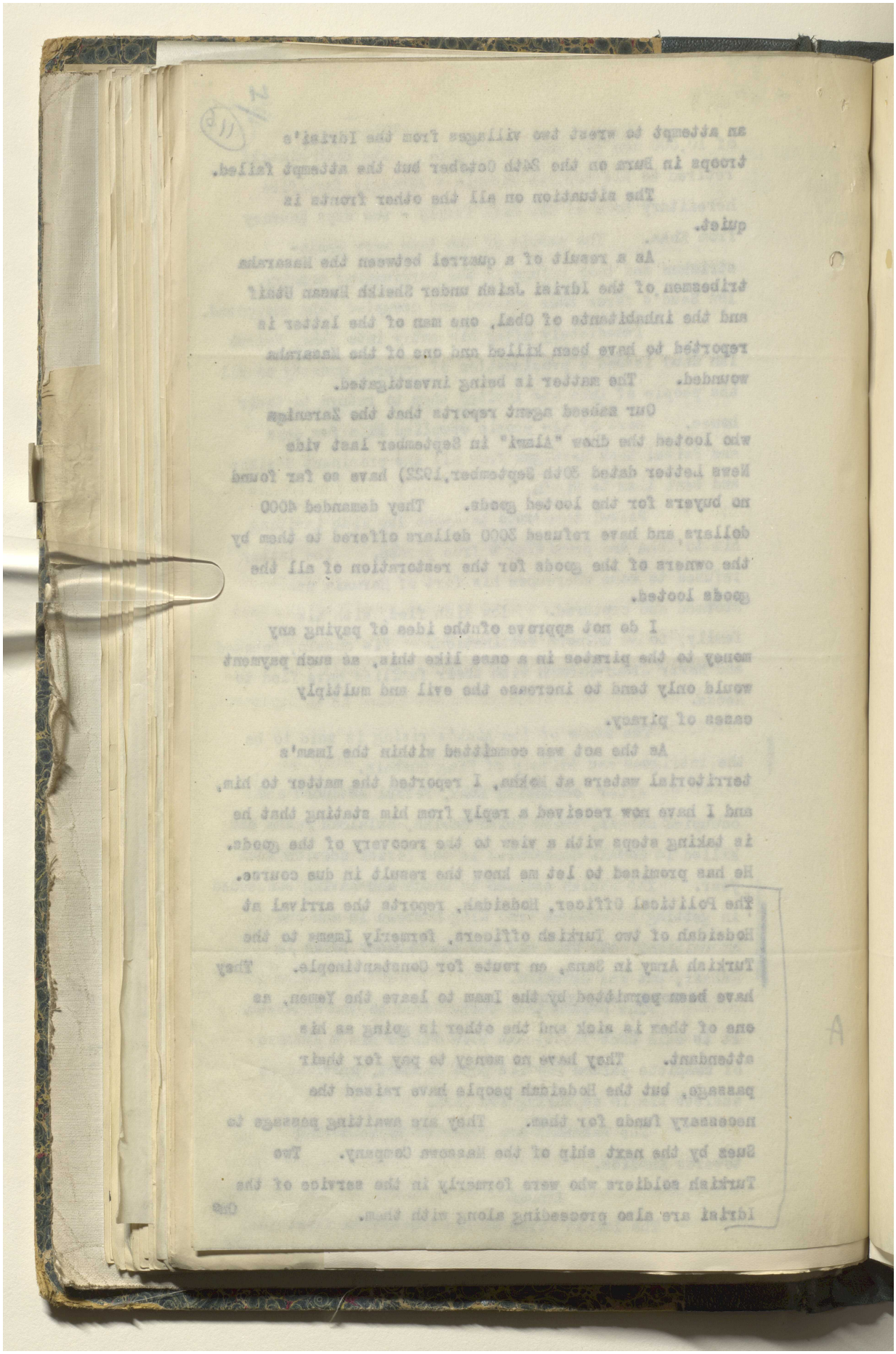

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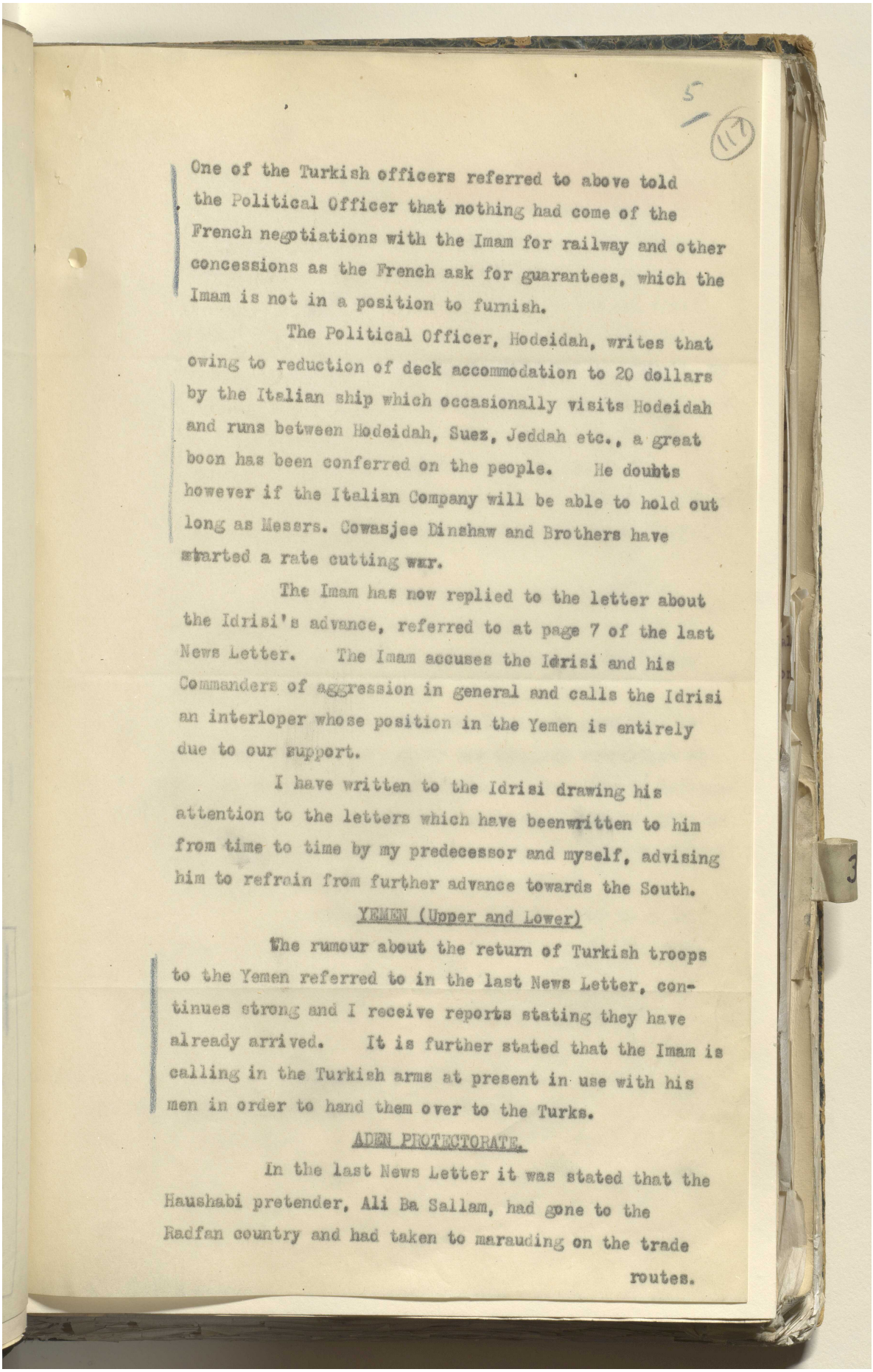

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One of the Turkish officers referred to above told the Political Officer that nothing had come of the French negotiations with the Imam for railway and other concessions as the French ask for guarantees, which the Imam is not in a position to furnish.

The Political Officer, Hodeidah, writes that owing to reduction of deck accommodation to 20 dollars by the Italian ship which occasionally visits Hodeidah and runs between Hodeidah, Suez, Jeddah etc., a great boon has been conferred on the people. He doubts however if the Italian Company will be able to hold out long as Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers have started a rate cutting war.

The Imam has now replied to the letter about the Idrisi's advance, referred to at page 7 of the last News Letter. The Imam accuses the Idrisi and his Commanders of aggression in general and calls the Idrisi an interloper whose position in the Yemen is entirely due to our support.

I have written to the Idrisi drawing his attention to the letters which have beenwritten to him from time to time by my predecessor and myself, advising him to refrain from further advance towards the South.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

The rumour about the return of Turkish troops to the Yemen referred to in the last News Letter, continues strong and I receive reports stating they have already arrived. It is further stated that the Imam is calling in the Turkish arms at present in use with his men in order to hand them over to the Turks.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

In the last News Letter it was stated that the Haushabi pretender, Ali Ba Sallam, had gone to the Radfan country and had taken to marauding on the trade routes.

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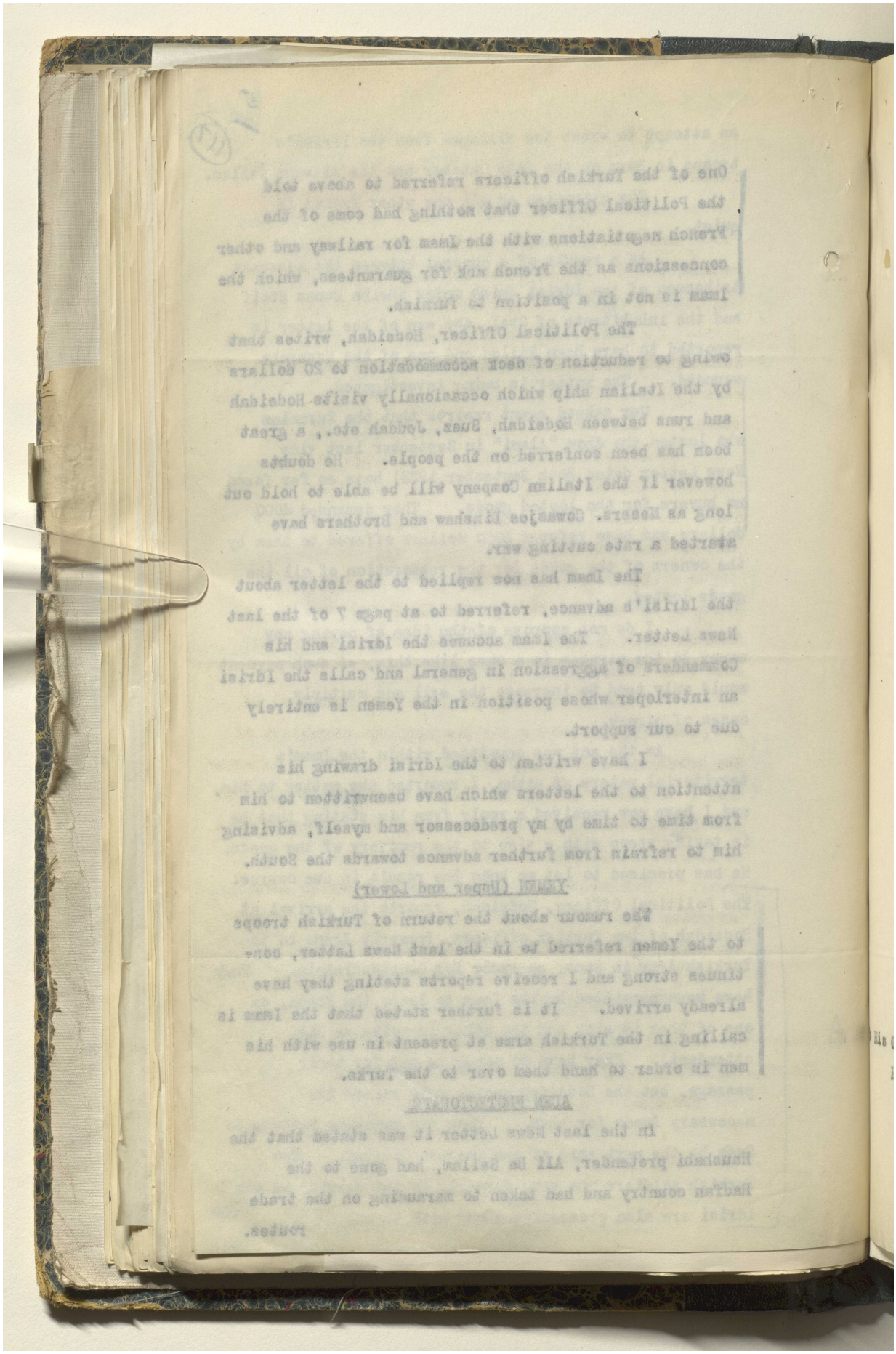

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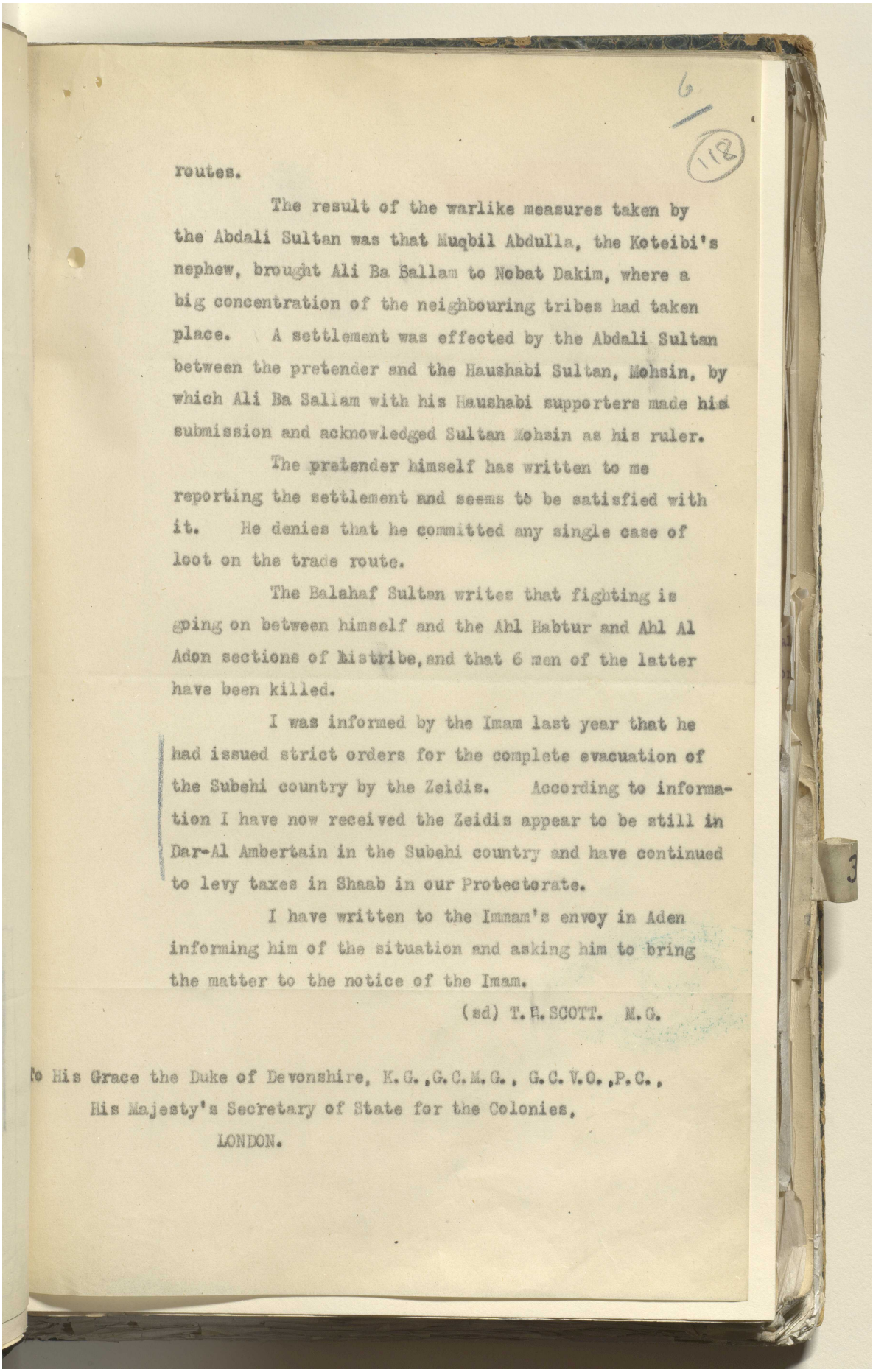

routes.

The result of the warlike measures taken by the Abdali Sultan was that Muqbil Abdulla, the Koteibi's nephew, brought Ali Ba Sallam to Nobat Dakim, where a big concentration of the neighbouring tribes had taken place. A settlement was effected by the Abdali Sultan between the pretender and the Haushabi Sultan, Mohsin, by which Ali Ba Sallam with his Haushabi supporters made his submission and acknowledged Sultan Mohsin as his ruler.

The pretender himself has written to me reporting the settlement and seems to be satisfied with it. He denies that he committed any single case of loot on the trade route.

The Balahaf Sultan writes that fighting is going on between himself and the Ahl Habtur and Ahl Al Aden sections of his tribe, and that 6 men of the latter have been killed.

I was informed by the Imam last year that he had issued strict orders for the complete evacuation of the Subehi country by the Zeidis. According to information I have now received the Zeidis appear to be still in Dar-Al Ambertain in the Subehi country and have continued to levy taxes in Shaab in our Protectorate.

I have written to the Immam's envoy in Aden informing him of the situation and asking him to bring the matter to the notice of the Imam.

(sd) T.H.SCOTT. M.G.

To His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G.,G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
LONDON.

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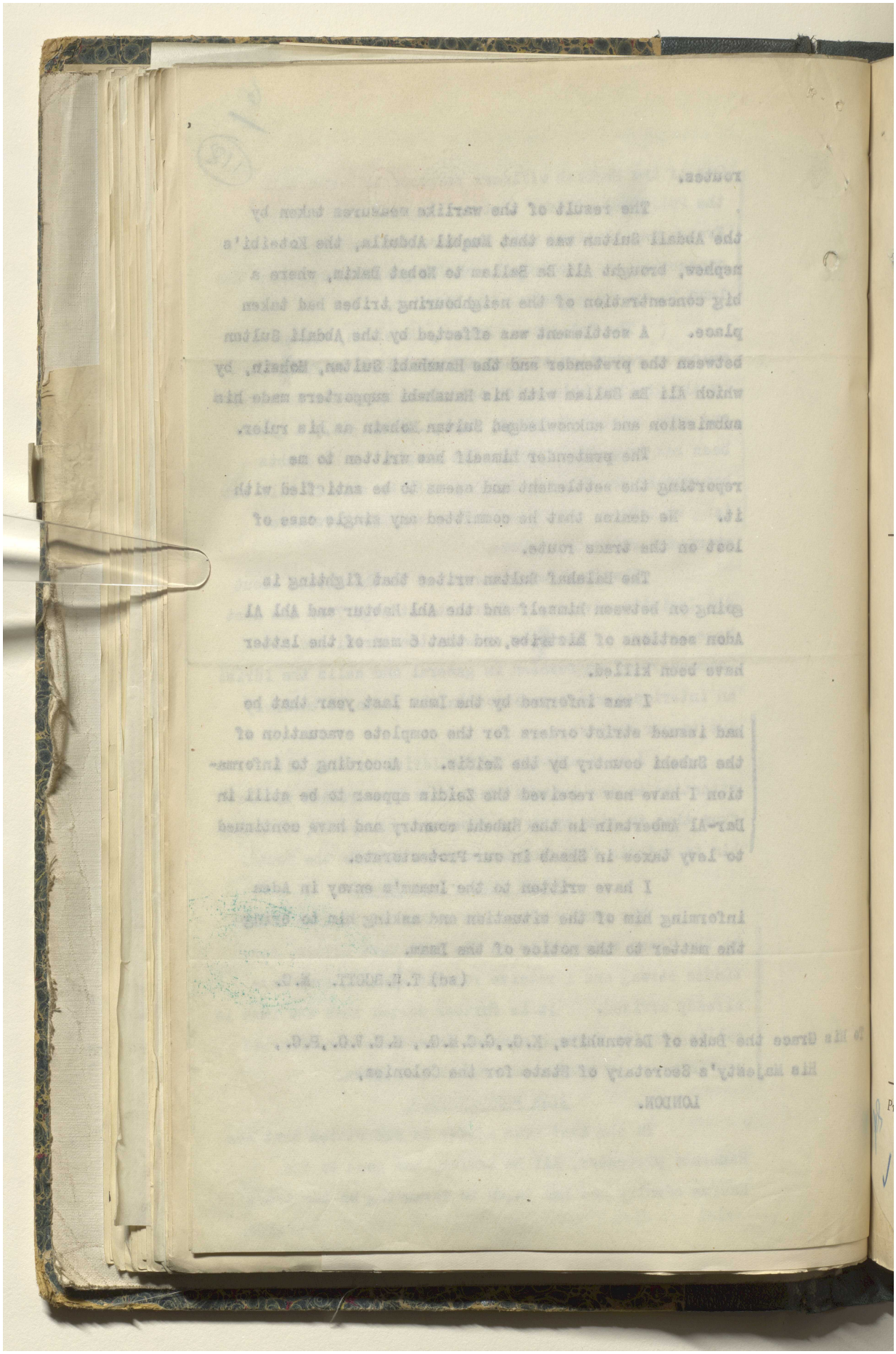

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Register No. P. 4643

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 1922

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..	1. xii	HO	Aden News Letter
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	/	Add	dated 1st November
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to ✓

FOR INFORMATION.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
12 DEC 1922

Pp. 3-4. Reported intervention of Mustapha Kemal in the Imam - Idrisi dispute.

It is not probable that the Angora Govt. has any serious design to reestablish Turkish sovereignty in the Yemen. Such a design would not appear to be in harmony with their general programme.

Pp. 7-8. Discussions are proceeding with Qadhi al Arashi in regard to the Afr. treaty with the Imam. Hodeidah remains the stumbling-block. Meanwhile Zeidi activity in the Protectorate continues.

Mr. Biggar For ifn any remarks gas 23/11

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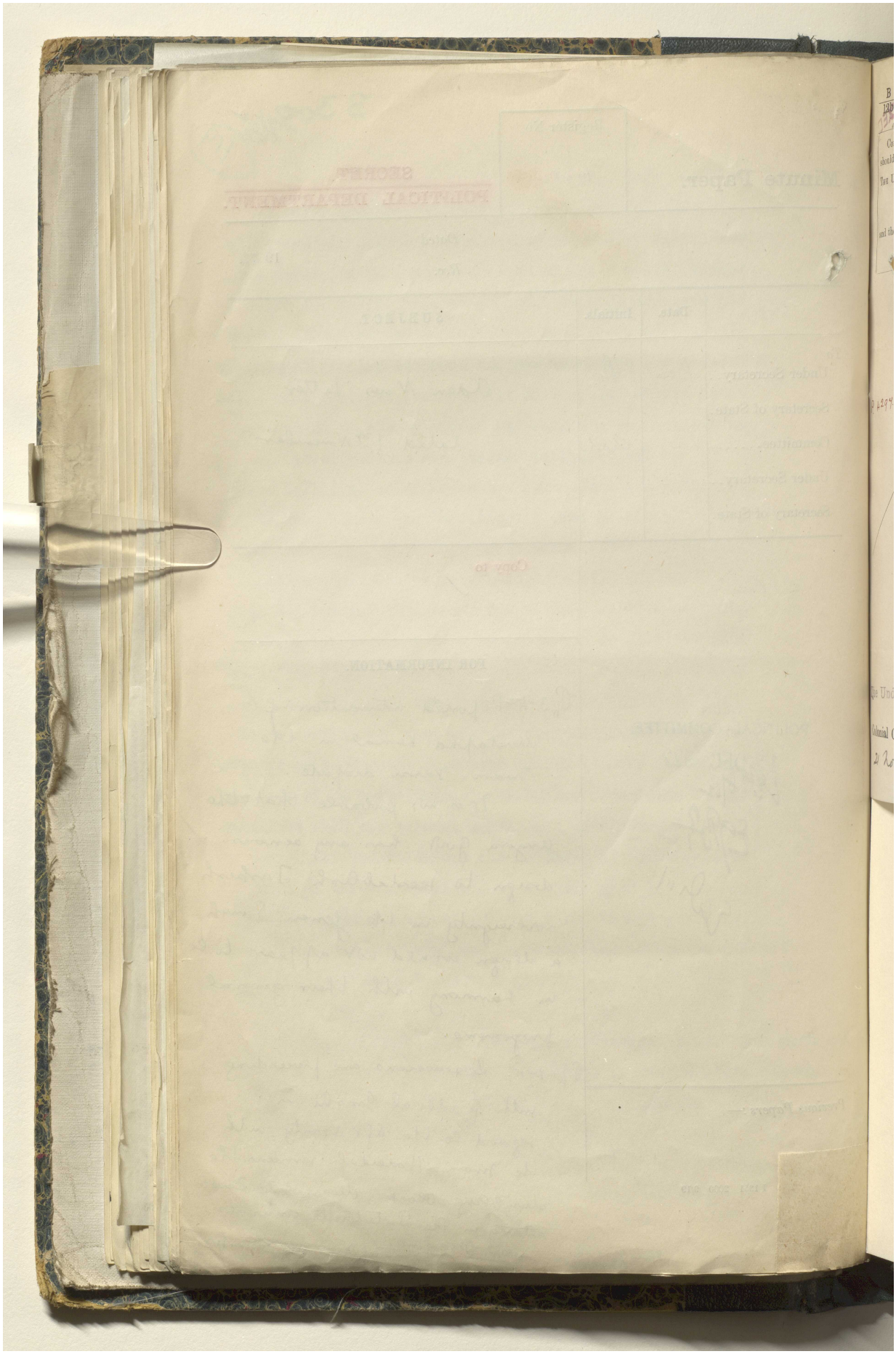

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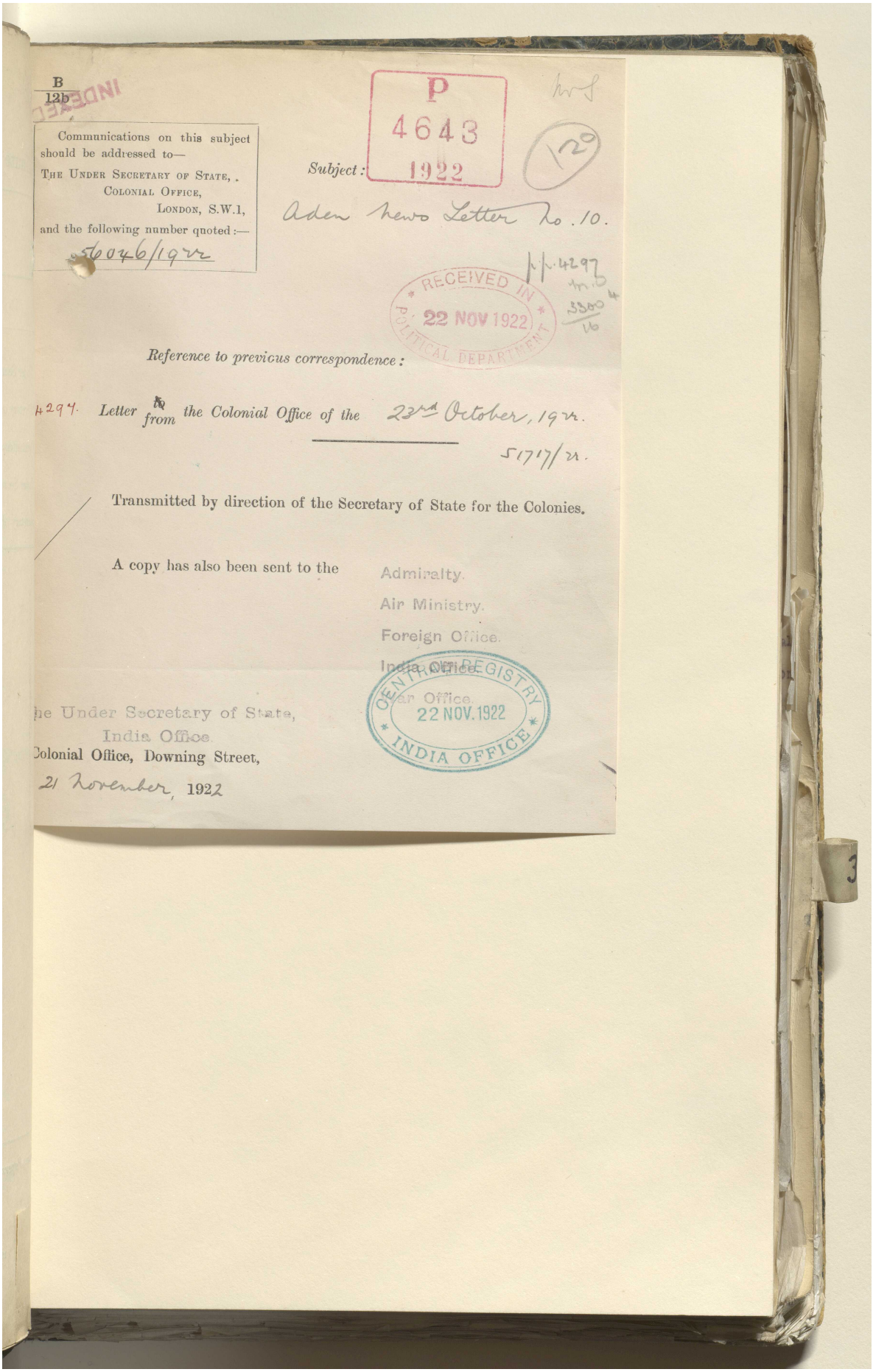

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
56046/1922

P
4643
1922

Subject: Aden News Letter No. 10.

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22 NOV 1922

Reference to previous correspondence:

4294. Letter from the Colonial Office of the 23rd October, 1922.
5171/22.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the

Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
India Office.
War Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
22 NOV. 1922
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
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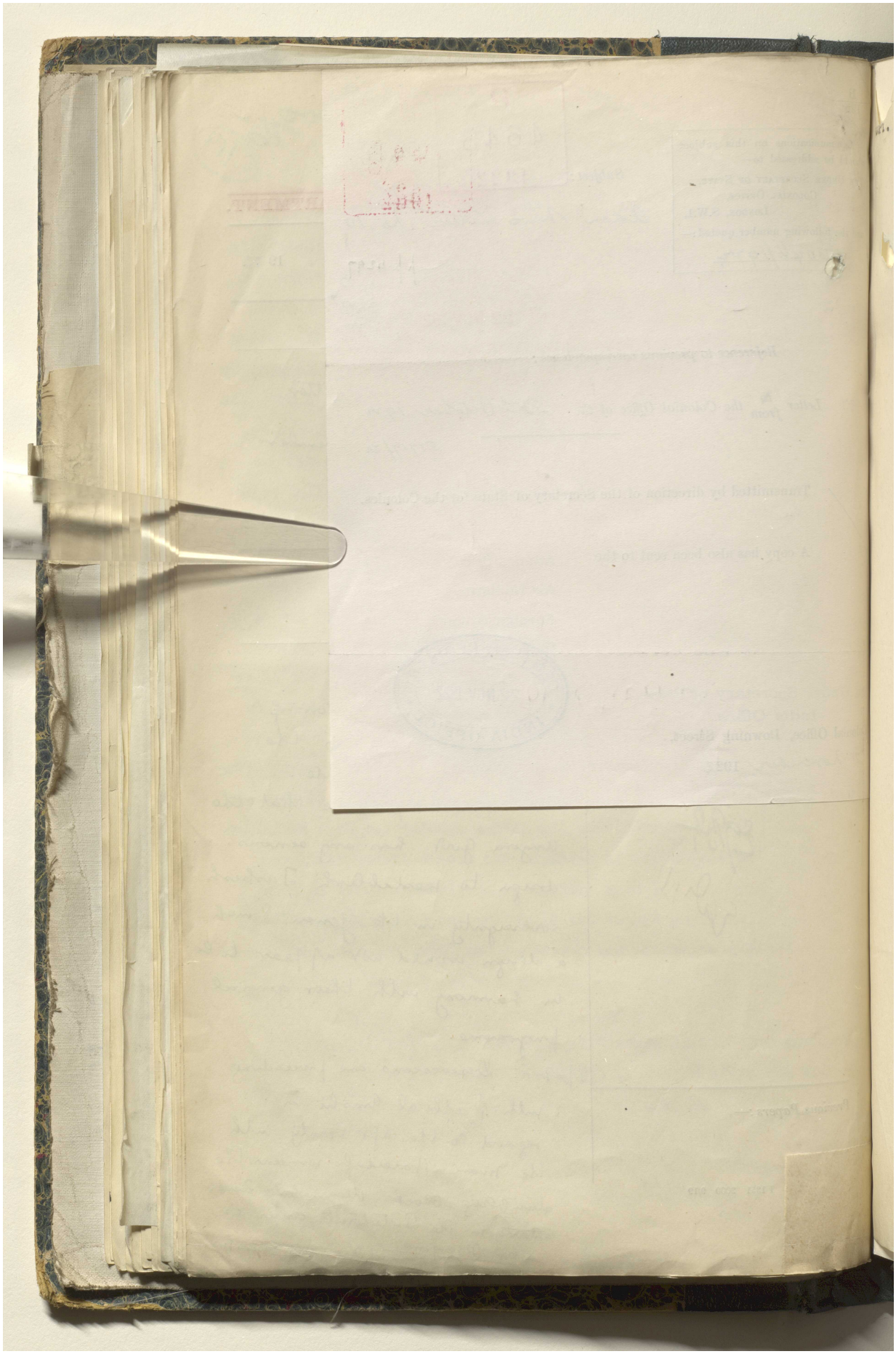

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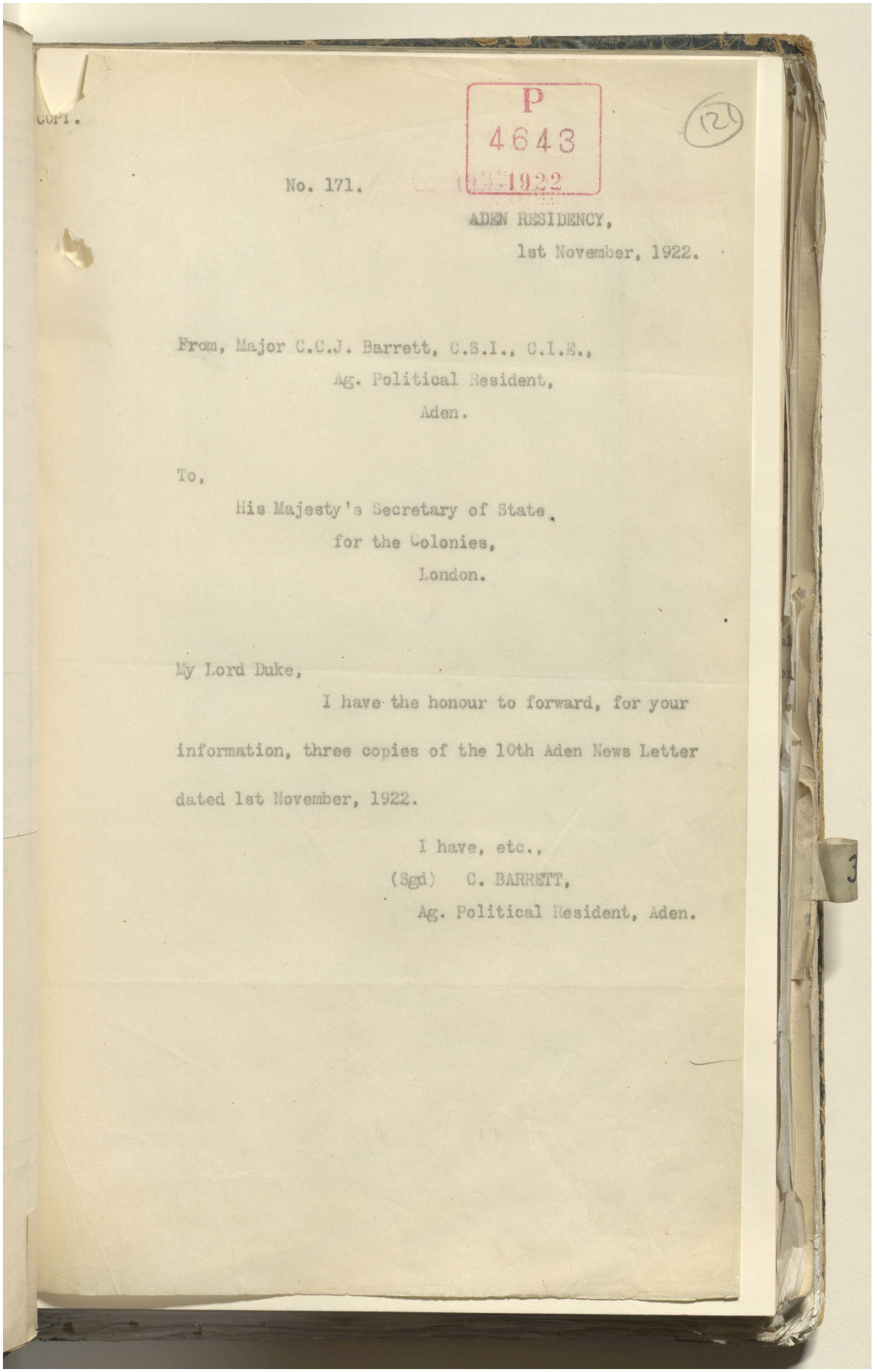

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1922

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No. 171.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
1st November, 1922.

From, Major C.C.J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Ag. Political Resident,
Aden.

To,
His Majesty's Secretary of State,
for the Colonies,
London.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, three copies of the 10th Aden News Letter dated 1st November, 1922.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd) C. BARRETT,
Ag. Political Resident, Aden.

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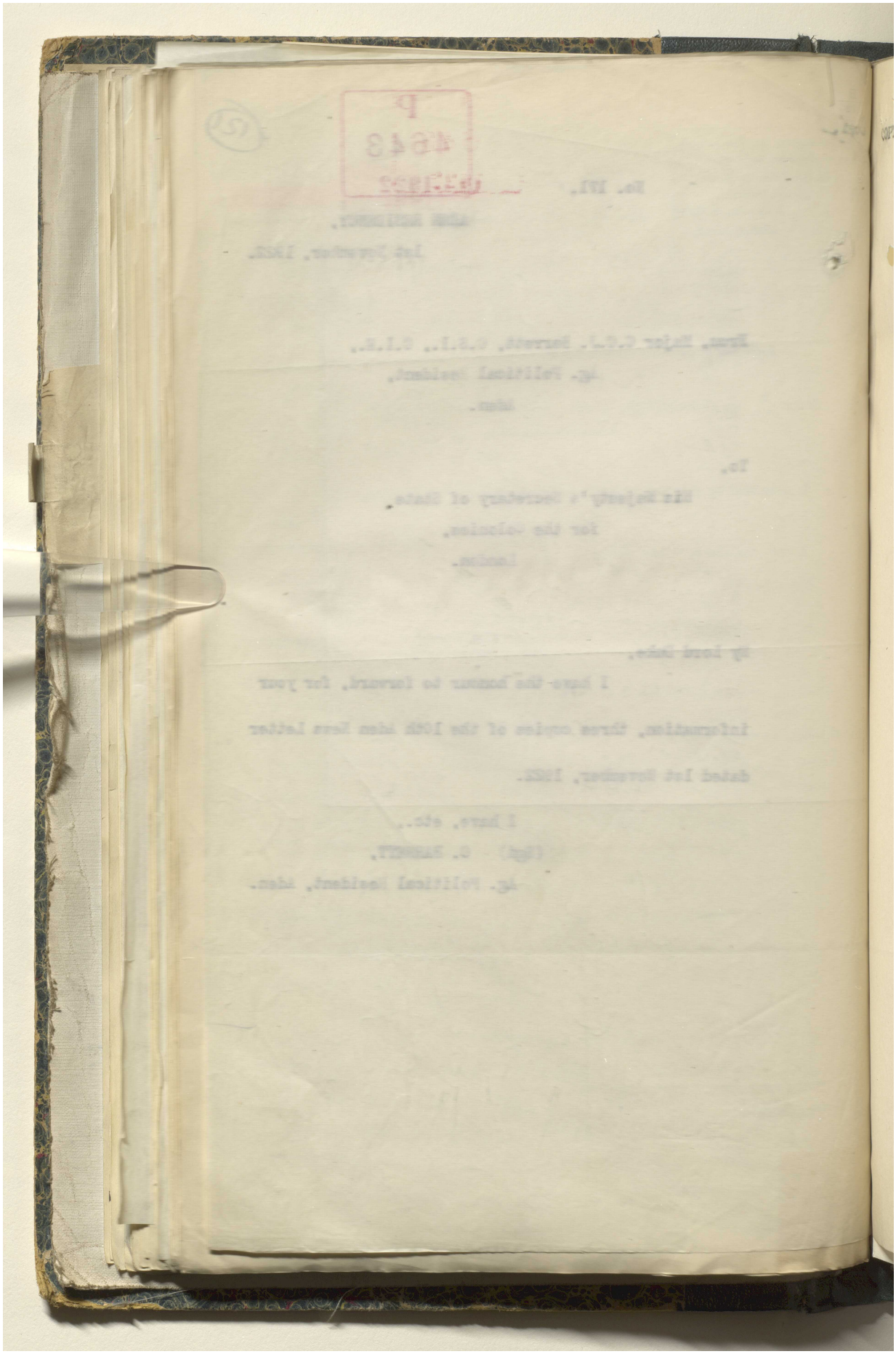

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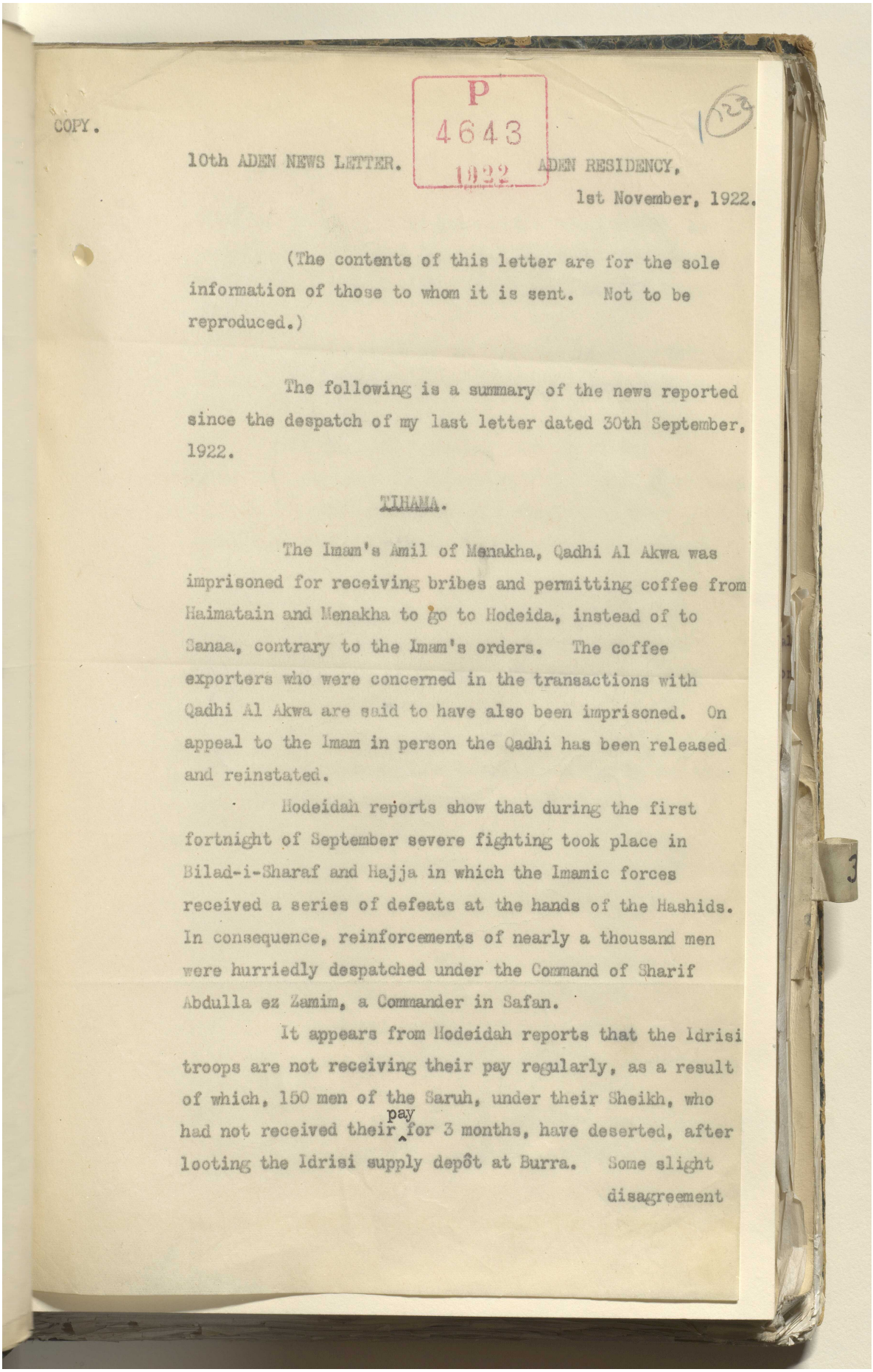

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10th ADEN NEWS LETTER. ADEN RESIDENCY,
1st November, 1922.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 30th September, 1922.

TIHAMA.

The Imam's Amil of Menakha, Qadhi Al Akwa was imprisoned for receiving bribes and permitting coffee from Haimatain and Menakha to go to Hodeida, instead of to Sanaa, contrary to the Imam's orders. The coffee exporters who were concerned in the transactions with Qadhi Al Akwa are said to have also been imprisoned. On appeal to the Imam in person the Qadhi has been released and reinstated.

Hodeidah reports show that during the first fortnight of September severe fighting took place in Bilad-i-Sharaf and Hajja in which the Imamic forces received a series of defeats at the hands of the Hashids. In consequence, reinforcements of nearly a thousand men were hurriedly despatched under the Command of Sharif Abdulla ez Zamim, a Commander in Safan.

It appears from Hodeidah reports that the Idrisi troops are not receiving their pay regularly, as a result of which, 150 men of the Saruh, under their Sheikh, who had not received their pay for 3 months, have deserted, after looting the Idrisi supply depôt at Burra. Some slight disagreement

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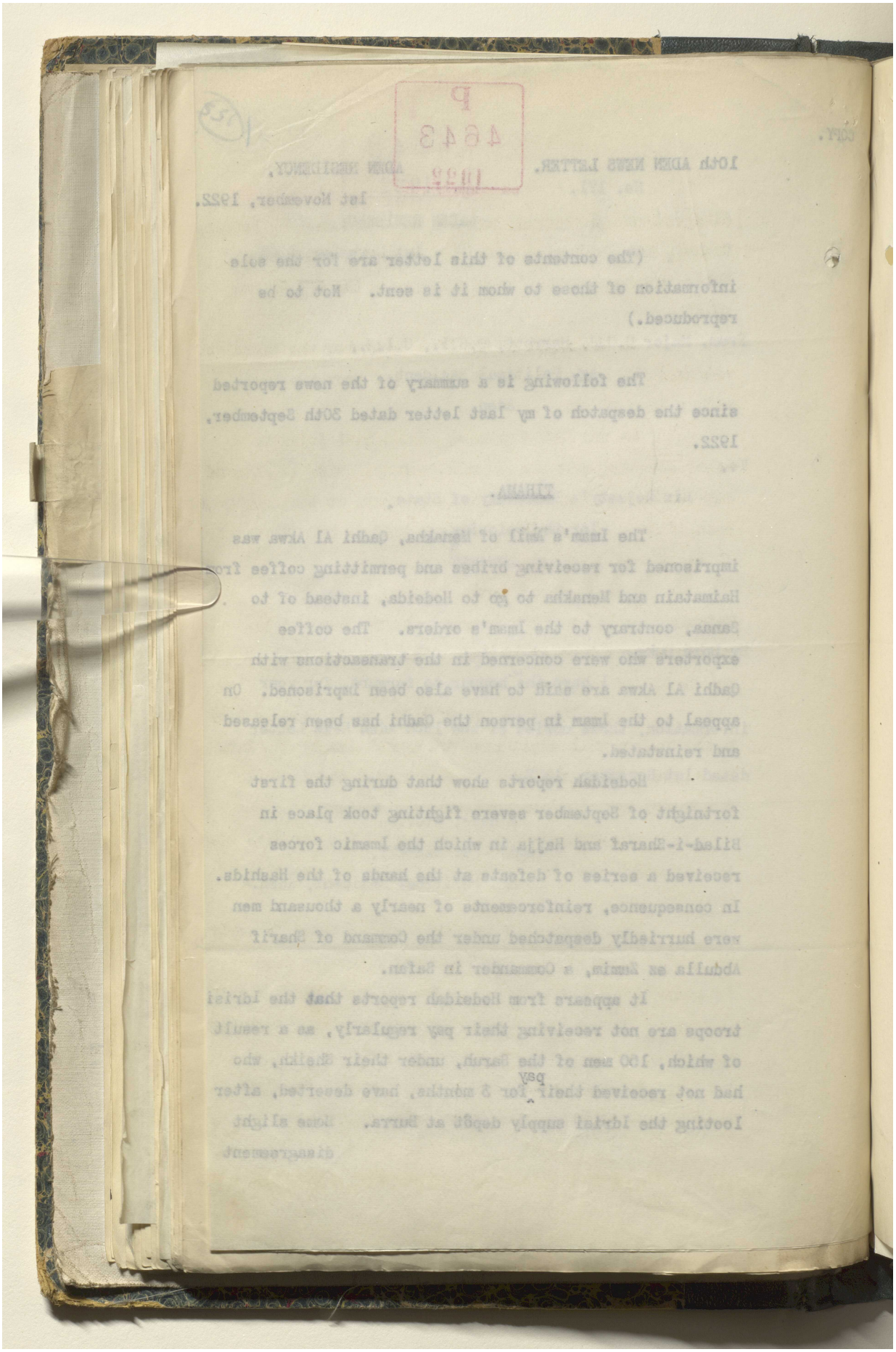

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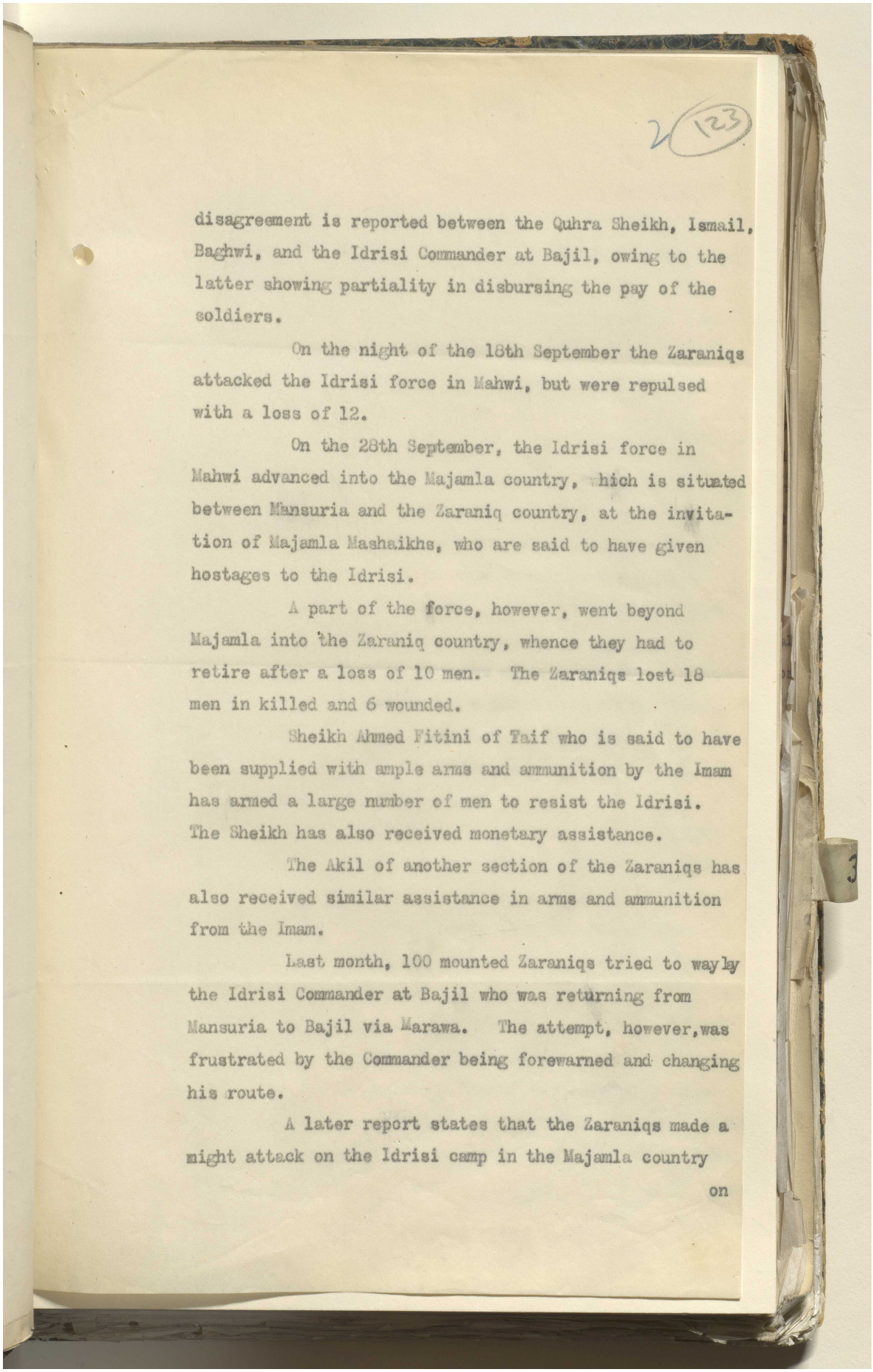

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disagreement is reported between the Quhra Sheikh, Ismail, Baghwi, and the Idrisi Commander at Bajil, owing to the latter showing partiality in disbursing the pay of the soldiers.

On the night of the 18th September the Zaraniqs attacked the Idrisi force in Mahwi, but were repulsed with a loss of 12.

On the 28th September, the Idrisi force in Mahwi advanced into the Majamla country, which is situated between Mansuria and the Zaraniq country, at the invitation of Majamla Mashaikhs, who are said to have given hostages to the Idrisi.

A part of the force, however, went beyond Majamla into the Zaraniq country, whence they had to retire after a loss of 10 men. The Zaraniqs lost 18 men in killed and 6 wounded.

Sheikh Ahmed Fitini of Taif who is said to have been supplied with ample arms and ammunition by the Imam has armed a large number of men to resist the Idrisi. The Sheikh has also received monetary assistance.

The Akil of another section of the Zaraniqs has also received similar assistance in arms and ammunition from the Imam.

Last month, 100 mounted Zaraniqs tried to waylay the Idrisi Commander at Bajil who was returning from Mansuria to Bajil via Marawa. The attempt, however, was frustrated by the Commander being forewarned and changing his route.

A later report states that the Zaraniqs made a night attack on the Idrisi camp in the Majamla country

on

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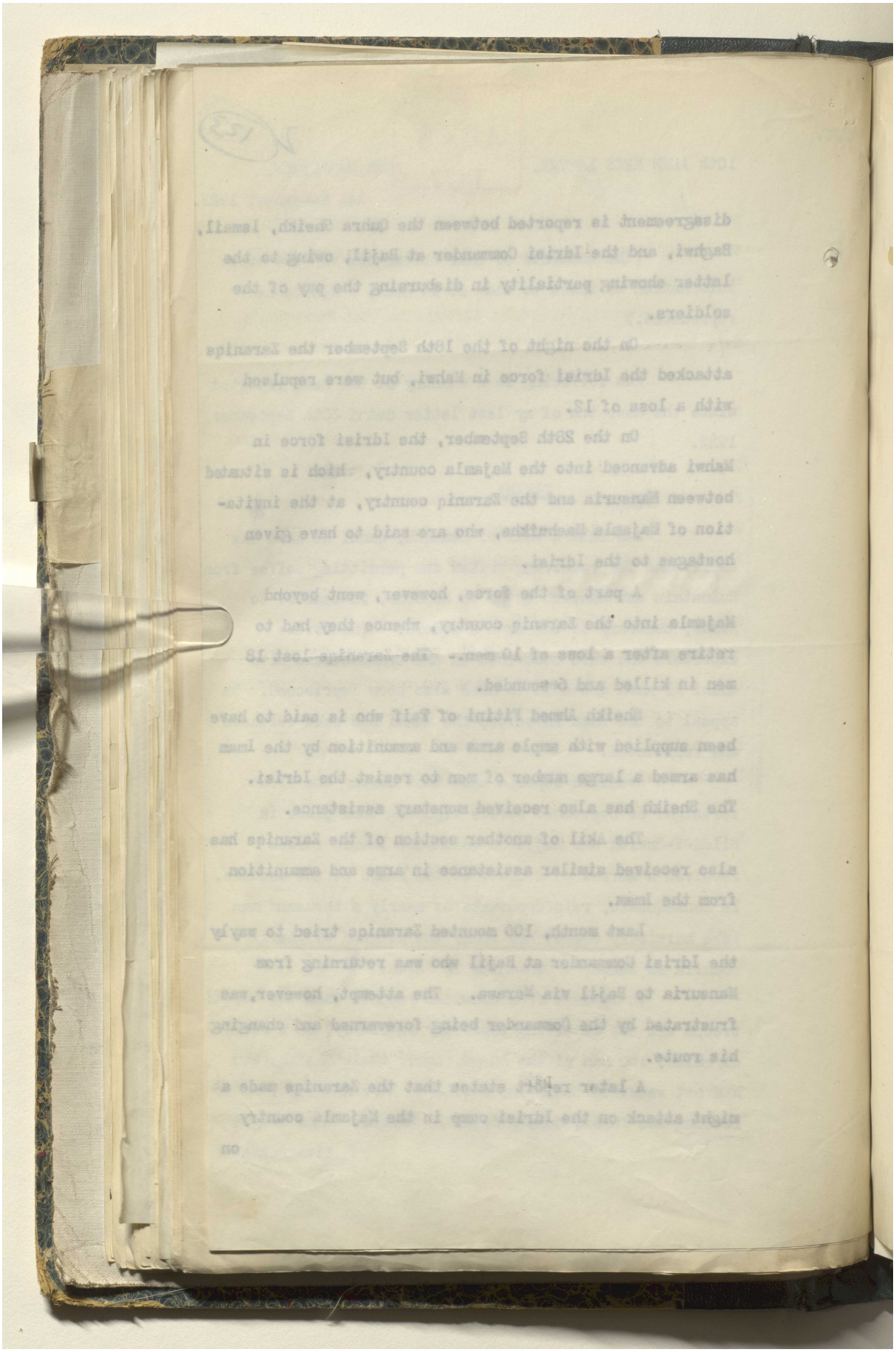

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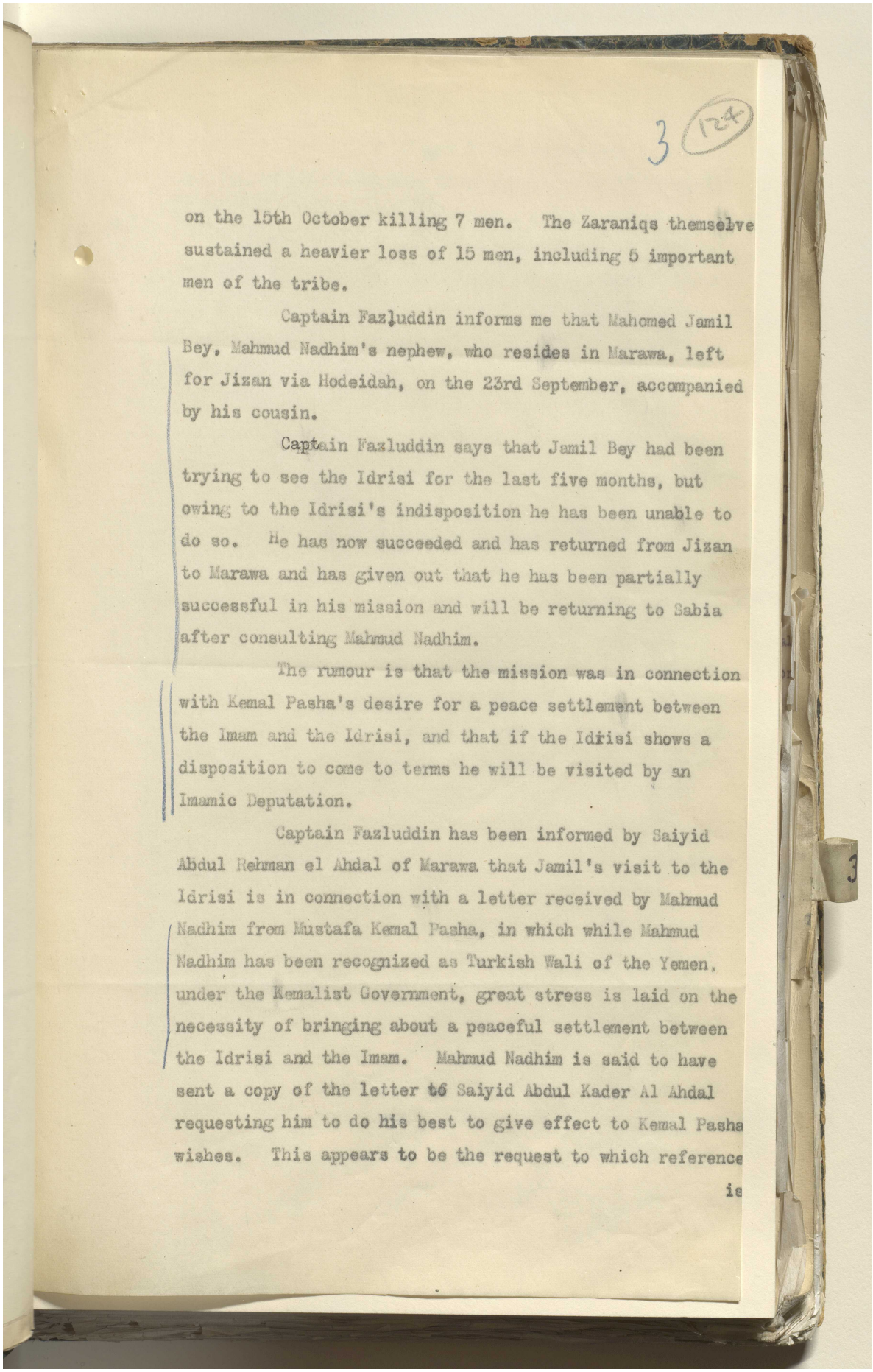

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on the 15th October killing 7 men. The Zaraniqs themselve sustained a heavier loss of 15 men, including 5 important men of the tribe.

Captain Fazluddin informs me that Mahomed Jamil Bey, Mahmud Nadhim's nephew, who resides in Marawa, left for Jizan via Hodeidah, on the 23rd September, accompanied by his cousin.

Captain Fazluddin says that Jamil Bey had been trying to see the Idrisi for the last five months, but owing to the Idrisi's indisposition he has been unable to do so. He has now succeeded and has returned from Jizan to Marawa and has given out that he has been partially successful in his mission and will be returning to Sabia after consulting Mahmud Nadhim.

The rumour is that the mission was in connection with Kemal Pasha's desire for a peace settlement between the Imam and the Idrisi, and that if the Idrisi shows a disposition to come to terms he will be visited by an Imamic Deputation.

Captain Fazluddin has been informed by Saiyid Abdul Rehman el Ahdal of Marawa that Jamil's visit to the Idrisi is in connection with a letter received by Mahmud Nadhim from Mustafa Kemal Pasha, in which while Mahmud Nadhim has been recognized as Turkish Wali of the Yemen, under the Kemalist Government, great stress is laid on the necessity of bringing about a peaceful settlement between the Idrisi and the Imam. Mahmud Nadhim is said to have sent a copy of the letter to Saiyid Abdul Kader Al Ahdal requesting him to do his best to give effect to Kemal Pasha wishes. This appears to be the request to which reference

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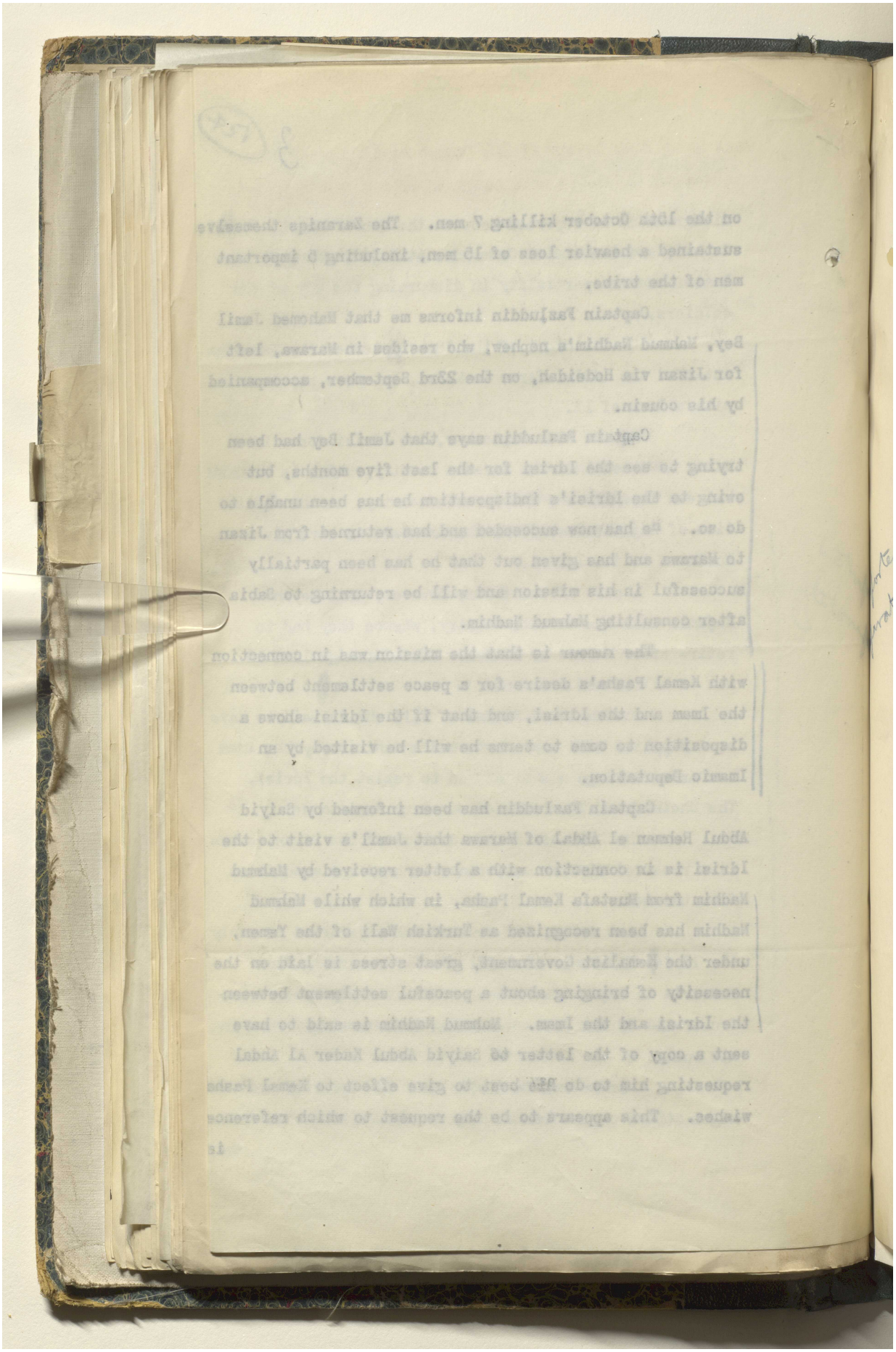

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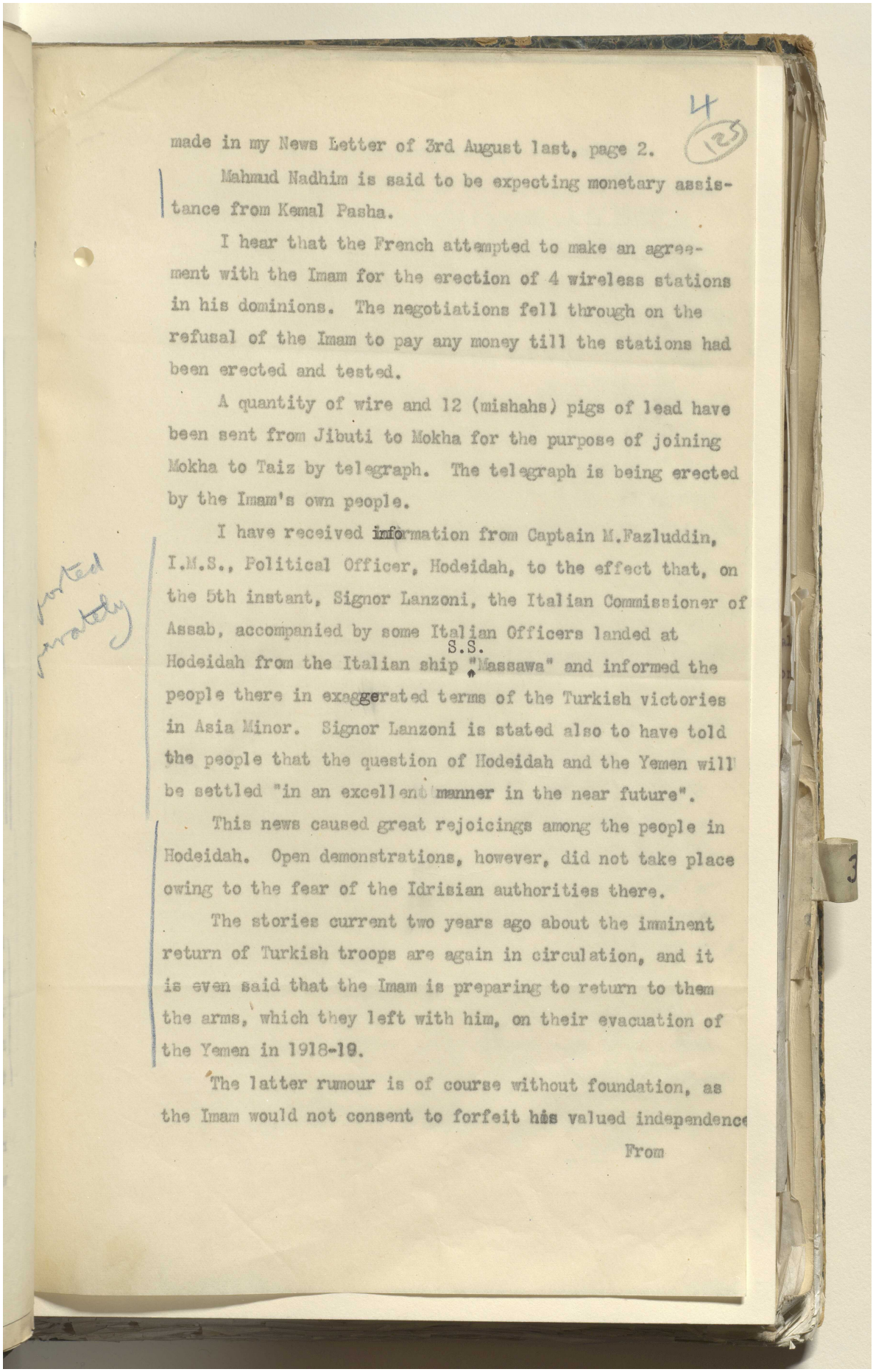

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made in my News Letter of 3rd August last, page 2.

Mahmud Nadhim is said to be expecting monetary assistance from Kemal Pasha.

I hear that the French attempted to make an agreement with the Imam for the erection of 4 wireless stations in his dominions. The negotiations fell through on the refusal of the Imam to pay any money till the stations had been erected and tested.

A quantity of wire and 12 (mishahs) pigs of lead have been sent from Jibuti to Mokha for the purpose of joining Mokha to Taiz by telegraph. The telegraph is being erected by the Imam's own people.

I have received information from Captain M.Fazluddin, I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeidah, to the effect that, on the 5th instant, Signor Lanzoni, the Italian Commissioner of Assab, accompanied by some Italian Officers landed at Hodeidah from the Italian ship S.S. "Massawa" and informed the people there in exaggerated terms of the Turkish victories in Asia Minor. Signor Lanzoni is stated also to have told the people that the question of Hodeidah and the Yemen will be settled "in an excellent manner in the near future".

This news caused great rejoicings among the people in Hodeidah. Open demonstrations, however, did not take place owing to the fear of the Idrisian authorities there.

The stories current two years ago about the imminent return of Turkish troops are again in circulation, and it is even said that the Imam is preparing to return to them the arms, which they left with him, on their evacuation of the Yemen in 1918-19.

The latter rumour is of course without foundation, as the Imam would not consent to forfeit his valued independence

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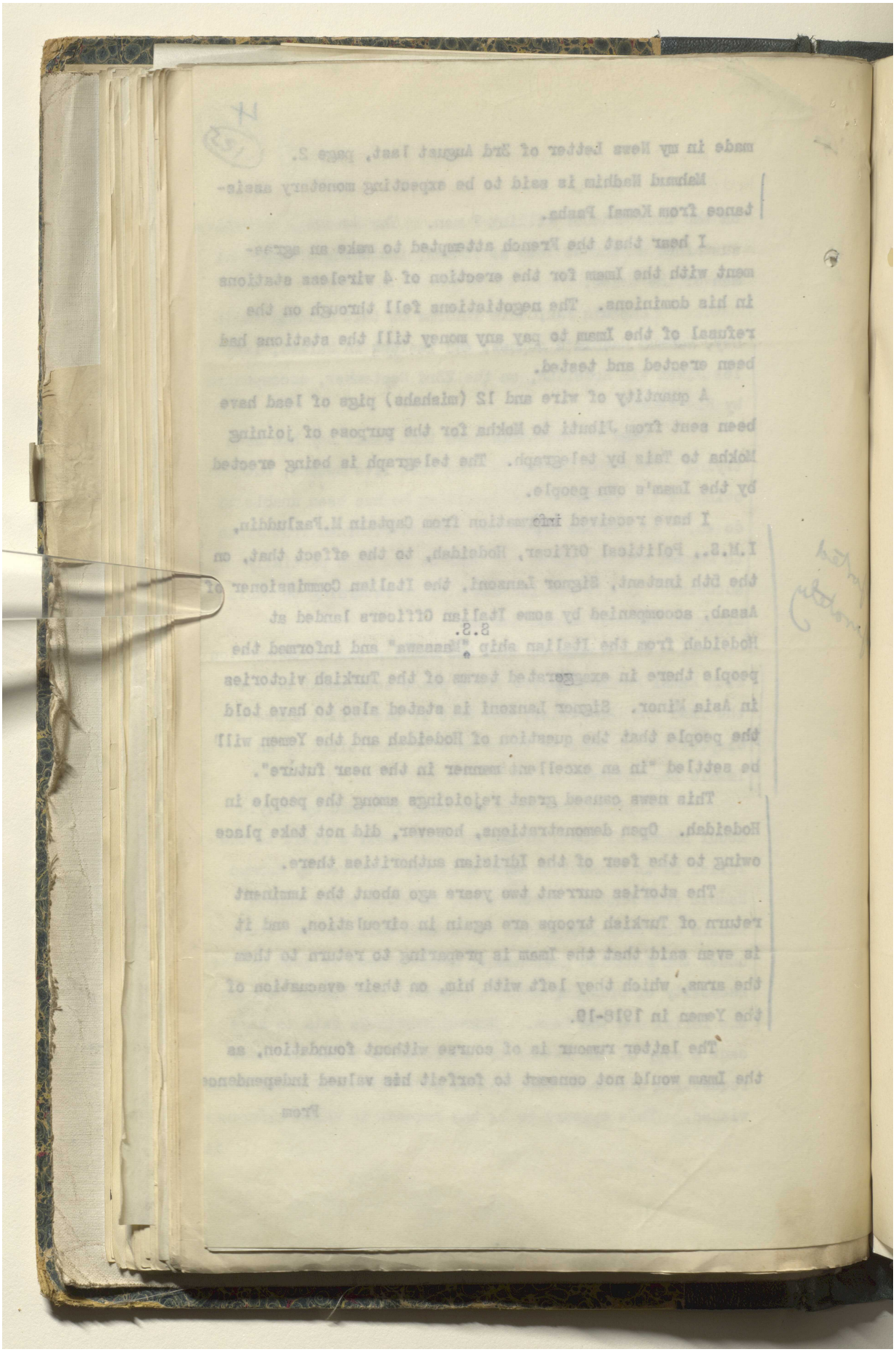

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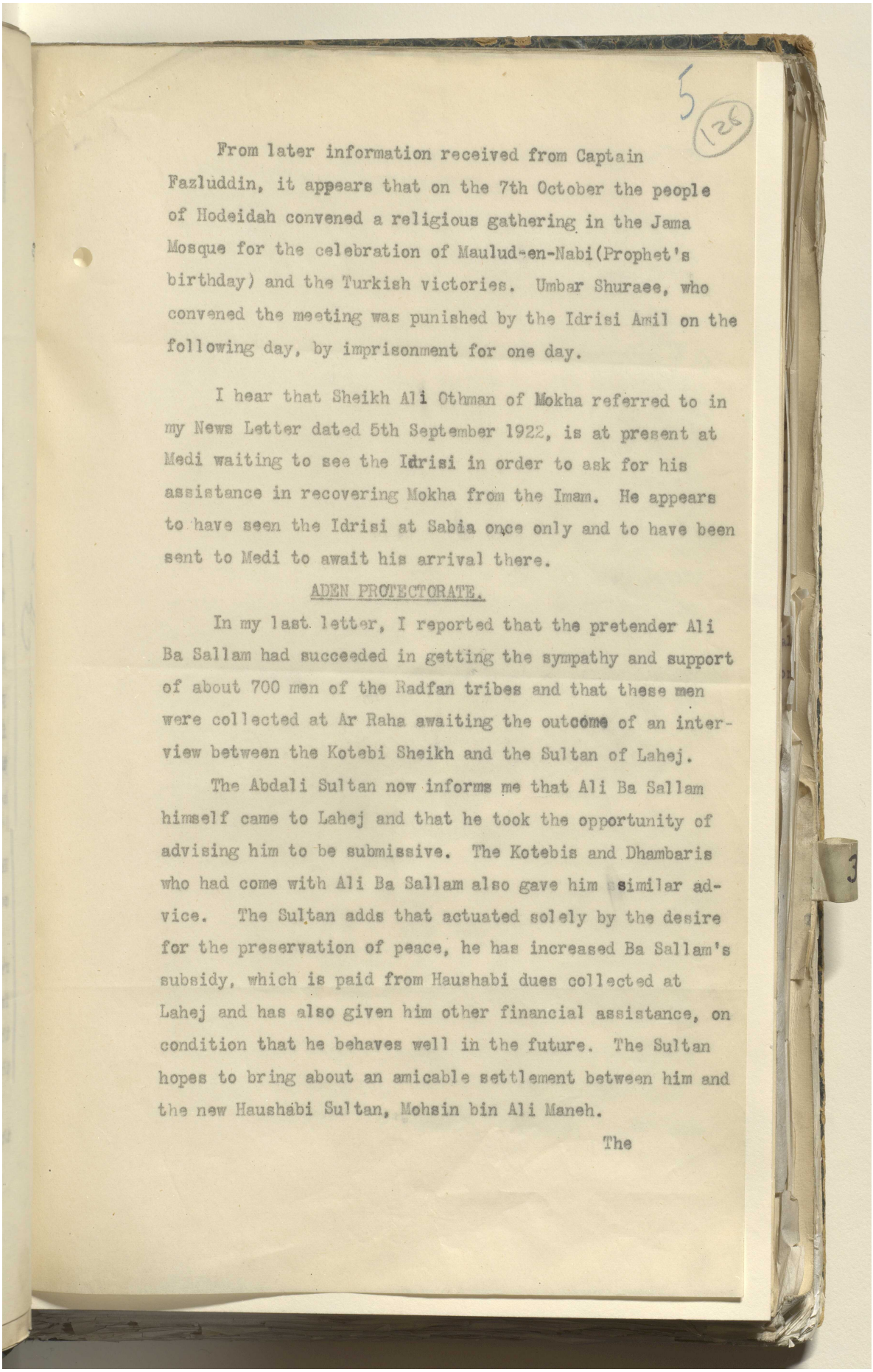

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From later information received from Captain Fazluddin, it appears that on the 7th October the people of Hodeidah convened a religious gathering in the Jama Mosque for the celebration of Maulud-en-Nabi(Prophet's birthday) and the Turkish victories. Umbar Shuraee, who convened the meeting was punished by the Idrisi Amil on the following day, by imprisonment for one day.

I hear that Sheikh Ali Othman of Mokha referred to in my News Letter dated 5th September 1922, is at present at Medi waiting to see the Idrisi in order to ask for his assistance in recovering Mokha from the Imam. He appears to have seen the Idrisi at Sabia once only and to have been sent to Medi to await his arrival there.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

In my last letter, I reported that the pretender Ali Ba Sallam had succeeded in getting the sympathy and support of about 700 men of the Radfan tribes and that these men were collected at Ar Raha awaiting the outcome of an interview between the Kotebi Sheikh and the Sultan of Lahej.

The Abdali Sultan now informs me that Ali Ba Sallam himself came to Lahej and that he took the opportunity of advising him to be submissive. The Kotebis and Dhambaris who had come with Ali Ba Sallam also gave him similar advice. The Sultan adds that actuated solely by the desire for the preservation of peace, he has increased Ba Sallam's subsidy, which is paid from Haushabi dues collected at Lahej and has also given him other financial assistance, on condition that he behaves well in the future. The Sultan hopes to bring about an amicable settlement between him and the new Haushabi Sultan, Mohsin bin Ali Maneh.

The

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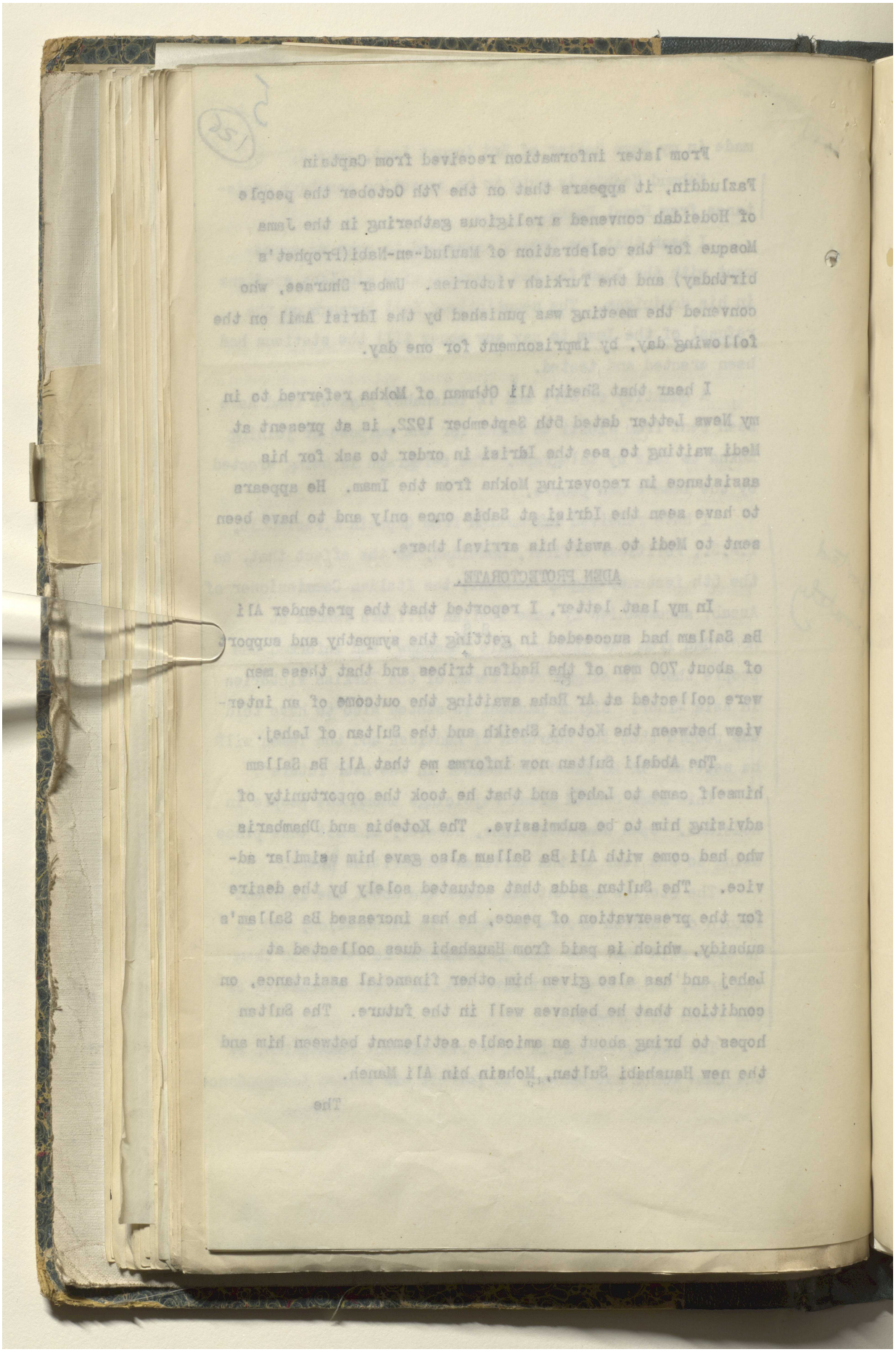

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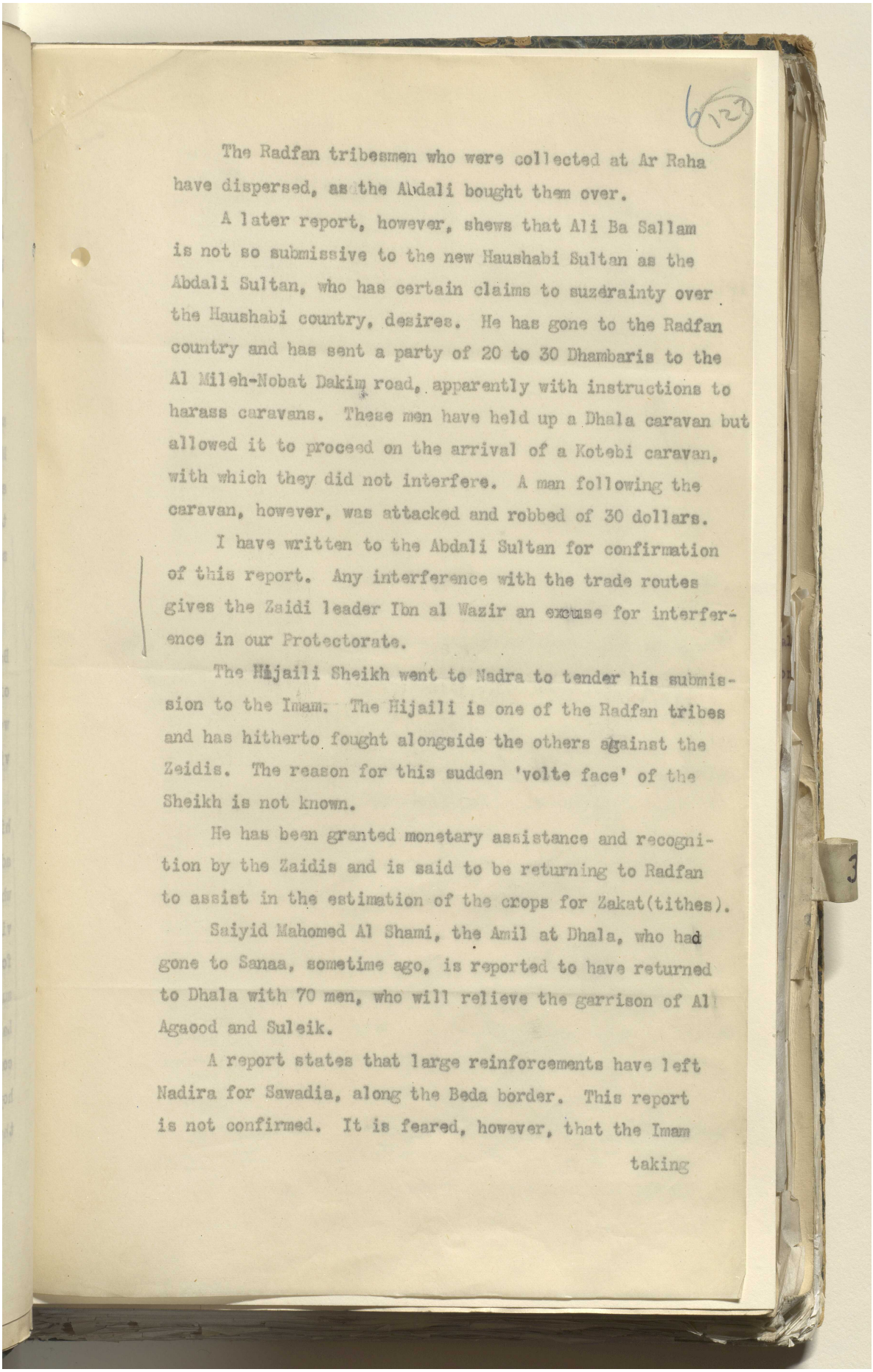

The Radfan tribesmen who were collected at Ar Raha have dispersed, as the Abdali bought them over.

A later report, however, shews that Ali Ba Sallam is not so submissive to the new Haushabi Sultan as the Abdali Sultan, who has certain claims to suzerainty over the Haushabi country, desires. He has gone to the Radfan country and has sent a party of 20 to 30 Dhambaris to the Al Mileh-Nobat Dakim road, apparently with instructions to harass caravans. These men have held up a Dhala caravan but allowed it to proceed on the arrival of a Kotebi caravan, with which they did not interfere. A man following the caravan, however, was attacked and robbed of 30 dollars.

I have written to the Abdali Sultan for confirmation of this report. Any interference with the trade routes gives the Zaidi leader Ibn al Wazir an excuse for interference in our Protectorate.

The Hijaili Sheikh went to Nadra to tender his submission to the Imam. The Hijaili is one of the Radfan tribes and has hitherto fought alongside the others against the Zeidis. The reason for this sudden 'volte face' of the Sheikh is not known.

He has been granted monetary assistance and recognition by the Zaidis and is said to be returning to Radfan to assist in the estimation of the crops for Zakat(tithes).

Saiyid Mahomed Al Shami, the Amil at Dhala, who had gone to Sanaa, sometime ago, is reported to have returned to Dhala with 70 men, who will relieve the garrison of Al Agaood and Suleik.

A report states that large reinforcements have left Nadira for Sawadia, along the Beda border. This report is not confirmed. It is feared, however, that the Imam taking

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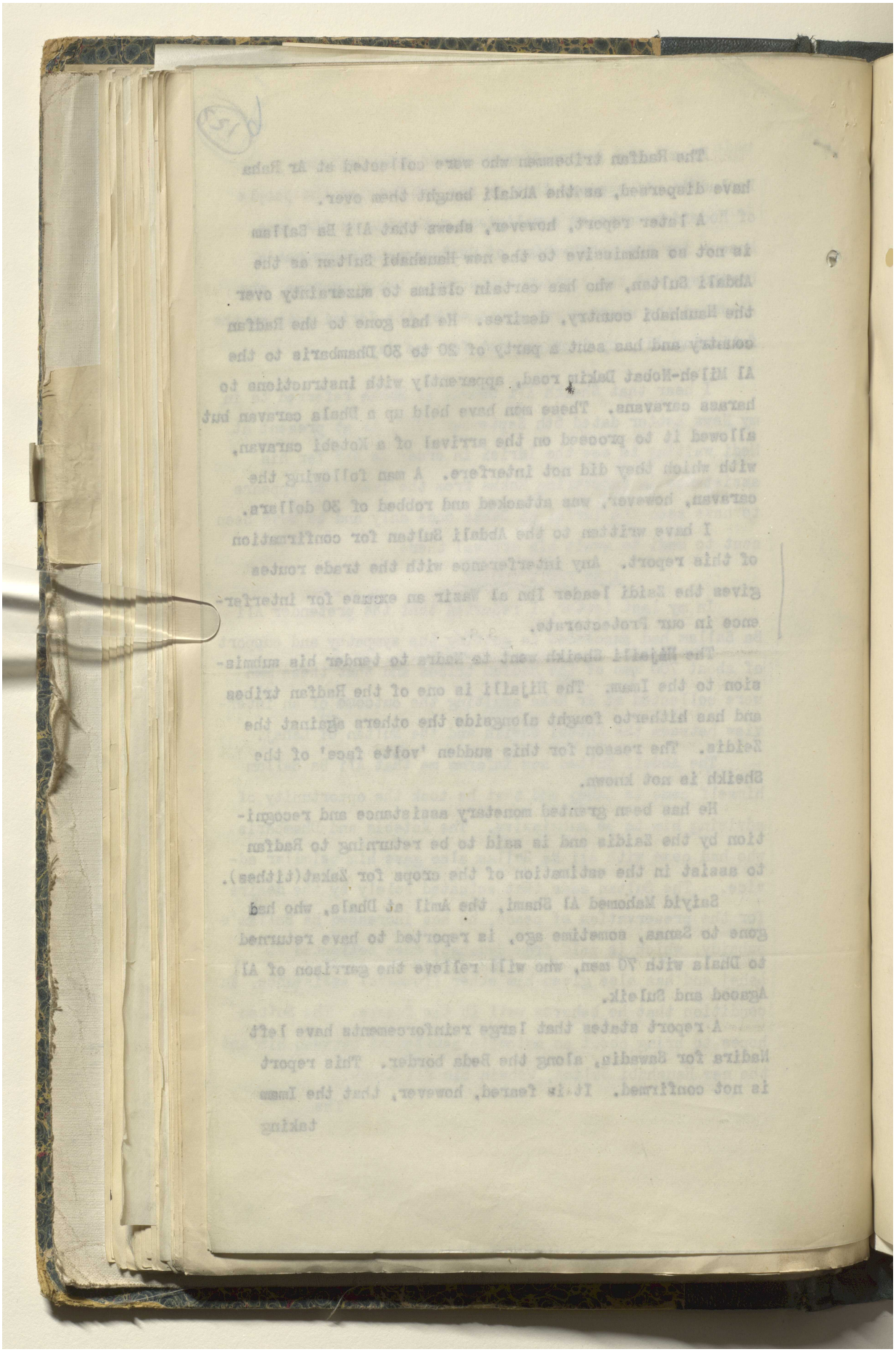

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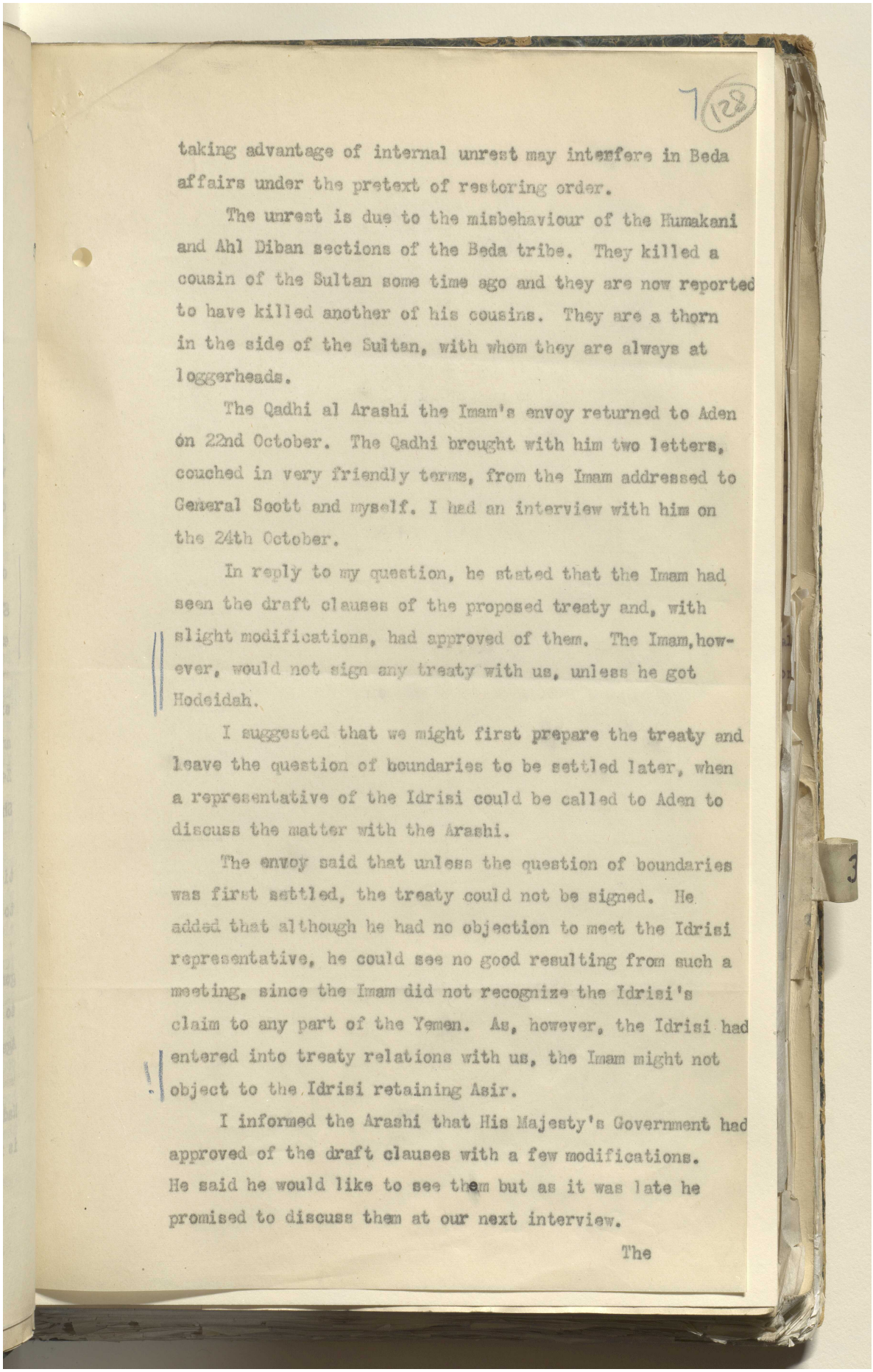

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taking advantage of internal unrest may interfere in Beda affairs under the pretext of restoring order.

The unrest is due to the misbehaviour of the Humakani and Ahl Diban sections of the Beda tribe. They killed a cousin of the Sultan some time ago and they are now reported to have killed another of his cousins. They are a thorn in the side of the Sultan, with whom they are always at loggerheads.

The Qadhi al Arashi the Imam's envoy returned to Aden on 22nd October. The Qadhi brought with him two letters, couched in very friendly terms, from the Imam addressed to General Scott and myself. I had an interview with him on the 24th October.

In reply to my question, he stated that the Imam had seen the draft clauses of the proposed treaty and, with slight modifications, had approved of them. The Imam, however, would not sign any treaty with us, unless he got Hodeidah.

I suggested that we might first prepare the treaty and leave the question of boundaries to be settled later, when a representative of the Idrisi could be called to Aden to discuss the matter with the Arashi.

The envoy said that unless the question of boundaries was first settled, the treaty could not be signed. He added that although he had no objection to meet the Idrisi representative, he could see no good resulting from such a meeting, since the Imam did not recognize the Idrisi's claim to any part of the Yemen. As, however, the Idrisi had entered into treaty relations with us, the Imam might not object to the Idrisi retaining Asir.

I informed the Arashi that His Majesty's Government had approved of the draft clauses with a few modifications. He said he would like to see them but as it was late he promised to discuss them at our next interview.

The

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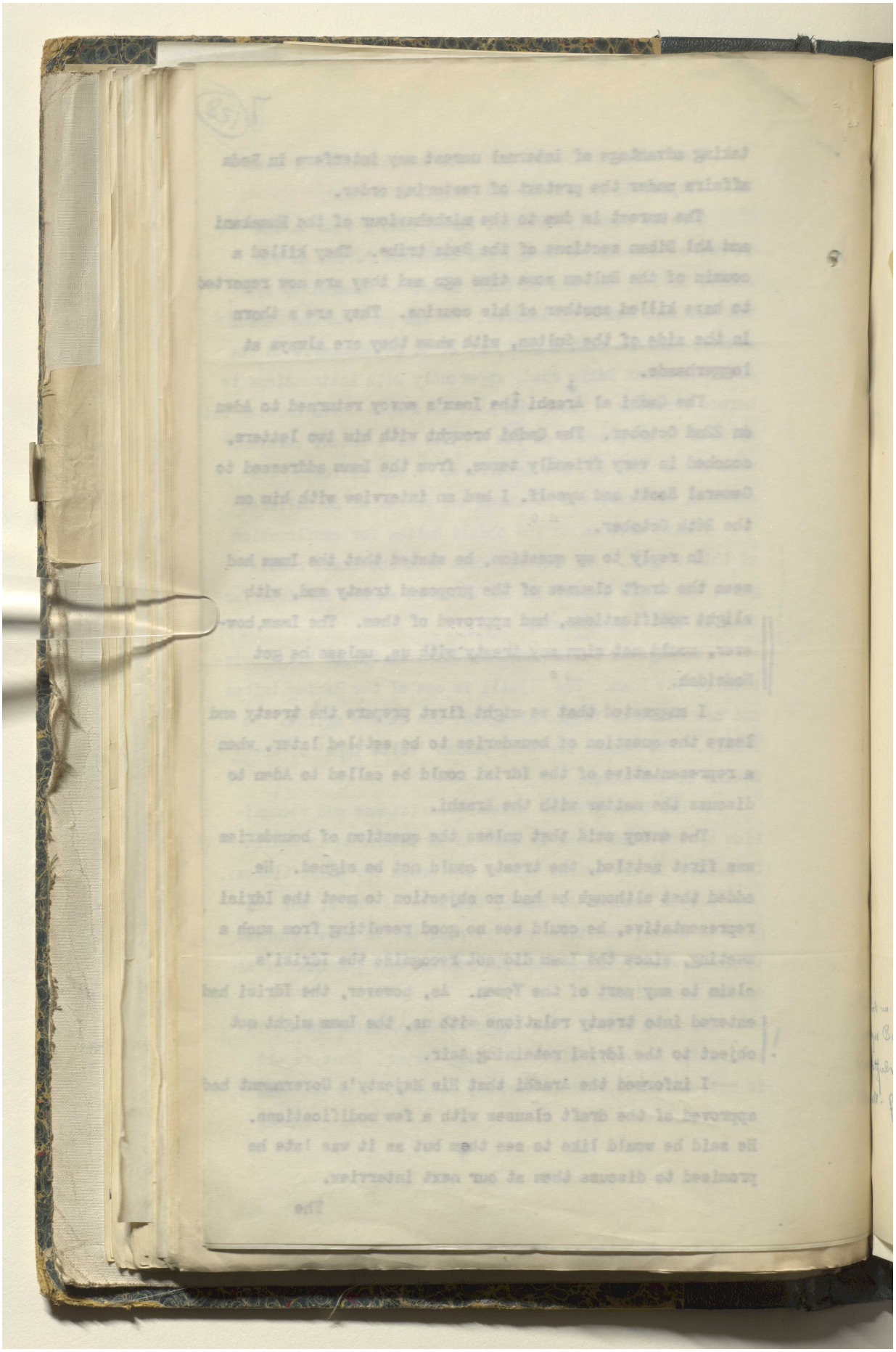

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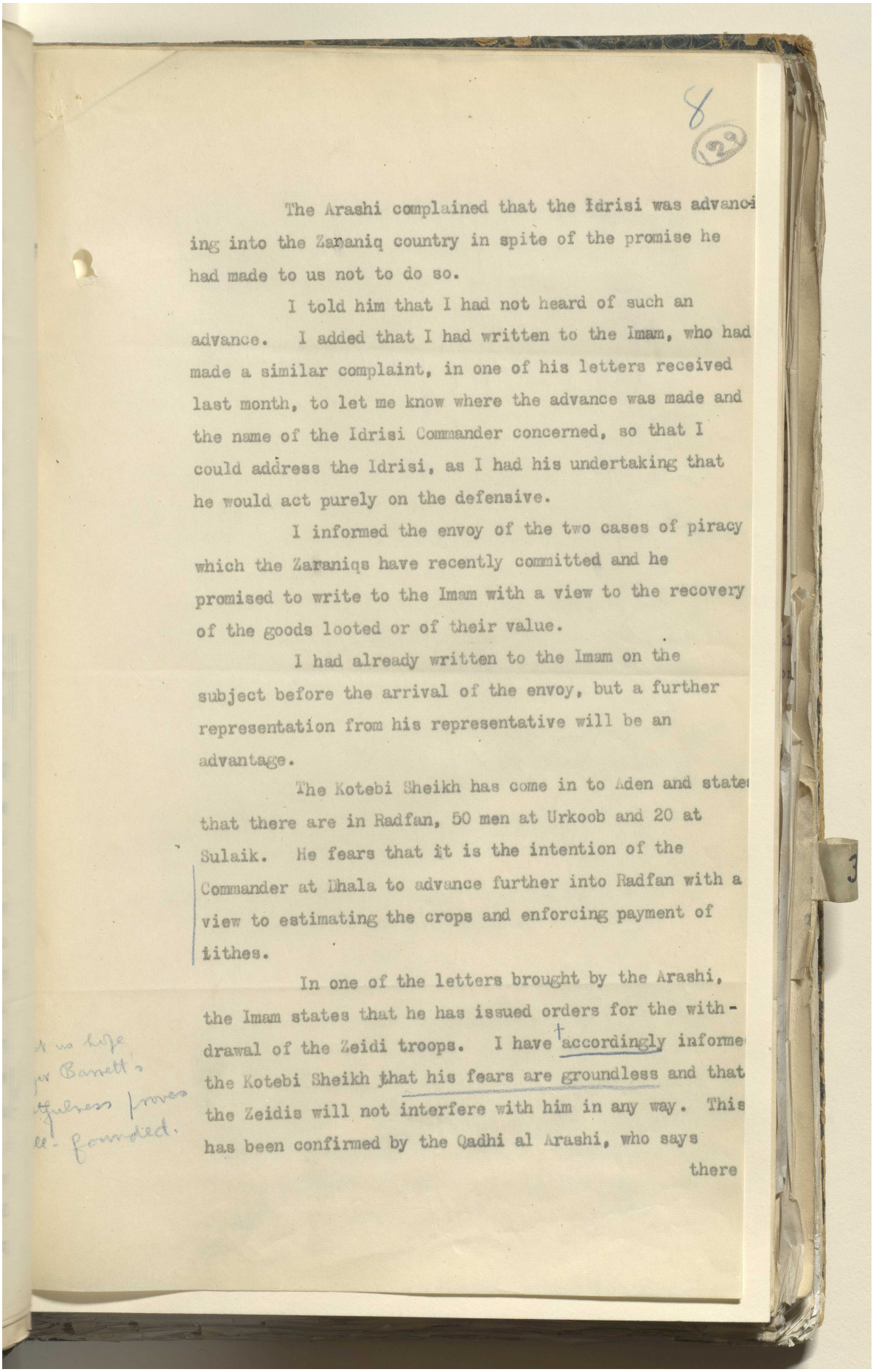

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(129)

The Arashi complained that the Idrisi was advancing into the Zaraniq country in spite of the promise he had made to us not to do so.

I told him that I had not heard of such an advance. I added that I had written to the Imam, who had made a similar complaint, in one of his letters received last month, to let me know where the advance was made and the name of the Idrisi Commander concerned, so that I could address the Idrisi, as I had his undertaking that he would act purely on the defensive.

I informed the envoy of the two cases of piracy which the Zaraniqs have recently committed and he promised to write to the Imam with a view to the recovery of the goods looted or of their value.

I had already written to the Imam on the subject before the arrival of the envoy, but a further representation from his representative will be an advantage.

The Kotebi Sheikh has come in to Aden and states that there are in Radfan, 50 men at Urkoob and 20 at Sulaik. He fears that it is the intention of the Commander at Dhala to advance further into Radfan with a view to estimating the crops and enforcing payment of tithes.

In one of the letters brought by the Arashi, the Imam states that he has issued orders for the withdrawal of the Zeidi troops. I have accordingly informed the Kotebi Sheikh that his fears are groundless and that the Zeidis will not interfere with him in any way. This has been confirmed by the Qadhi al Arashi, who says there

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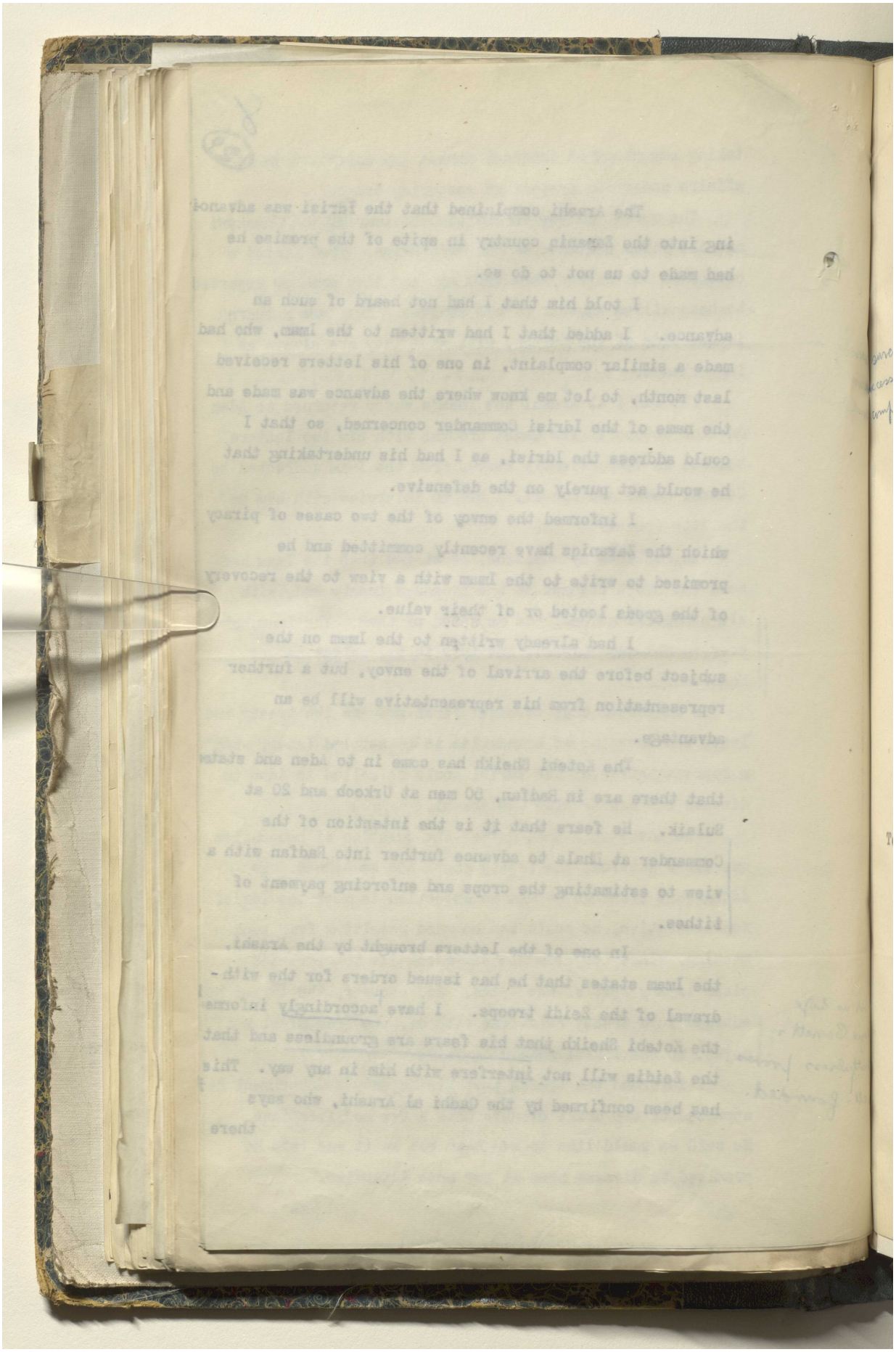

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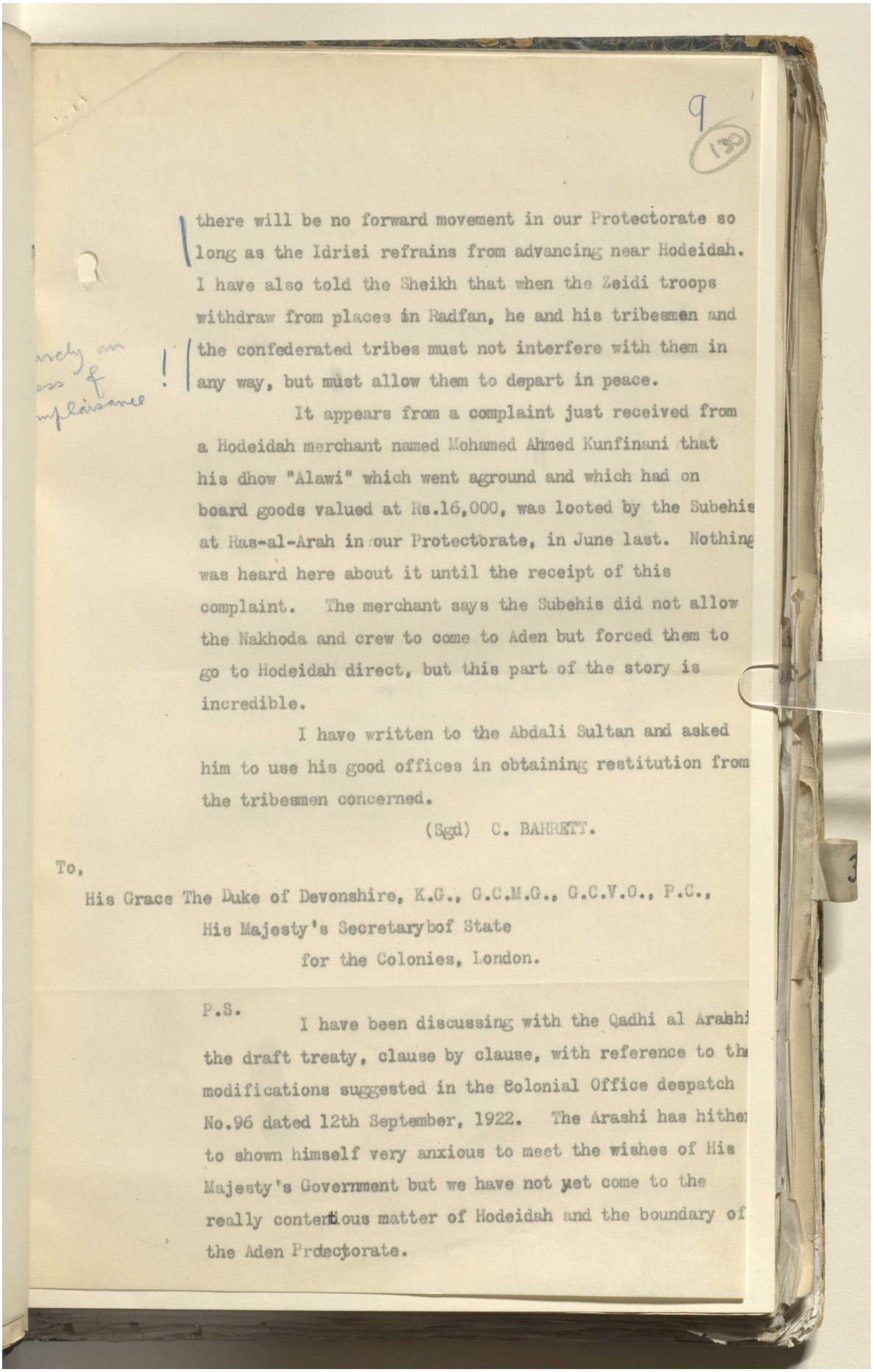

there will be no forward movement in our Protectorate so long as the Idrisi refrains from advancing near Hodeidah. I have also told the Sheikh that when the Zeidi troops withdraw from places in Radfan, he and his tribesmen and the confederated tribes must not interfere with them in any way, but must allow them to depart in peace.

It appears from a complaint just received from a Hodeidah merchant named Mohamed Ahmed Kunfinani that his dhow "Alawi" which went aground and which had on board goods valued at Rs.16,000, was looted by the Subehis at Ras-al-Arah in our Protectorate, in June last. Nothing was heard here about it until the receipt of this complaint. The merchant says the Subehis did not allow the Nakhoda and crew to come to Aden but forced them to go to Hodeidah direct, but this part of the story is incredible.

I have written to the Abdali Sultan and asked him to use his good offices in obtaining restitution from the tribesmen concerned.

(Sgd) C. BARRETT.

To,

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

P.S.

I have been discussing with the Qadhi al Arashi the draft treaty, clause by clause, with reference to the modifications suggested in the Colonial Office despatch No.96 dated 12th September, 1922. The Arashi has hitherto shown himself very anxious to meet the wishes of His Majesty's Government but we have not yet come to the really contentious matter of Hodeidah and the boundary of the Aden Protectorate.

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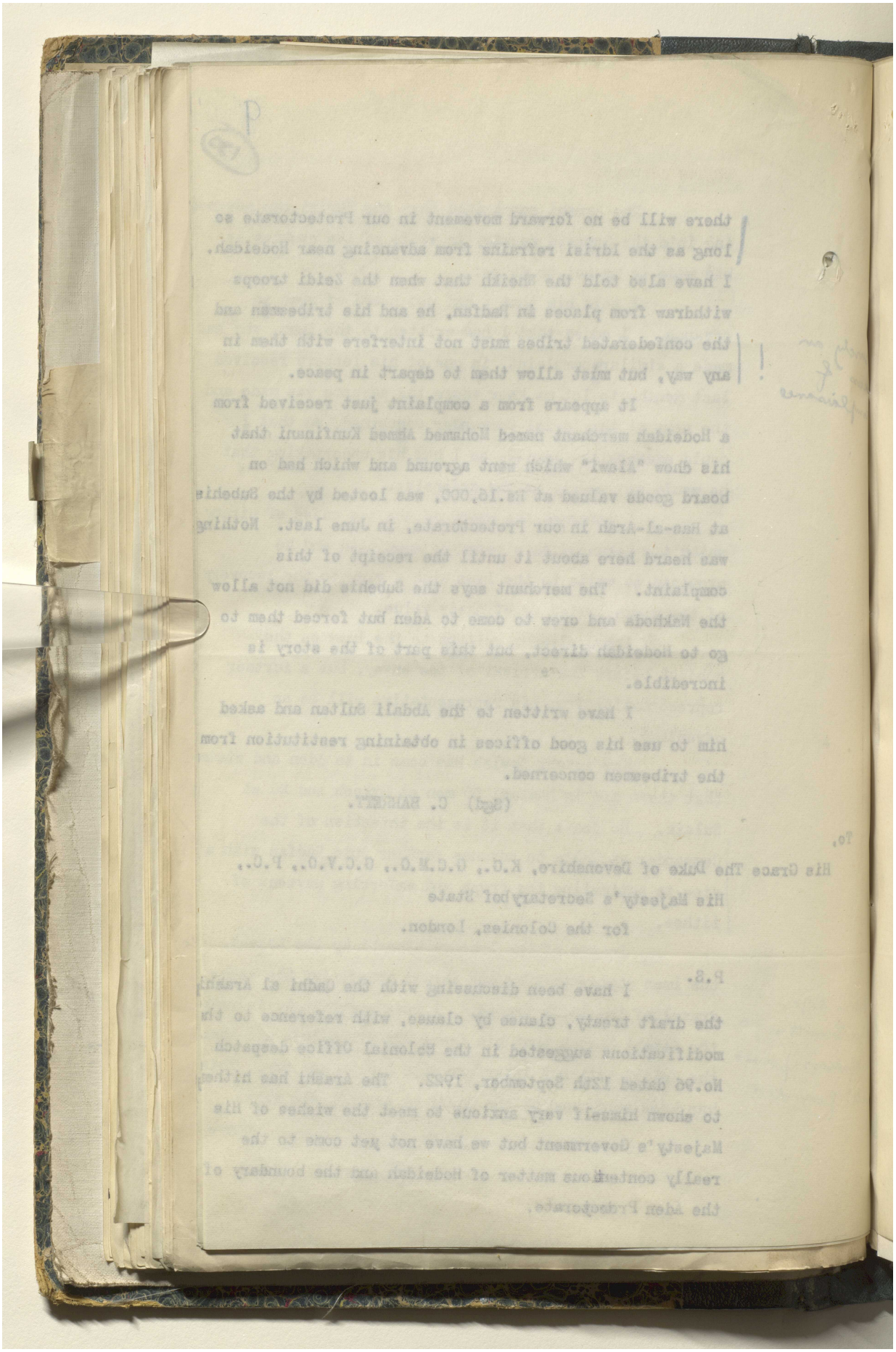

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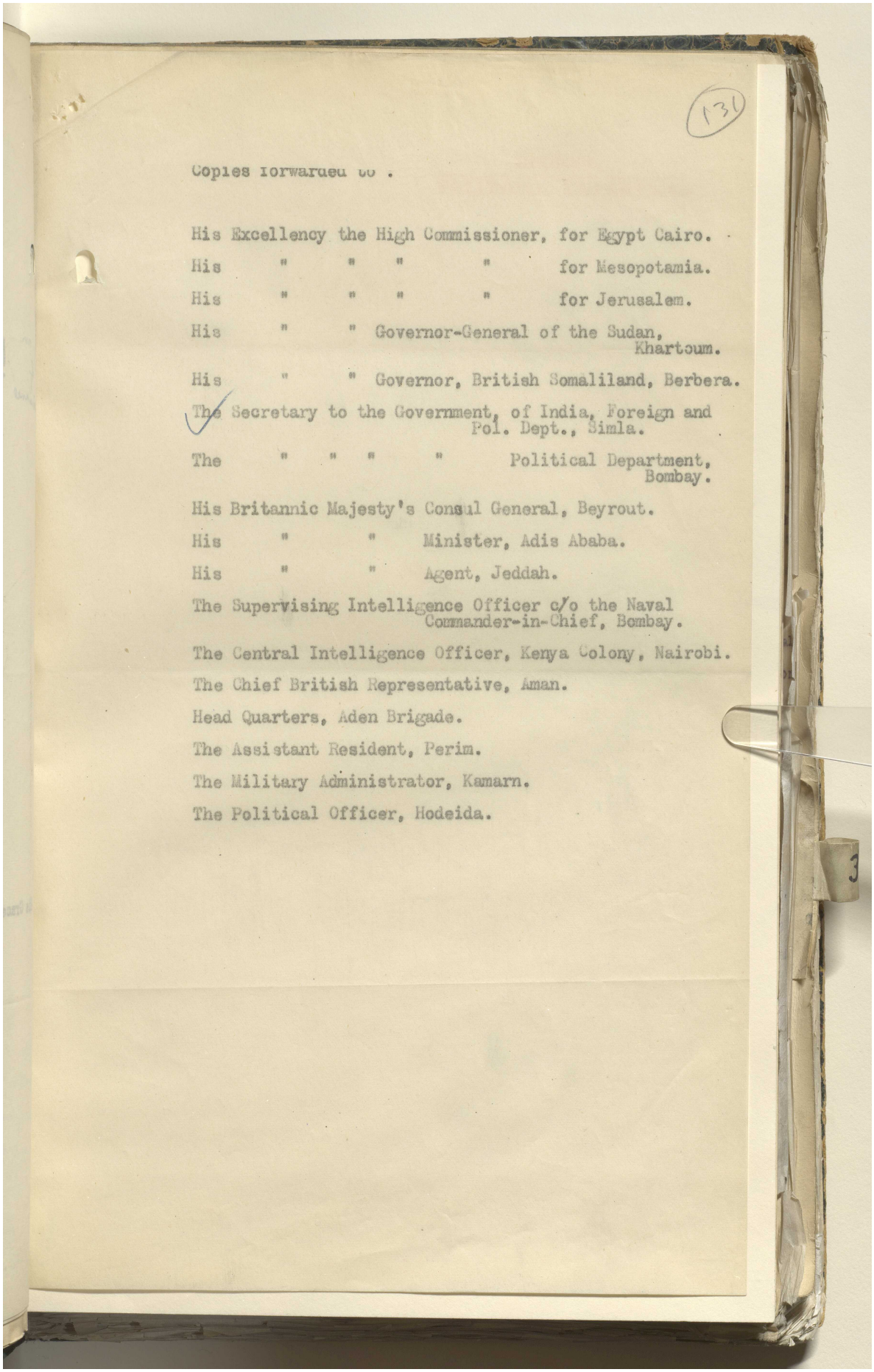

131

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His Excellency the High Commissioner, for Egypt Cairo.
His " " " " for Mesopotamia.
His " " " " for Jerusalem.
His " " Governor-General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His " " Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Government, of India, Foreign and Pol. Dept., Simla.
The " " " " Political Department, Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His " " Minister, Adis Ababa.
His " " Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamarn.
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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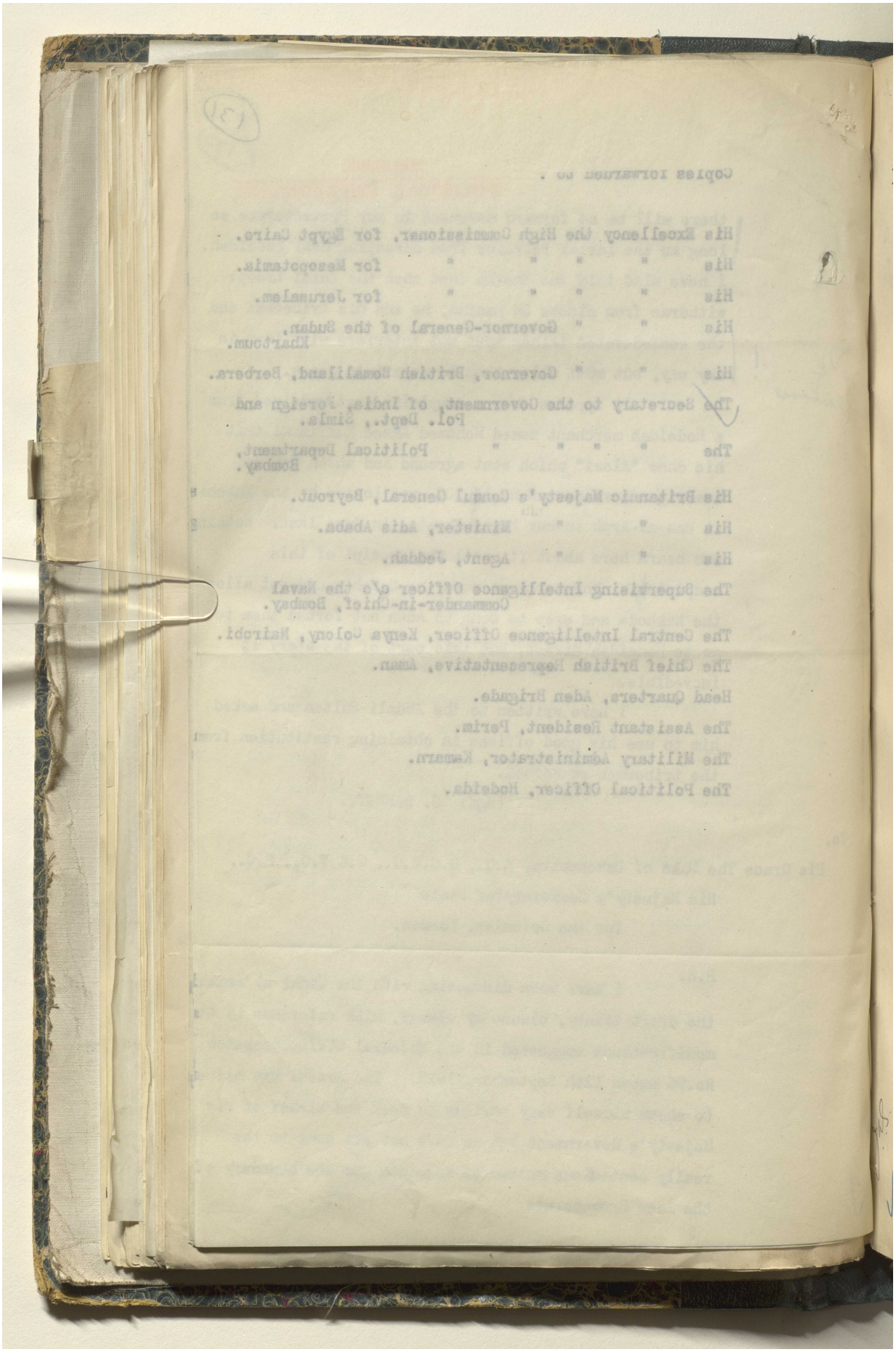

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 4297

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1922

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..	28. x	[illegible]	Aden News Letter 17- 30 Sept.
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	30	[illegible]	
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

P.2. The Imam is disbursing large sums. What is he after - arms? c.f. report on p.4 that the French are supplying him with ammunition.

P.4-5. French mission to the Imam. The latest report is that concessions have been obtained for laying telegraph and telephone lines in Yemen.

P.5. Affairs of the Haushabi

P.6-7-8. There is a good deal of uneasiness in the Aden Protectorate as a result of Zaidi activity.

P.8. The Slave Trade incident has been more fully reported and is being submitted separately

J. Hyde Clarke
25.X.22.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
9 NOV 1922

V.K. 4/11
E.J.D. Cash 6/11
2/11

Previous Papers :—

10 1717 I 1351 2000 9/19

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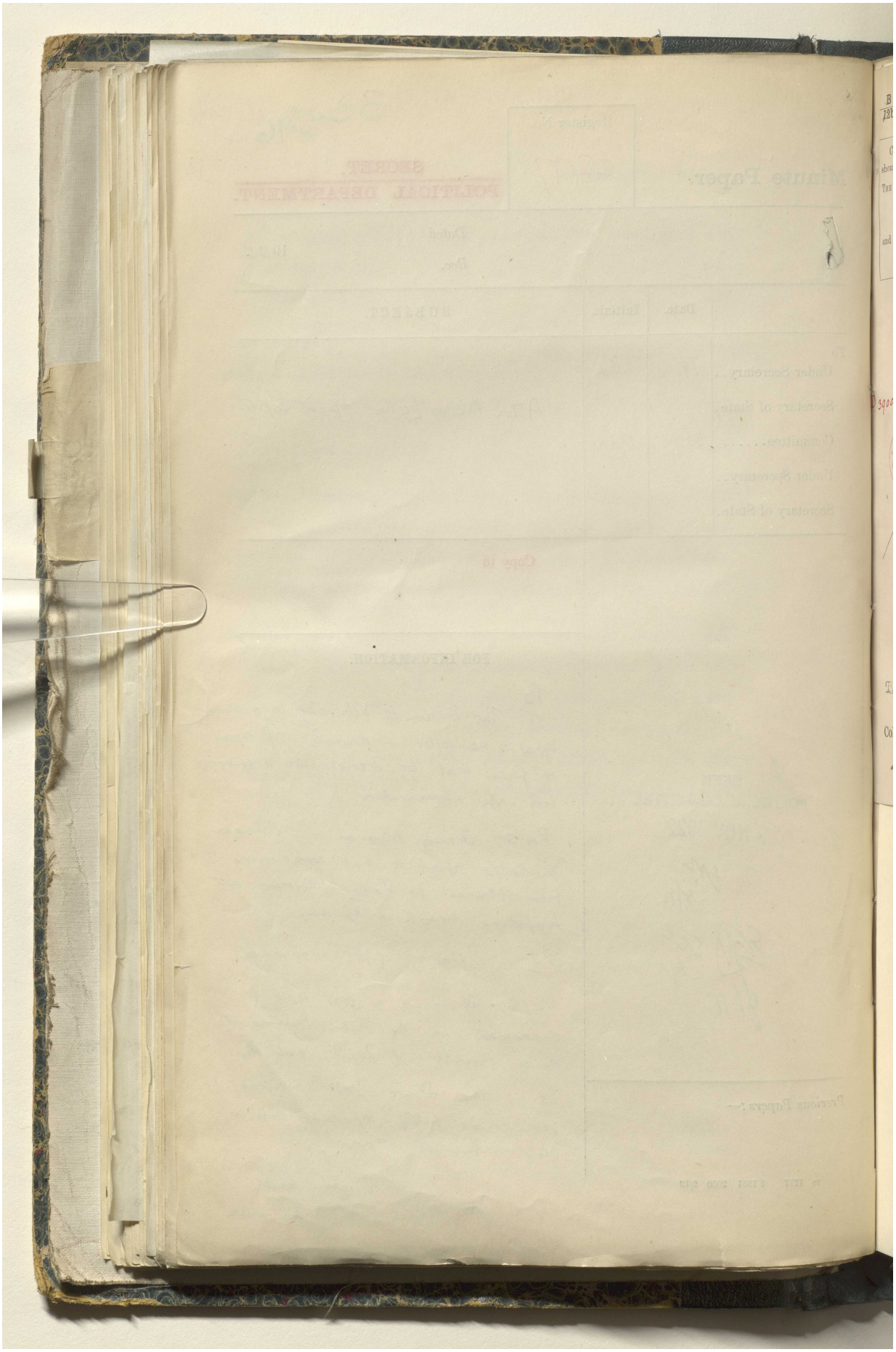

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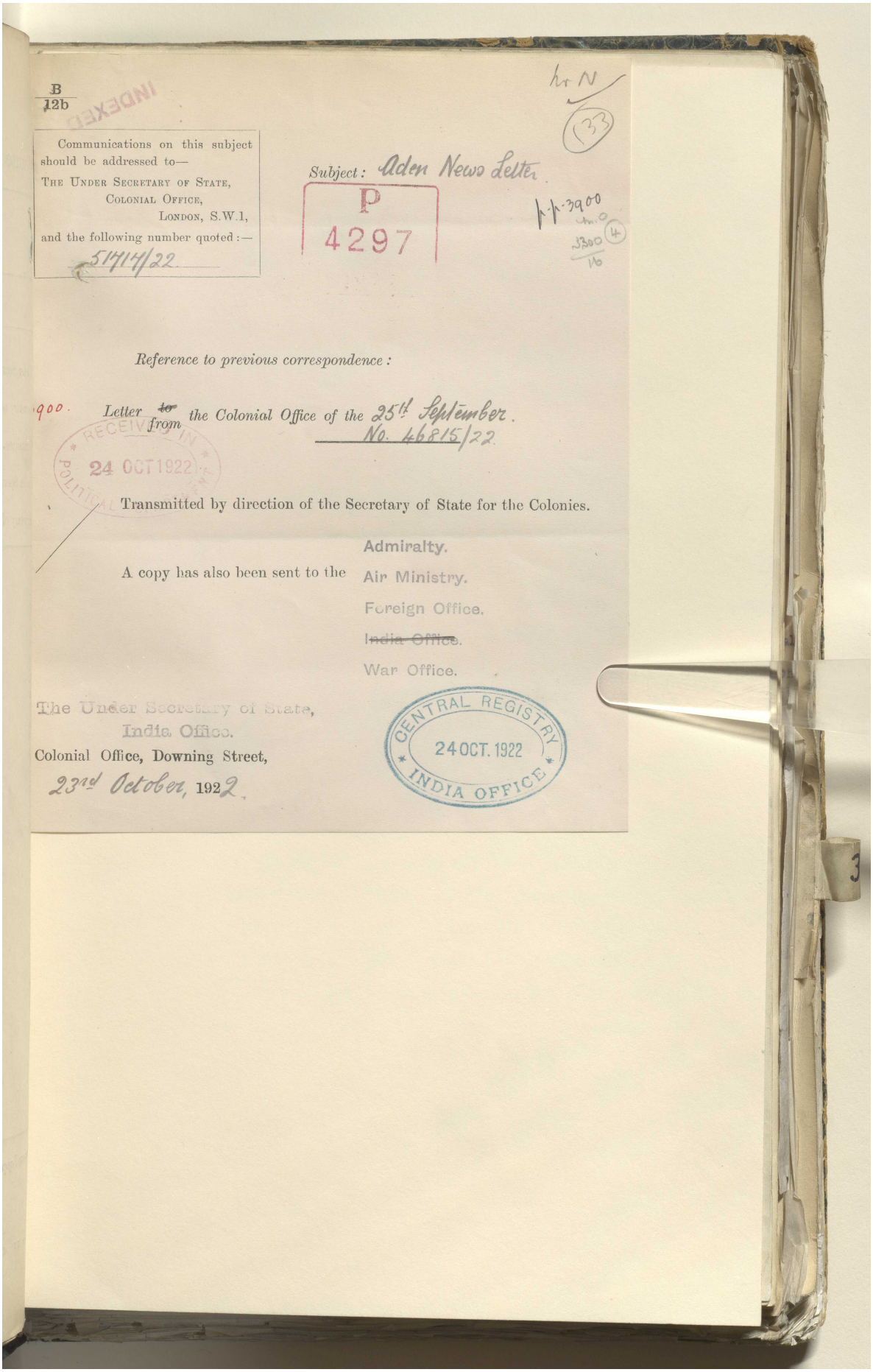

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
51714/22

Subject: Aden News Letter

P
4297

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1-1-3900
3300
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16

Reference to previous correspondence:

900. Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 25th September.
No. 46815/22

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24 OCT 1922

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the
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Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
24 OCT. 1922
INDIA OFFICE

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
23rd October, 1922.

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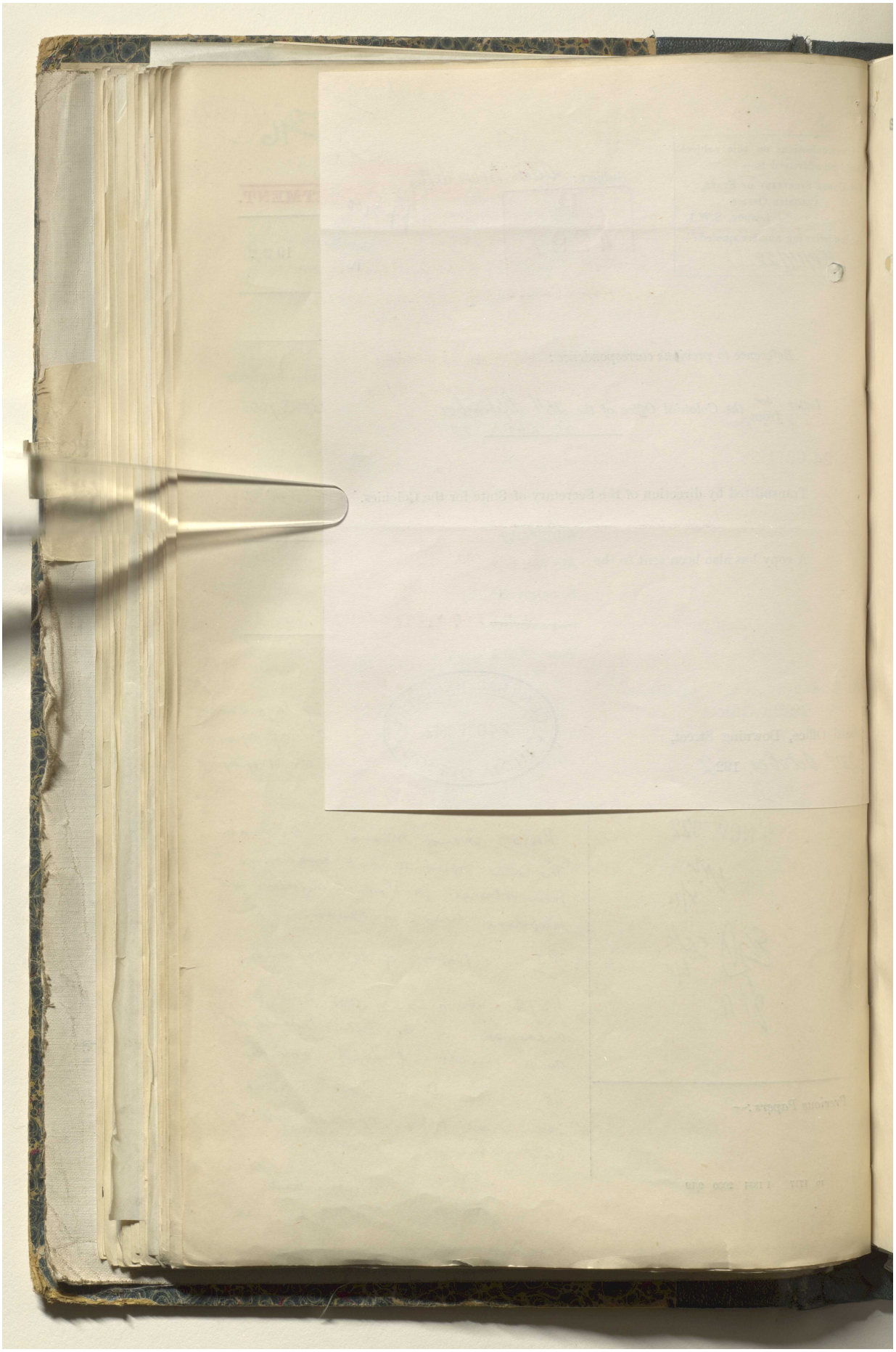

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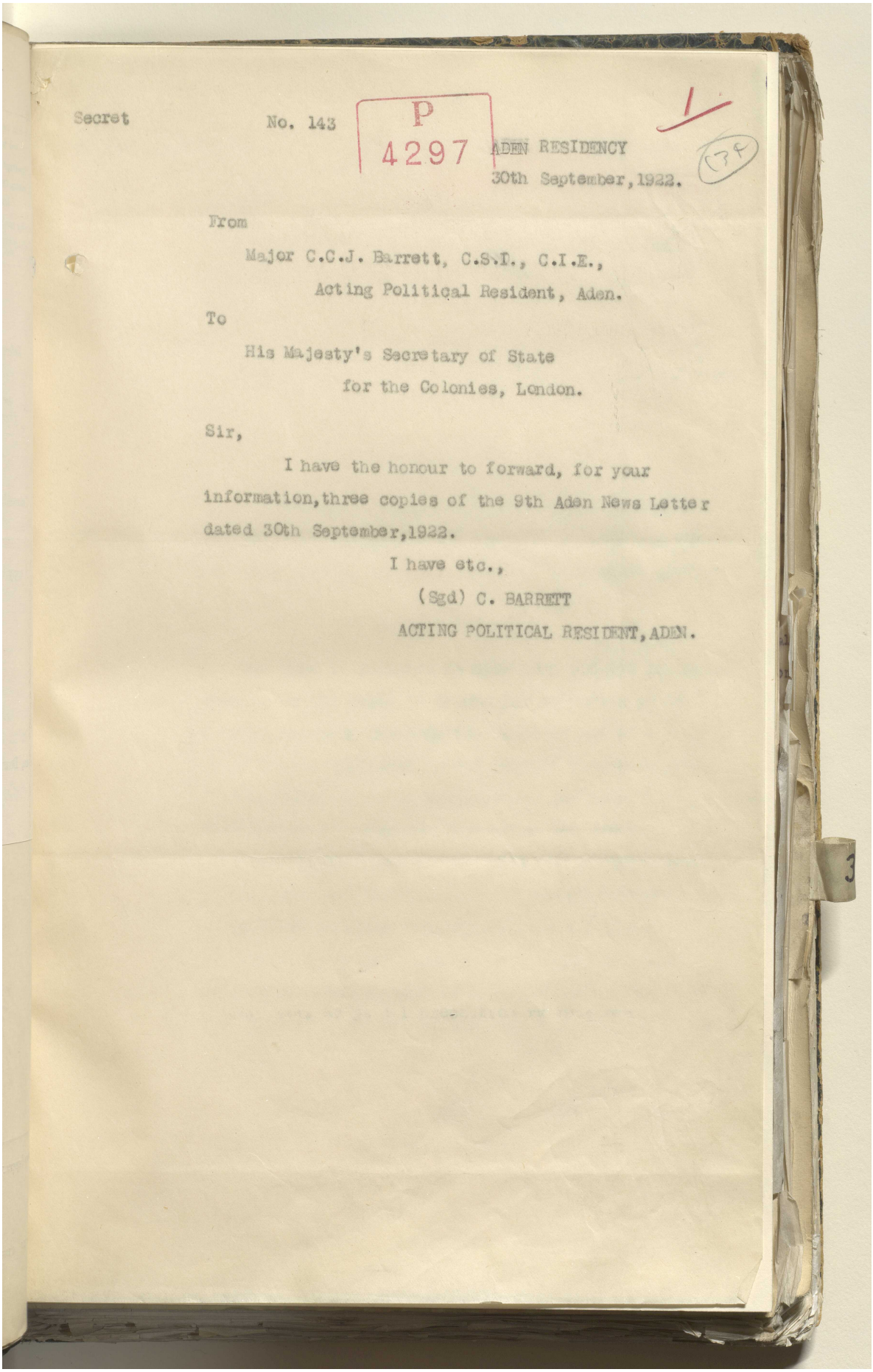

Secret

No. 143

P
4297

ADEN RESIDENCY
30th September, 1922.

1

(134)

From

Major C.C.J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Acting Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, three copies of the 9th Aden News Letter dated 30th September, 1922.

I have etc.,
(Sgd) C. BARRETT
ACTING POLITICAL RESIDENT, ADEN.

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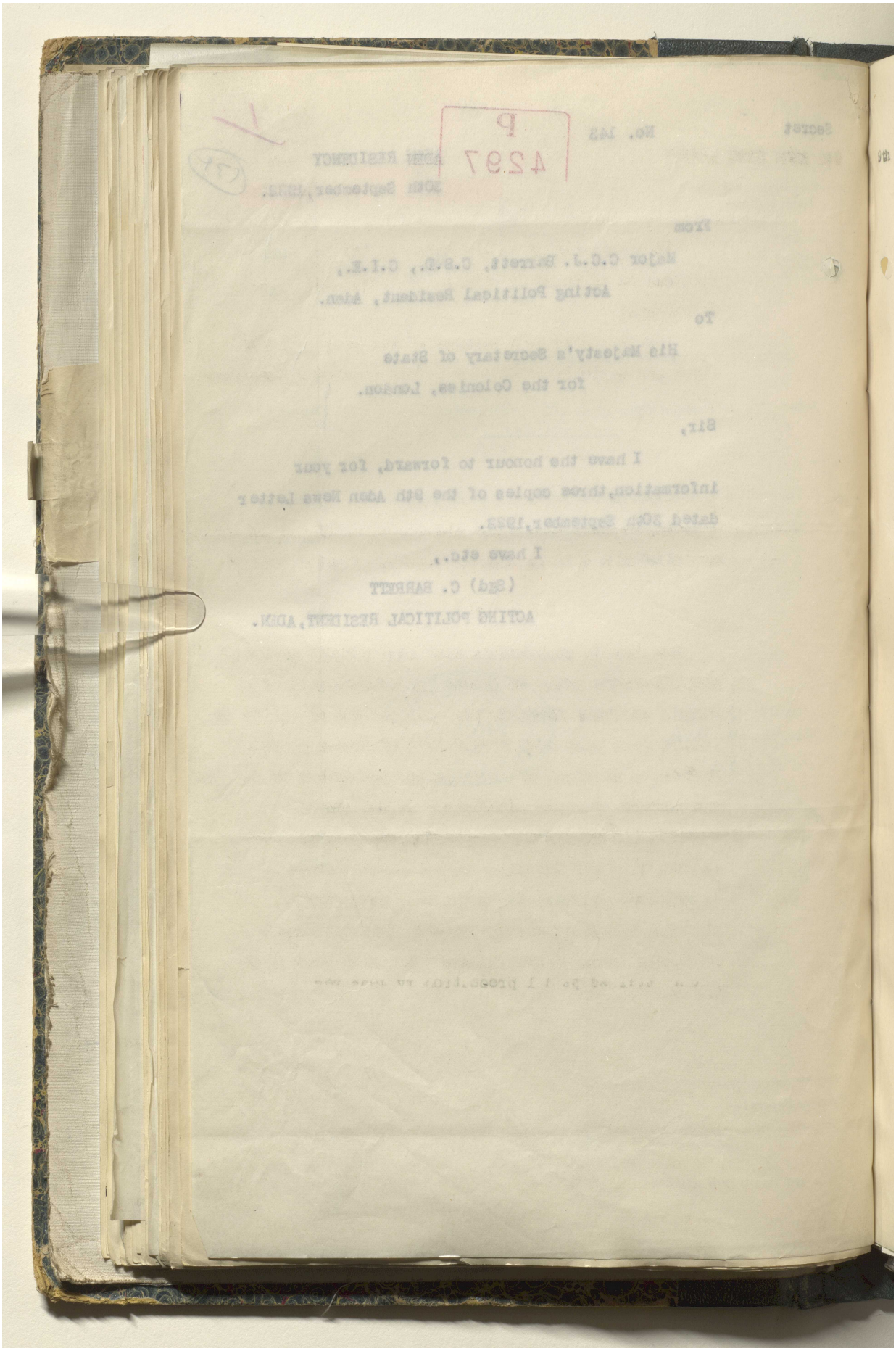

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9th ADEN NEWS LETTER

ADEN RESIDENCY
30th September, 1922.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced)

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 5th September 1922.

ASIR

Captain Fazluddin, I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that since the expulsion of Ibn Saud's men from Abha in July last everything is quiet there.

TIHAMA

The Imam is reported to have sent $50,000 to Sheikh Abdulla Mohsin Dobla of Khokha for transmission to a Jibouti merchant named Mu'tt. Another sum of £ 4000 is said to have been sent by the Amil of Zabeed to Abdul Shakoor, a merchant of Khokha, under the orders of the Imam. The purpose of these remittances is not known.

The Zabeed agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida reports that the Commander of the Imamic forces at Taiz is expected at Mokha shortly, with a large force.

The Zabeed agent also reports that the Mansab of Zabeed, named Handaj, informed the Amil there that the Akils of Bani Mahboob, Bani Ma'roof and Bani Kanadia, the

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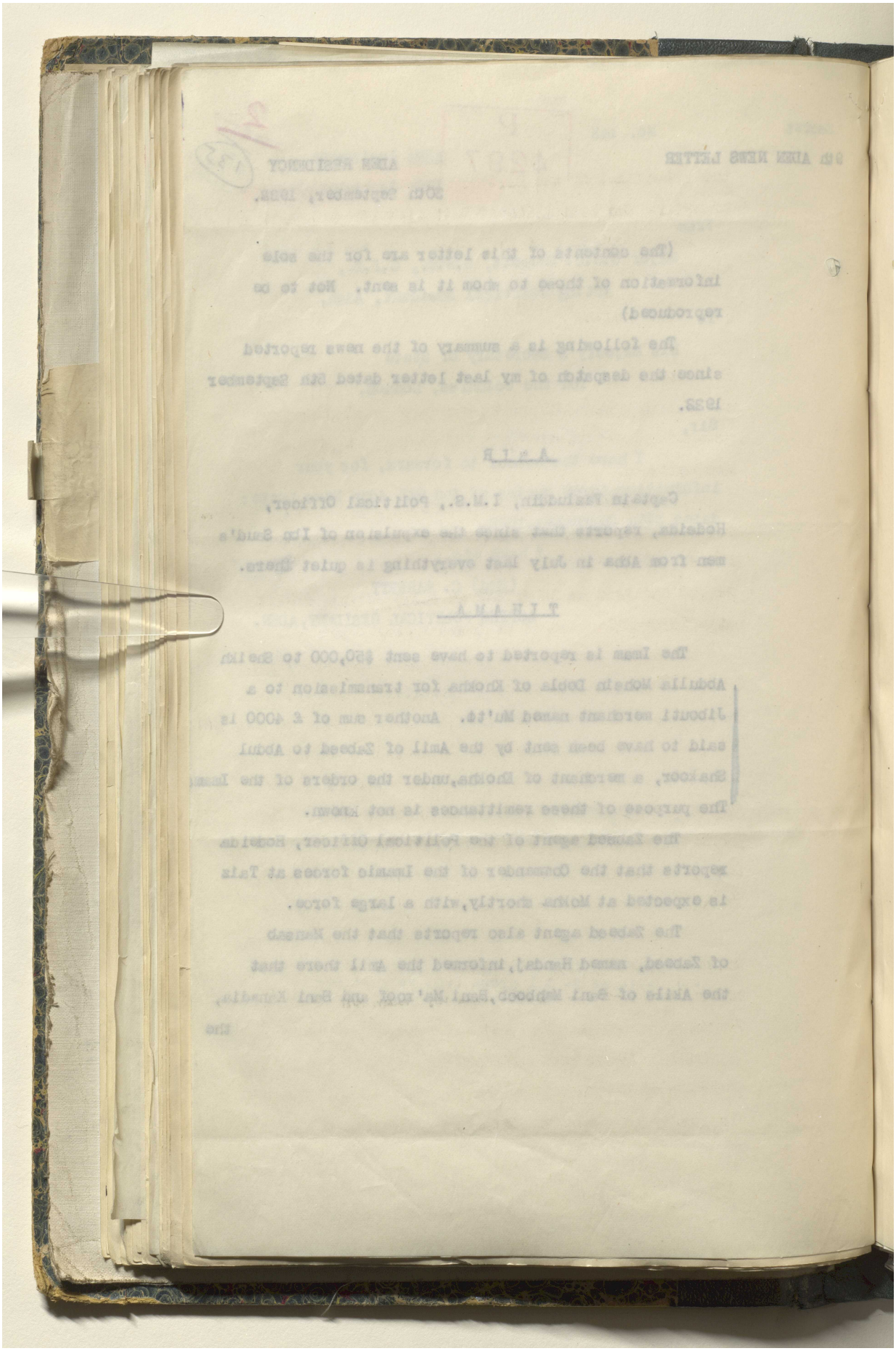

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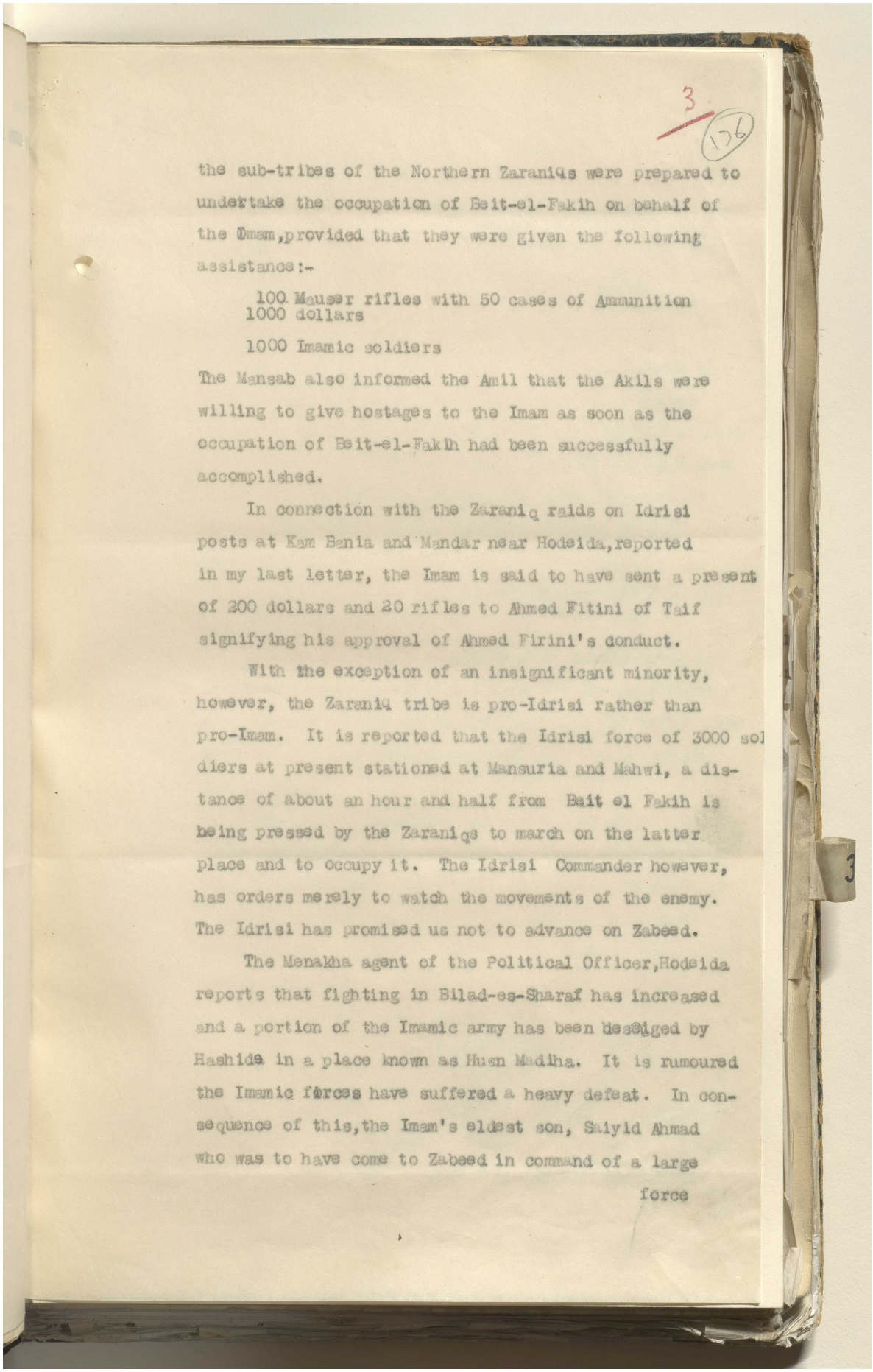

3
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the sub-tribes of the Northern Zaraniqs were prepared to undertake the occupation of Beit-el-Fakih on behalf of the Imam, provided that they were given the following assistance:-

100 Mauser rifles with 50 cases of Ammunition
1000 dollars

1000 Imamic soldiers

The Manaab also informed the Amil that the Akils were willing to give hostages to the Imam as soon as the occupation of Beit-el-Fakih had been successfully accomplished.

In connection with the Zaraniq raids on Idrisi posts at Kam Bania and Mandar near Hodeida, reported in my last letter, the Imam is said to have sent a present of 200 dollars and 20 rifles to Ahmed Fitini of Taif signifying his approval of Ahmed Firini's conduct.

With the exception of an insignificant minority, however, the Zaraniq tribe is pro-Idrisi rather than pro-Imam. It is reported that the Idrisi force of 3000 soldiers at present stationed at Mansuria and Mahwi, a distance of about an hour and half from Beit el Fakih is being pressed by the Zaraniqs to march on the latter place and to occupy it. The Idrisi Commander however, has orders merely to watch the movements of the enemy. The Idrisi has promised us not to advance on Zabeed.

The Menakha agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida reports that fighting in Bilad-es-Sharaf has increased and a portion of the Imamic army has been besieged by Hashids in a place known as Husn Madiha. It is rumoured the Imamic forces have suffered a heavy defeat. In consequence of this, the Imam's eldest son, Saiyid Ahmad who was to have come to Zabeed in command of a large

force

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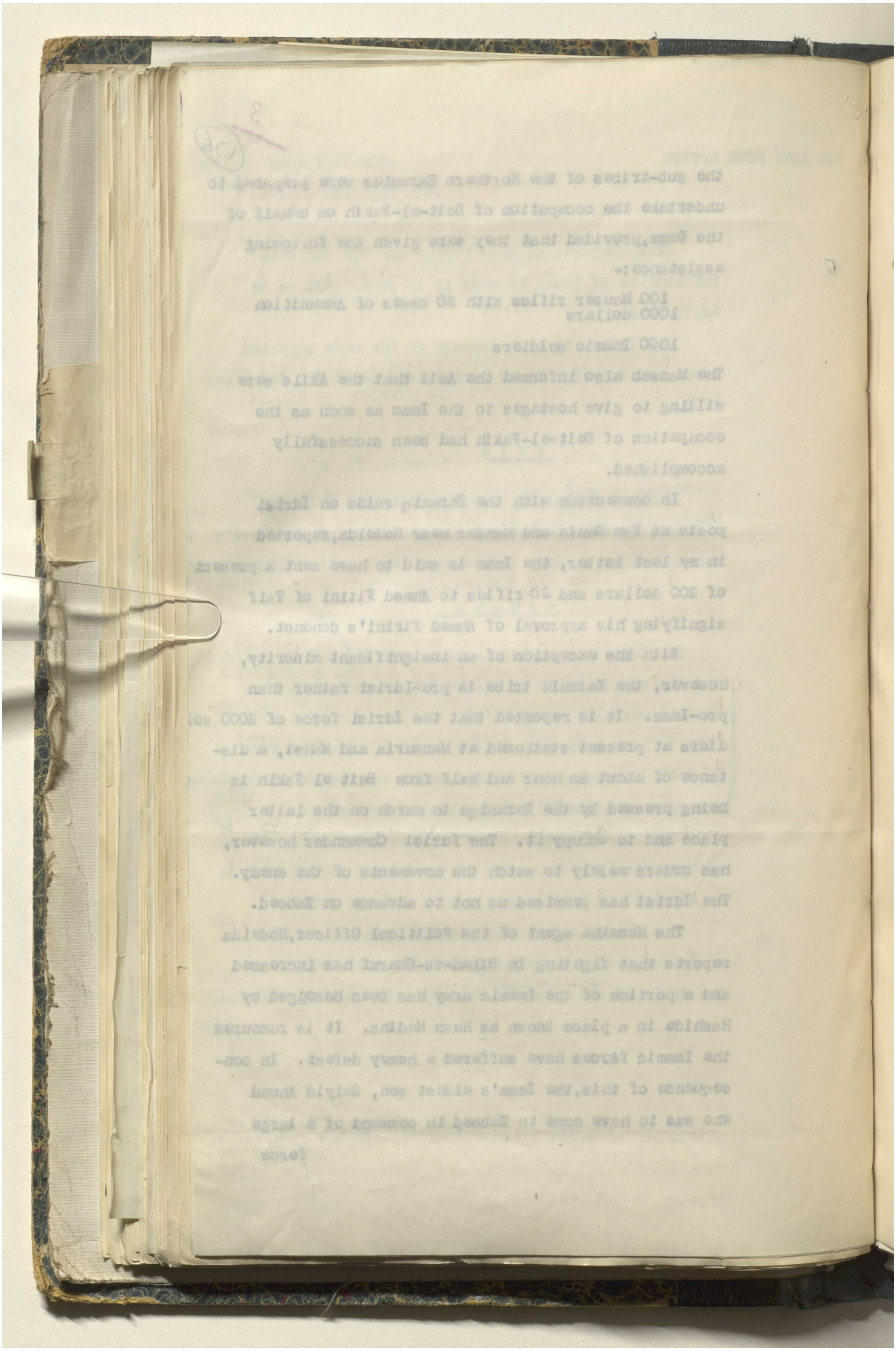

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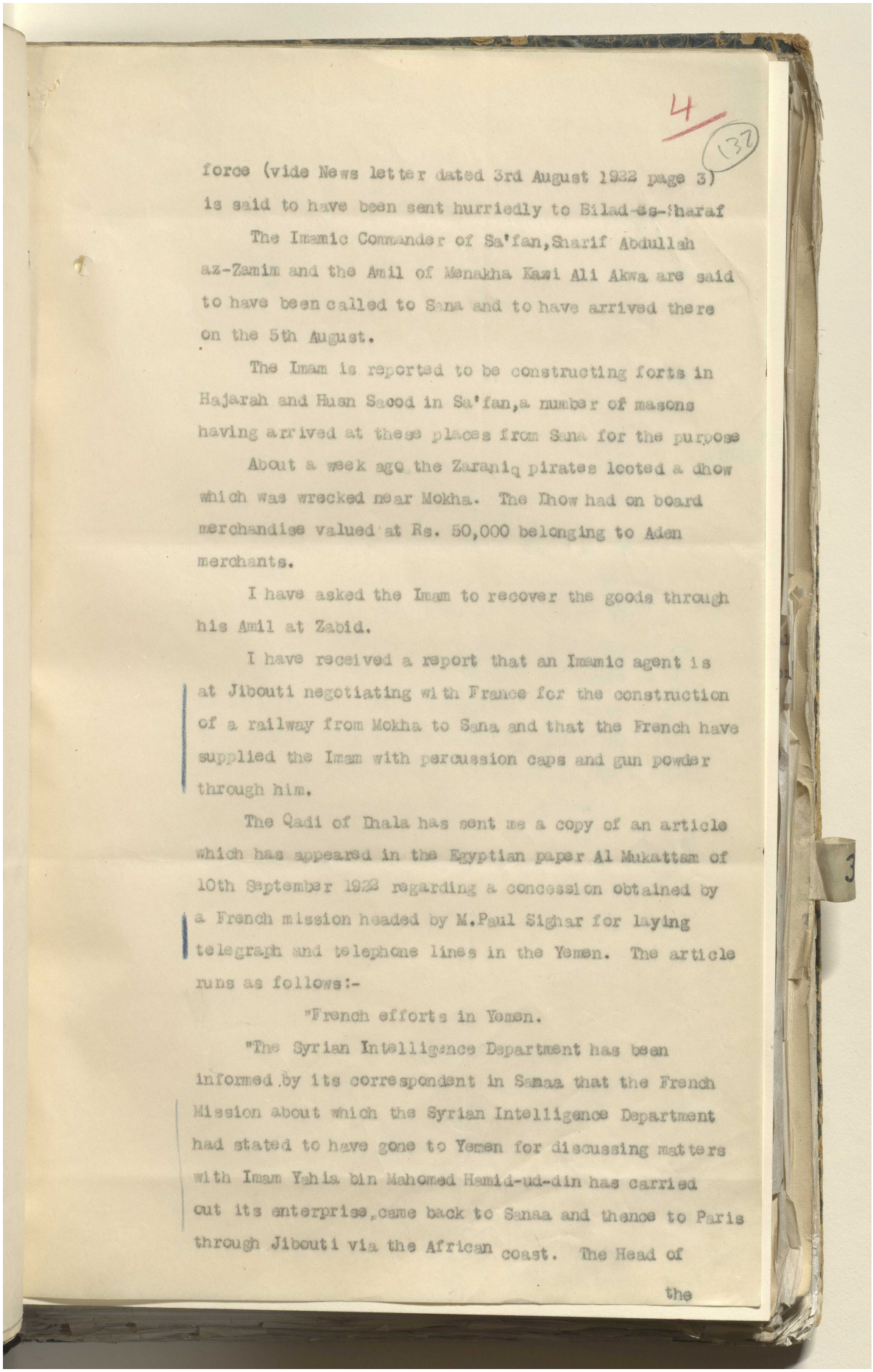

4

(137)

force (vide News letter dated 3rd August 1932 page 3) is said to have been sent hurriedly to Bilad-es-Sharaf

The Imamic Commander of Sa'fan, Sharif Abdullah az-Zamim and the Amil of Menakha Kazi Ali Akwa are said to have been called to Sana and to have arrived there on the 5th August.

The Imam is reported to be constructing forts in Hajarah and Husn Saood in Sa'fan, a number of masons having arrived at these places from Sana for the purpose

About a week ago the Zaraniq pirates looted a dhow which was wrecked near Mokha. The Dhow had on board merchandise valued at Rs. 50,000 belonging to Aden merchants.

I have asked the Imam to recover the goods through his Amil at Zabid.

I have received a report that an Imamic agent is at Jibouti negotiating with France for the construction of a railway from Mokha to Sana and that the French have supplied the Imam with percussion caps and gun powder through him.

The Qadi of Dhala has sent me a copy of an article which has appeared in the Egyptian paper Al Mukattam of 10th September 1932 regarding a concession obtained by a French mission headed by M.Paul Sighar for laying telegraph and telephone lines in the Yemen. The article runs as follows:-

"French efforts in Yemen.

"The Syrian Intelligence Department has been informed by its correspondent in Samaa that the French Mission about which the Syrian Intelligence Department had stated to have gone to Yemen for discussing matters with Imam Yahia bin Mahomed Hamid-ud-din has carried out its enterprise, came back to Sanaa and thence to Paris through Jibouti via the African coast. The Head of

the

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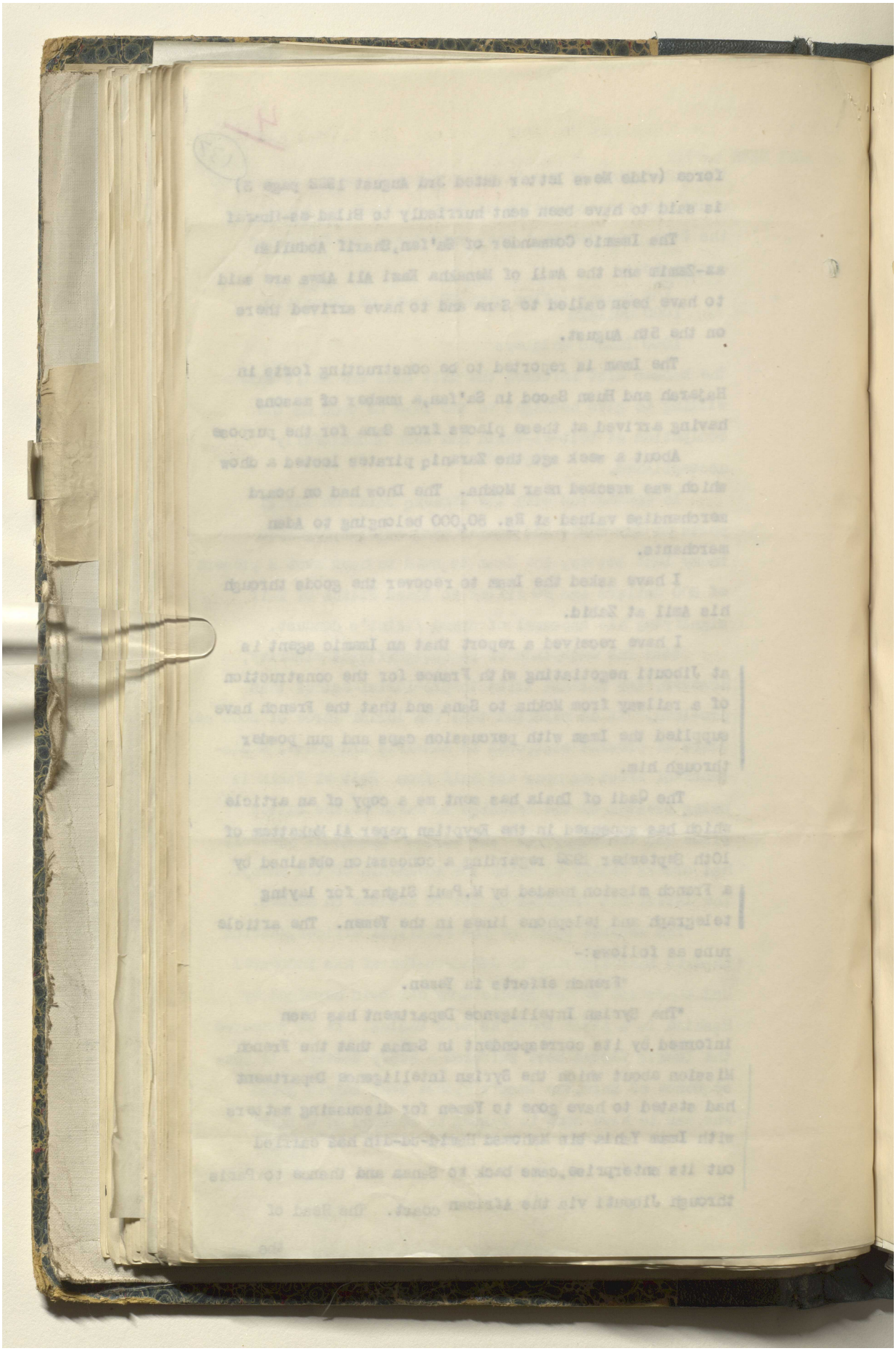

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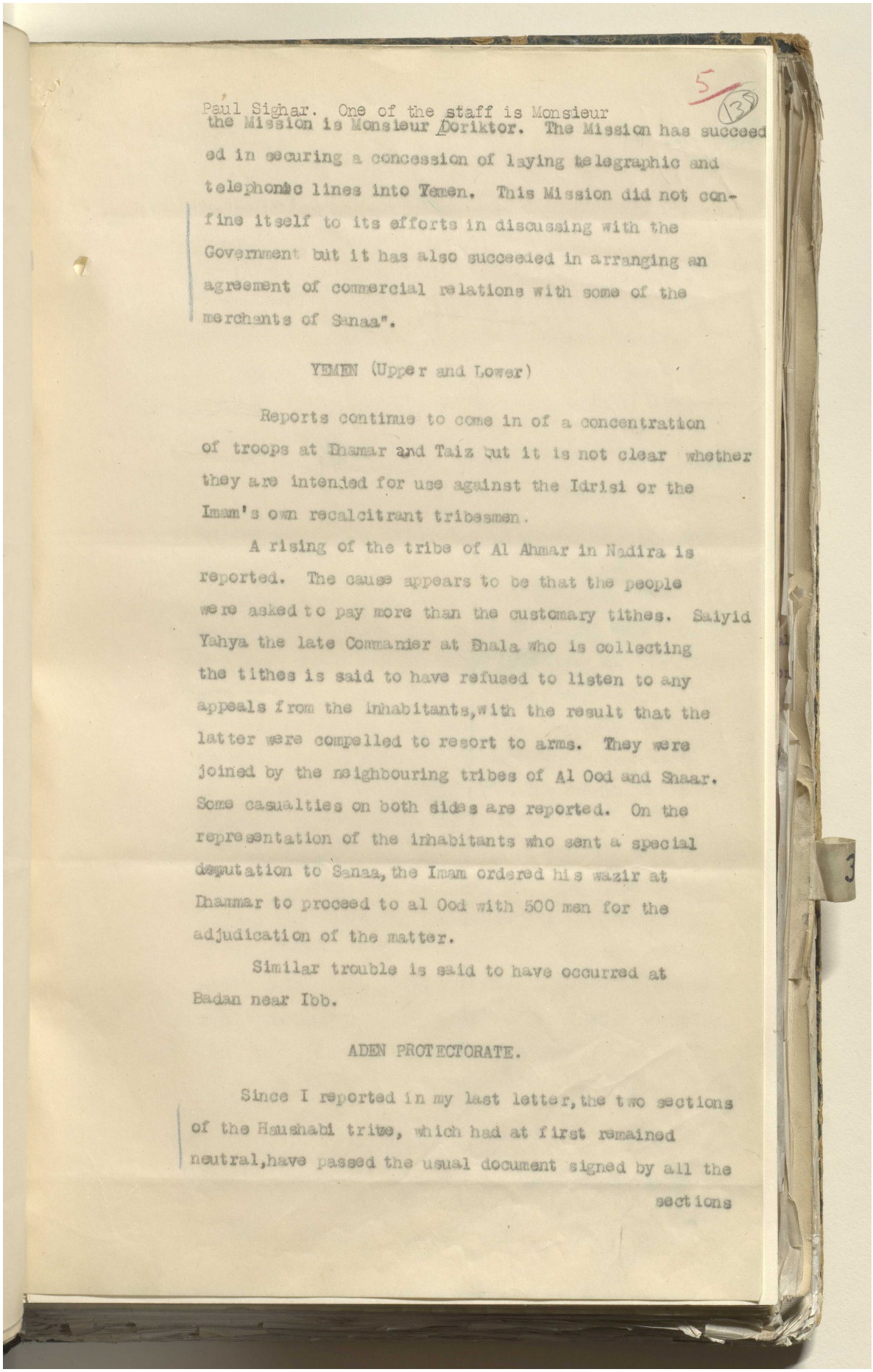

5/133

Paul Sighar. One of the staff is Monsieur
the Mission is Monsieur Doriktor. The Mission has succeed
ed in securing a concession of laying telegraphic and
telephonic lines into Yemen. This Mission did not con-
fine itself to its efforts in discussing with the
Government but it has also succeeded in arranging an
agreement of commercial relations with some of the
merchants of Sanaa".

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

Reports continue to come in of a concentration of troops at Dhamar and Taiz but it is not clear whether they are intended for use against the Idrisi or the Imam's own recalcitrant tribesmen.

A rising of the tribe of Al Ahmar in Nadira is reported. The cause appears to be that the people were asked to pay more than the customary tithes. Saiyid Yahya the late Commander at Dhala who is collecting the tithes is said to have refused to listen to any appeals from the inhabitants, with the result that the latter were compelled to resort to arms. They were joined by the neighbouring tribes of Al Ood and Shaar. Some casualties on both sides are reported. On the representation of the inhabitants who sent a special deputation to Sanaa, the Imam ordered his wazir at Dhamar to proceed to al Ood with 500 men for the adjudication of the matter.

Similar trouble is said to have occurred at Badan near Ibb.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Since I reported in my last letter, the two sections of the Haushabi tribe, which had at first remained neutral, have passed the usual document signed by all the sections

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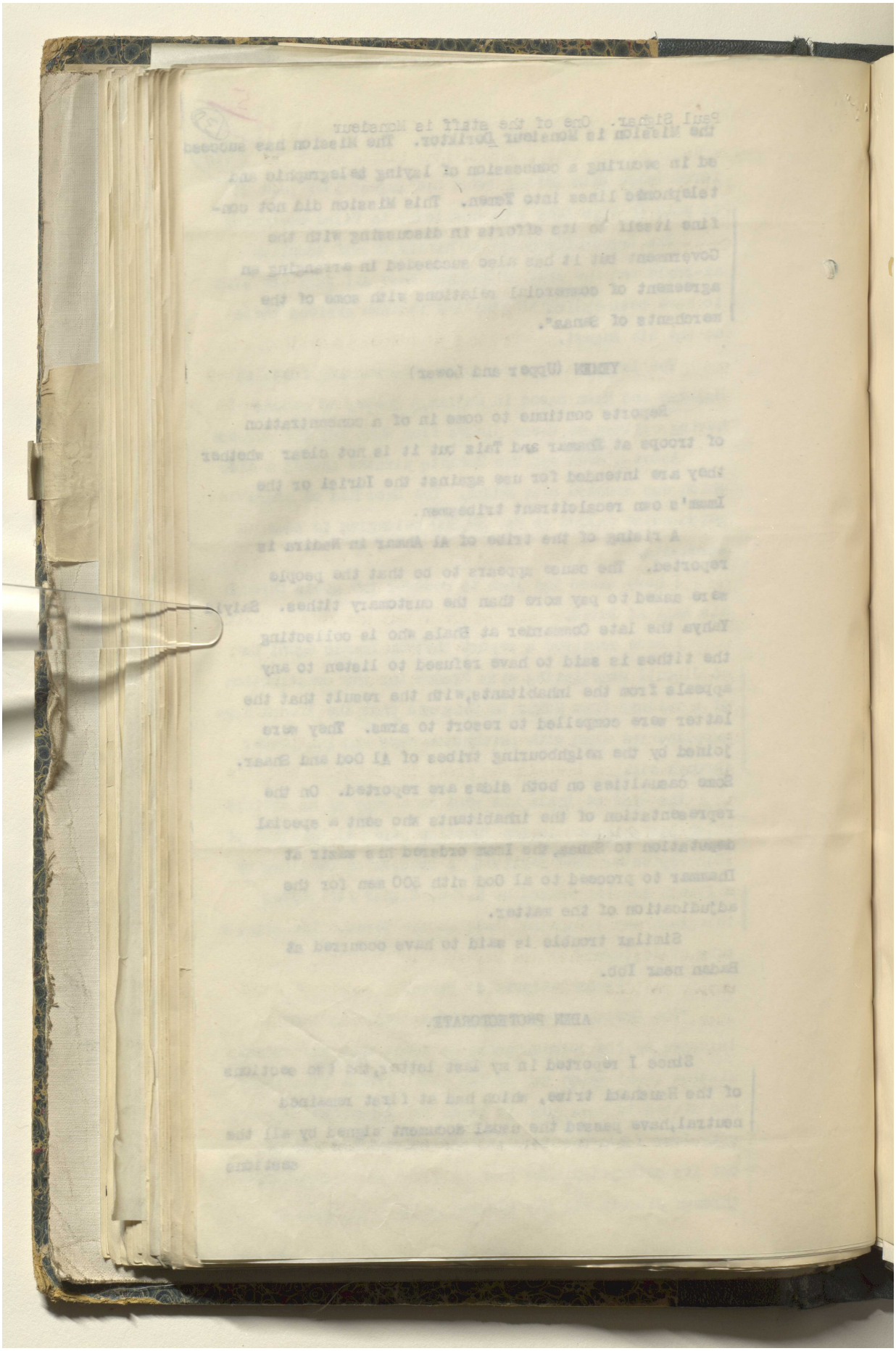

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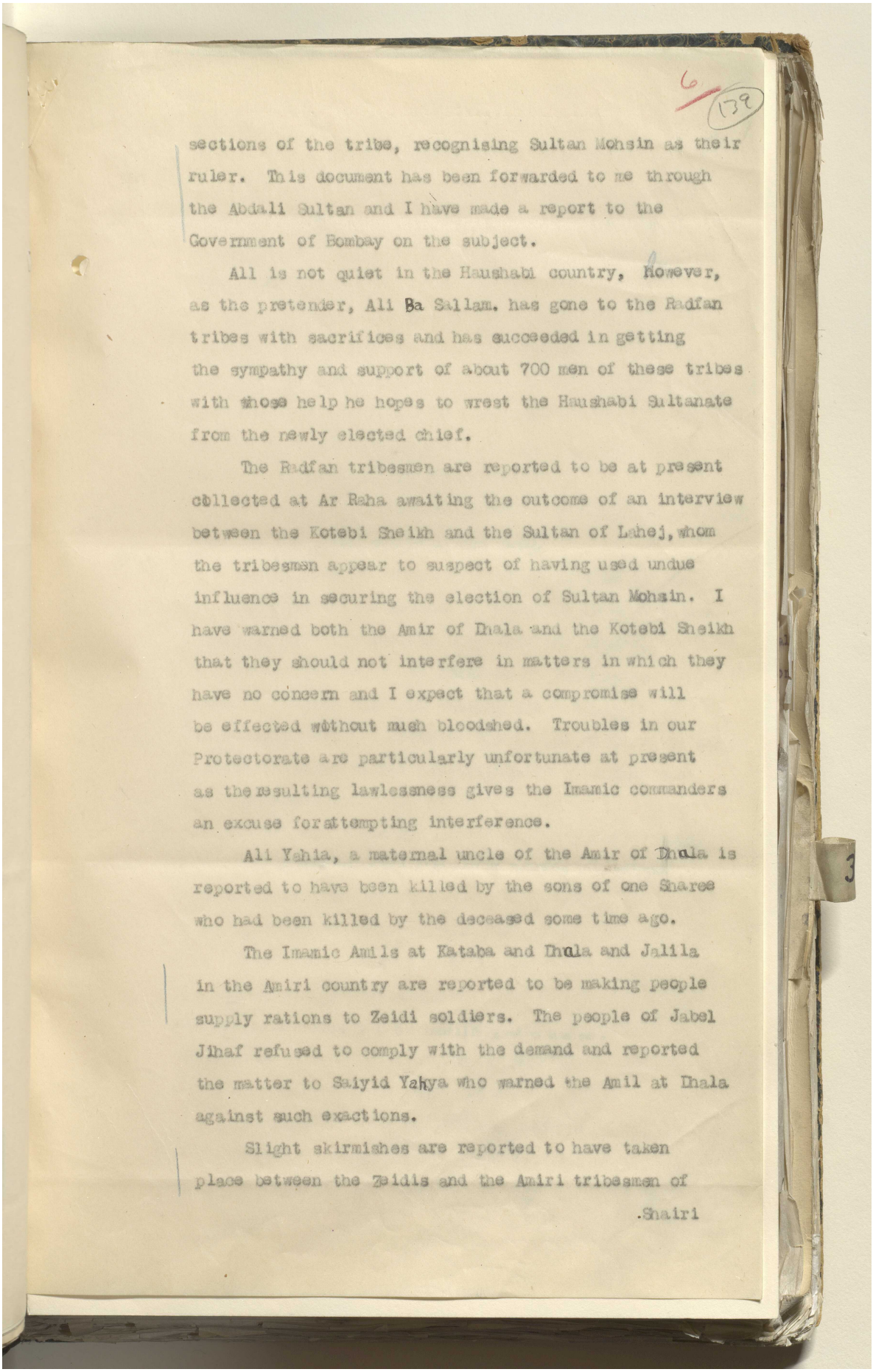

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sections of the tribe, recognising Sultan Mohsin as their ruler. This document has been forwarded to me through the Abdali Sultan and I have made a report to the Government of Bombay on the subject.

All is not quiet in the Haushabi country, however, as the pretender, Ali Ba Sallam, has gone to the Radfan tribes with sacrifices and has succeeded in getting the sympathy and support of about 700 men of these tribes with whose help he hopes to wrest the Haushabi Sultanate from the newly elected chief.

The Radfan tribesmen are reported to be at present collected at Ar Raha awaiting the outcome of an interview between the Kotebi Sheikh and the Sultan of Lahej, whom the tribesmen appear to suspect of having used undue influence in securing the election of Sultan Mohsin. I have warned both the Amir of Dhala and the Kotebi Sheikh that they should not interfere in matters in which they have no concern and I expect that a compromise will be effected without much bloodshed. Troubles in our Protectorate are particularly unfortunate at present as the resulting lawlessness gives the Imamic commanders an excuse for attempting interference.

Ali Yahia, a maternal uncle of the Amir of Dhala is reported to have been killed by the sons of one Sharee who had been killed by the deceased some time ago.

The Imamic Amils at Kataba and Dhala and Jalila in the Amiri country are reported to be making people supply rations to Zeidi soldiers. The people of Jabel Jihaf refused to comply with the demand and reported the matter to Saiyid Yahya who warned the Amil at Dhala against such exactions.

Slight skirmishes are reported to have taken place between the Zeidis and the Amiri tribesmen of

.Shairi

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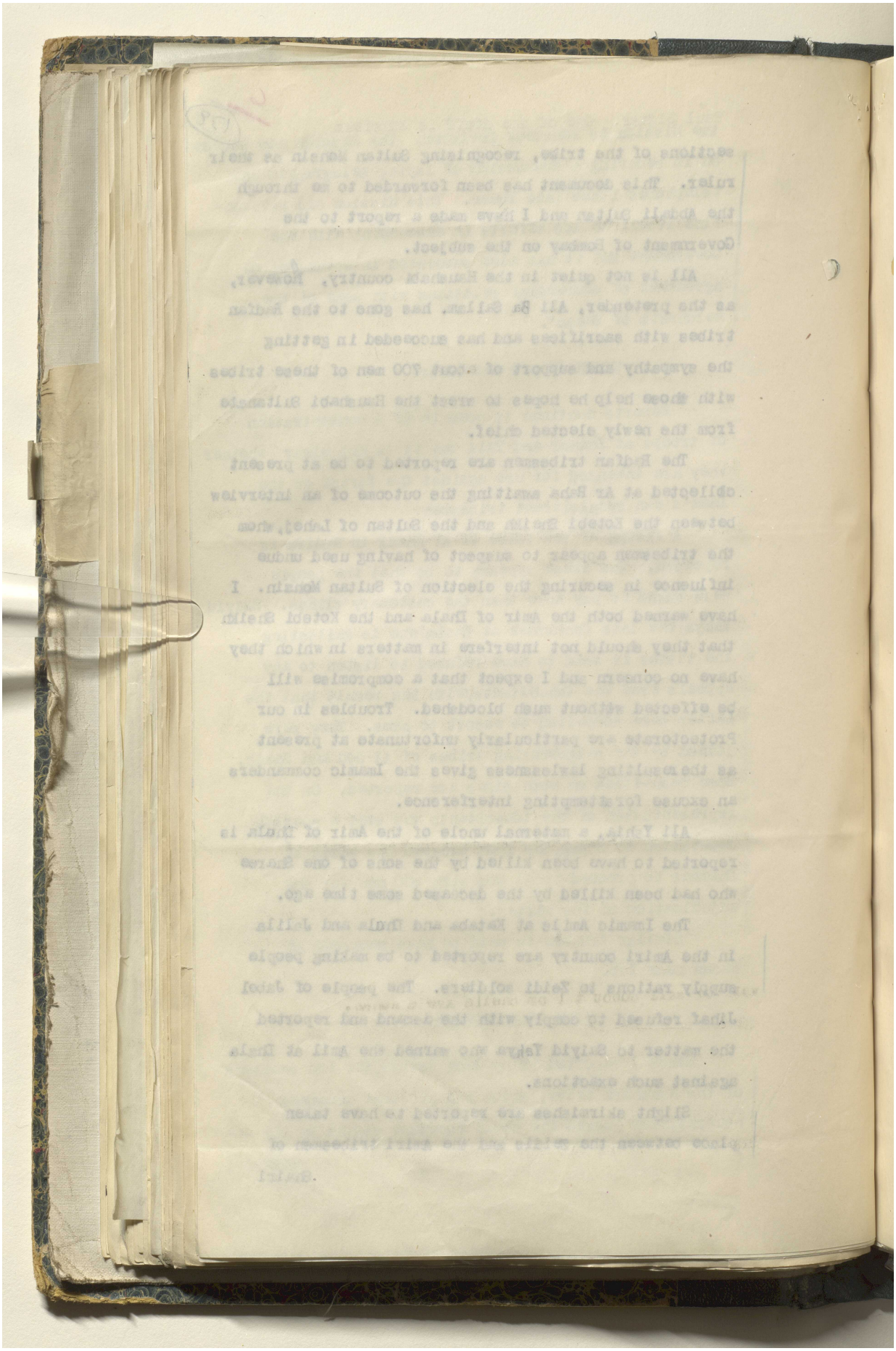

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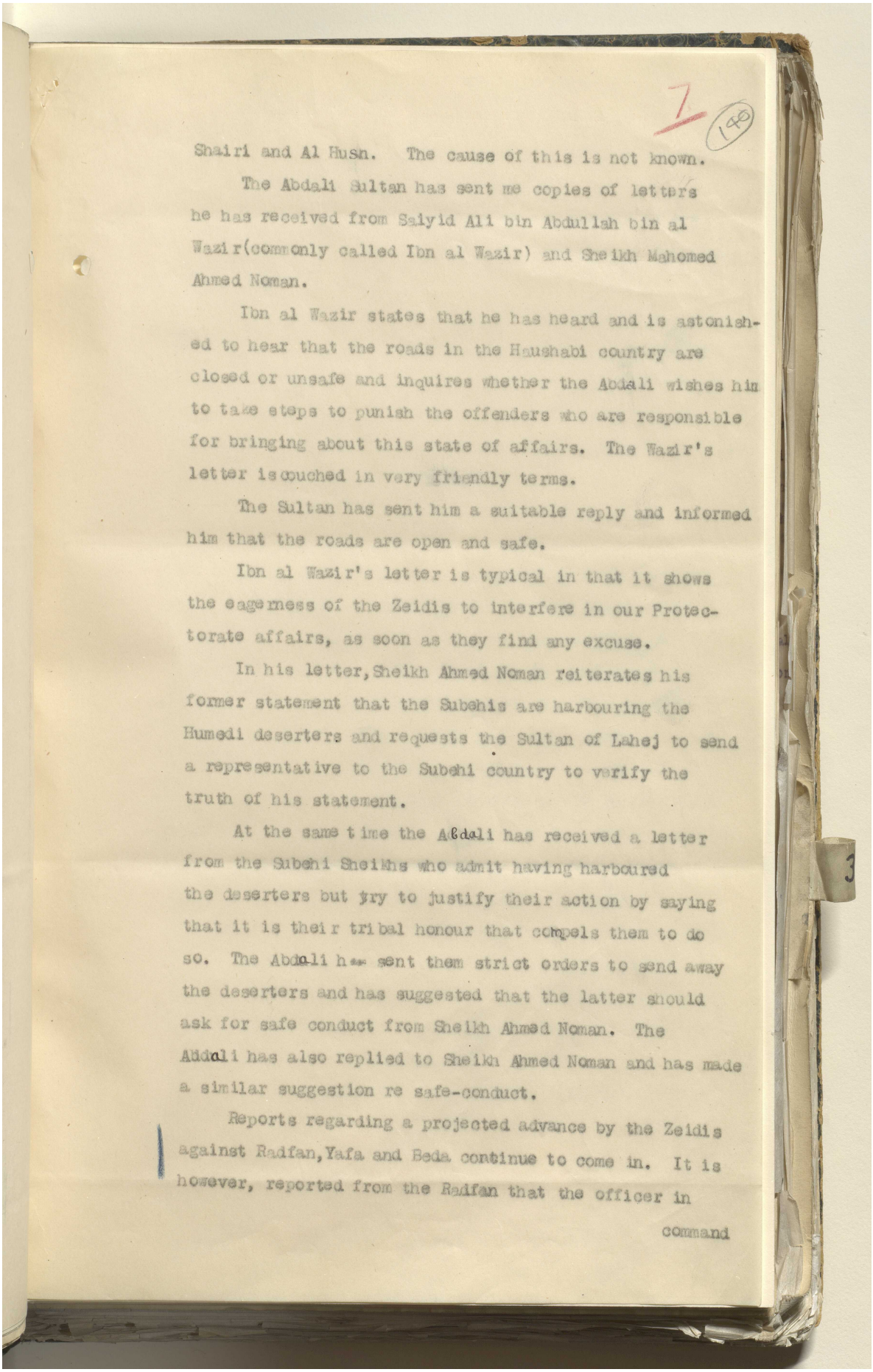

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Shairi and Al Husn. The cause of this is not known.

The Abdali Sultan has sent me copies of letters he has received from Saiyid Ali bin Abdullah bin al Wazir(commonly called Ibn al Wazir) and Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Noman.

Ibn al Wazir states that he has heard and is astonished to hear that the roads in the Haushabi country are closed or unsafe and inquires whether the Abdali wishes him to take steps to punish the offenders who are responsible for bringing about this state of affairs. The Wazir's letter is couched in very friendly terms.

The Sultan has sent him a suitable reply and informed him that the roads are open and safe.

Ibn al Wazir's letter is typical in that it shows the eagerness of the Zeidis to interfere in our Protectorate affairs, as soon as they find any excuse.

In his letter, Sheikh Ahmed Noman reiterates his former statement that the Subehis are harbouring the Humedi deserters and requests the Sultan of Lahej to send a representative to the Subehi country to verify the truth of his statement.

At the same time the Abdali has received a letter from the Subehi Sheikhs who admit having harboured the deserters but try to justify their action by saying that it is their tribal honour that compels them to do so. The Abdali has sent them strict orders to send away the deserters and has suggested that the latter should ask for safe conduct from Sheikh Ahmed Noman. The Abdali has also replied to Sheikh Ahmed Noman and has made a similar suggestion re safe-conduct.

Reports regarding a projected advance by the Zeidis against Radfan, Yafa and Beda continue to come in. It is however, reported from the Radfan that the officer in

command

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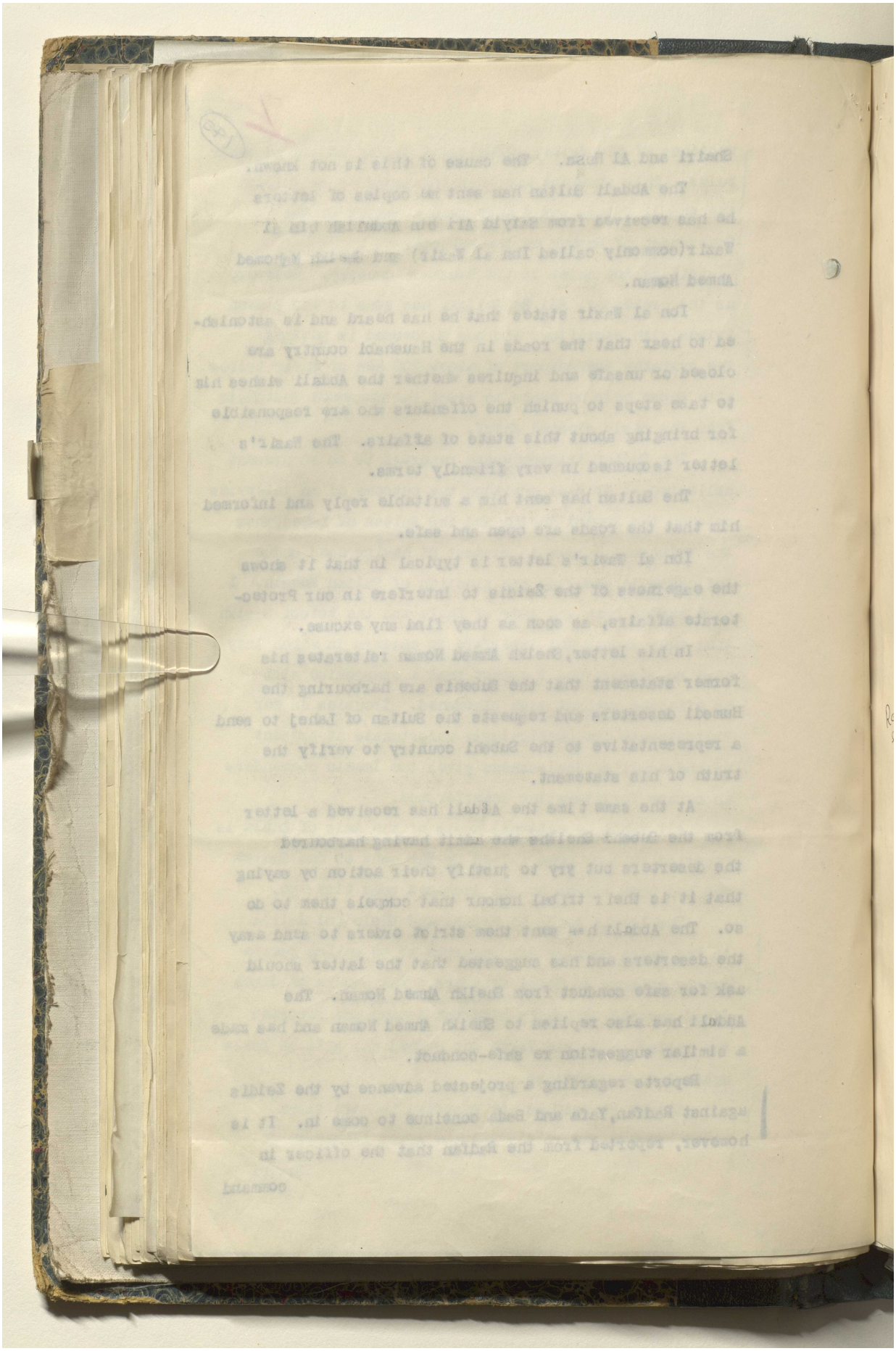

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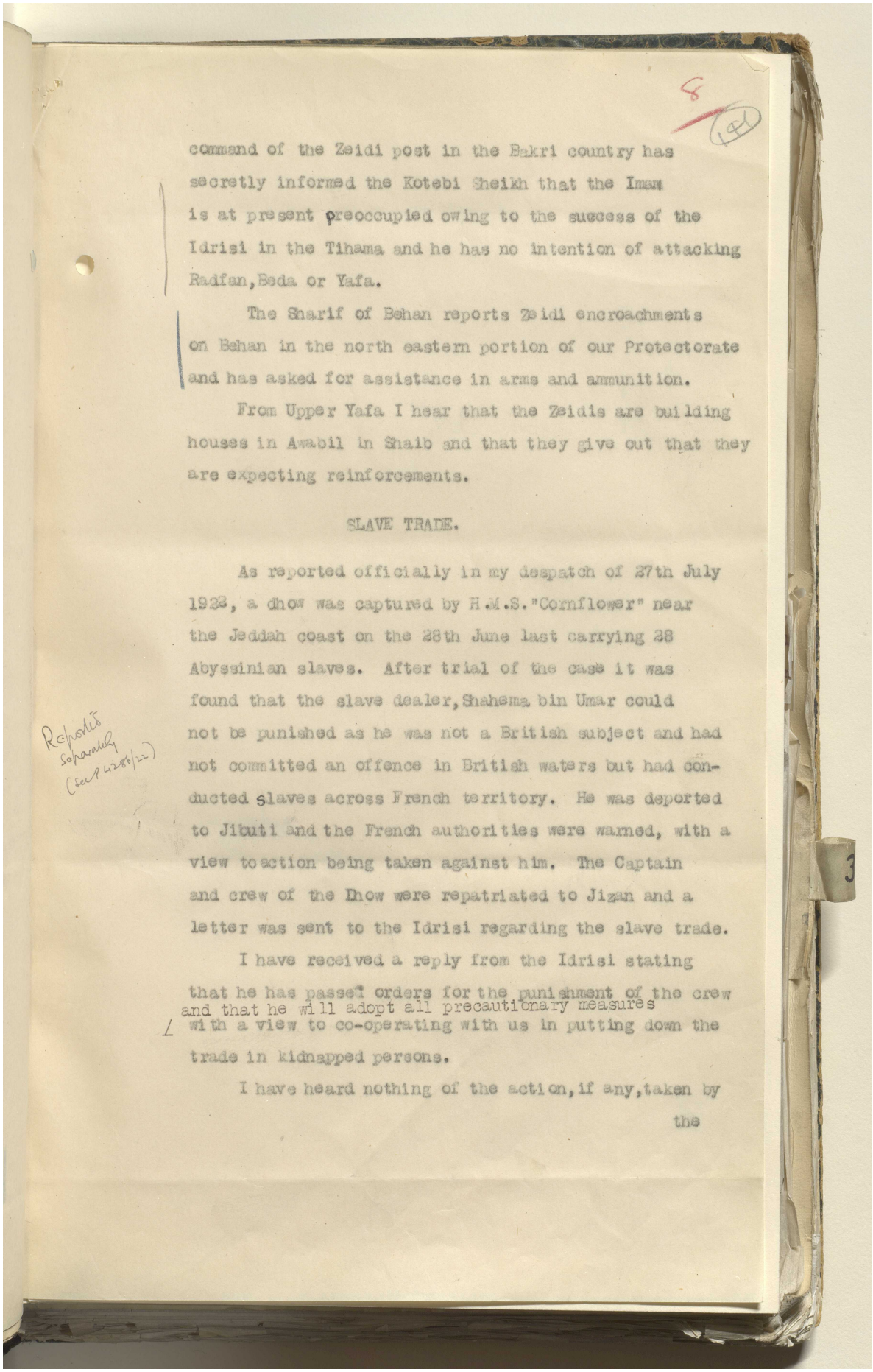

command of the Zeidi post in the Bakri country has secretly informed the Kotebi Sheikh that the Imam is at present preoccupied owing to the success of the Idrisi in the Tihama and he has no intention of attacking Radfan, Beda or Yafa.

The Sharif of Behan reports Zeidi encroachments on Behan in the north eastern portion of our Protectorate and has asked for assistance in arms and ammunition.

From Upper Yafa I hear that the Zeidis are building houses in Awabil in Shaib and that they give out that they are expecting reinforcements.

SLAVE TRADE.

As reported officially in my despatch of 27th July 1923, a dhow was captured by H.M.S. "Cornflower" near the Jeddah coast on the 28th June last carrying 28 Abyssinian slaves. After trial of the case it was found that the slave dealer, Shahema bin Umar could not be punished as he was not a British subject and had not committed an offence in British waters but had conducted slaves across French territory. He was deported to Jibuti and the French authorities were warned, with a view to action being taken against him. The Captain and crew of the Dhow were repatriated to Jizan and a letter was sent to the Idrisi regarding the slave trade.

Reports separately (Sec/P 4288/22)

I have received a reply from the Idrisi stating that he has passed orders for the punishment of the crew and that he will adopt all precautionary measures with a view to co-operating with us in putting down the trade in kidnapped persons.

I have heard nothing of the action, if any, taken by the

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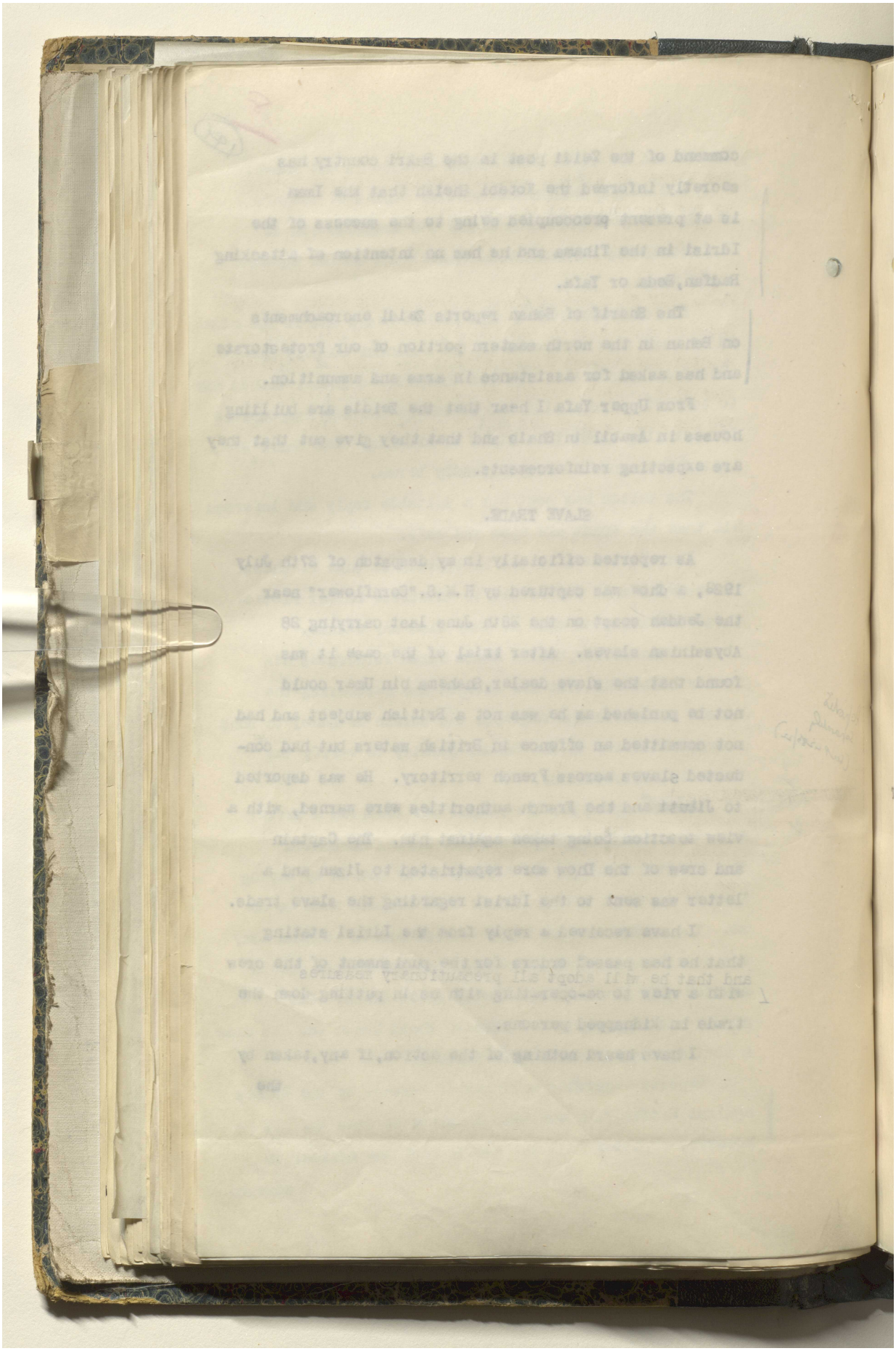

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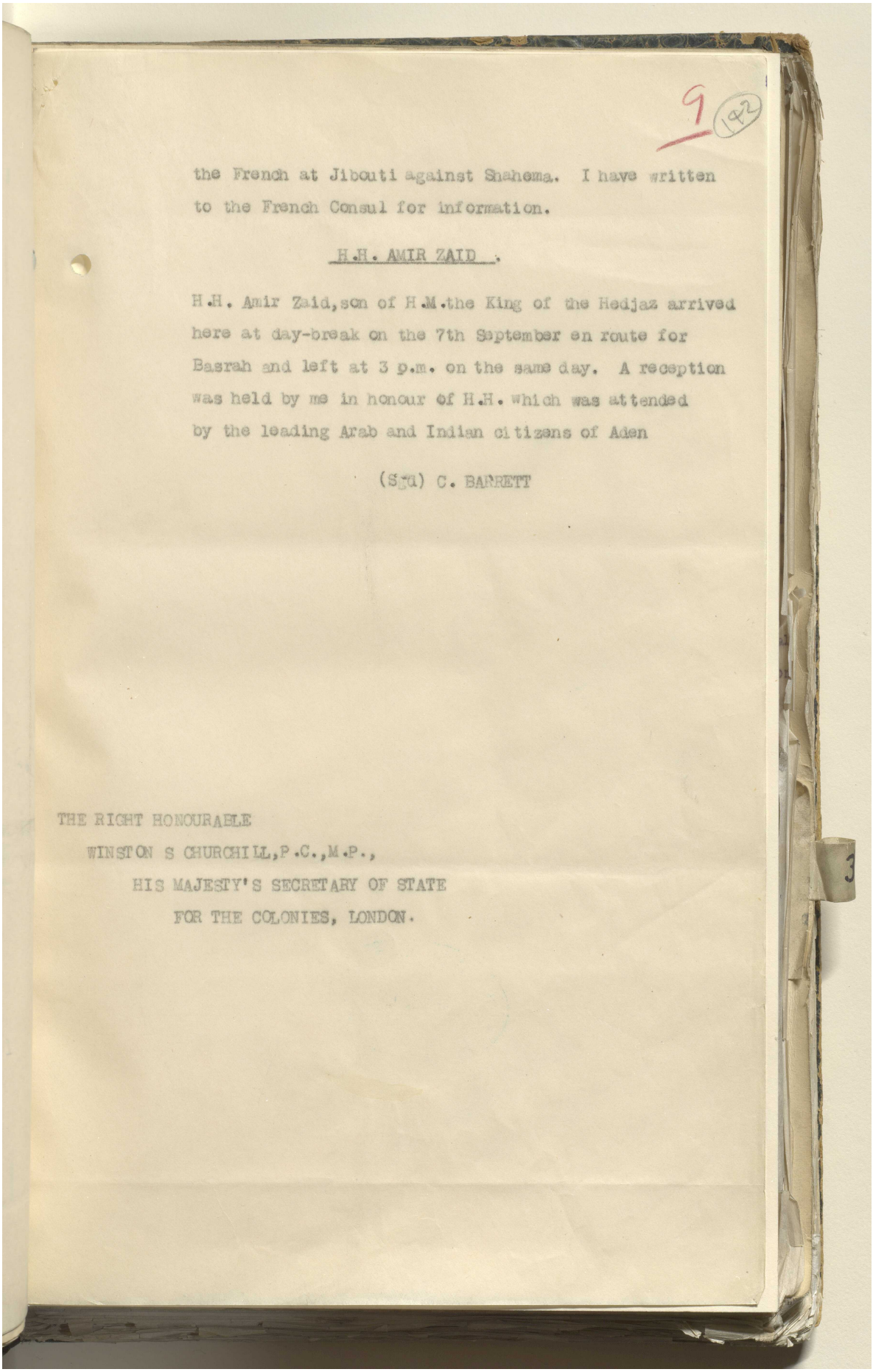

9 (142)

the French at Jibouti against Shahema. I have written to the French Consul for information.

H.H. AMIR ZAID .

H.H. Amir Zaid, son of H.M. the King of the Hedjaz arrived here at day-break on the 7th September en route for Basrah and left at 3 p.m. on the same day. A reception was held by me in honour of H.H. which was attended by the leading Arab and Indian citizens of Aden

(Sgd) C. BARRETT

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WINSTON S CHURCHILL, P.C., M.P.,
HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES, LONDON.

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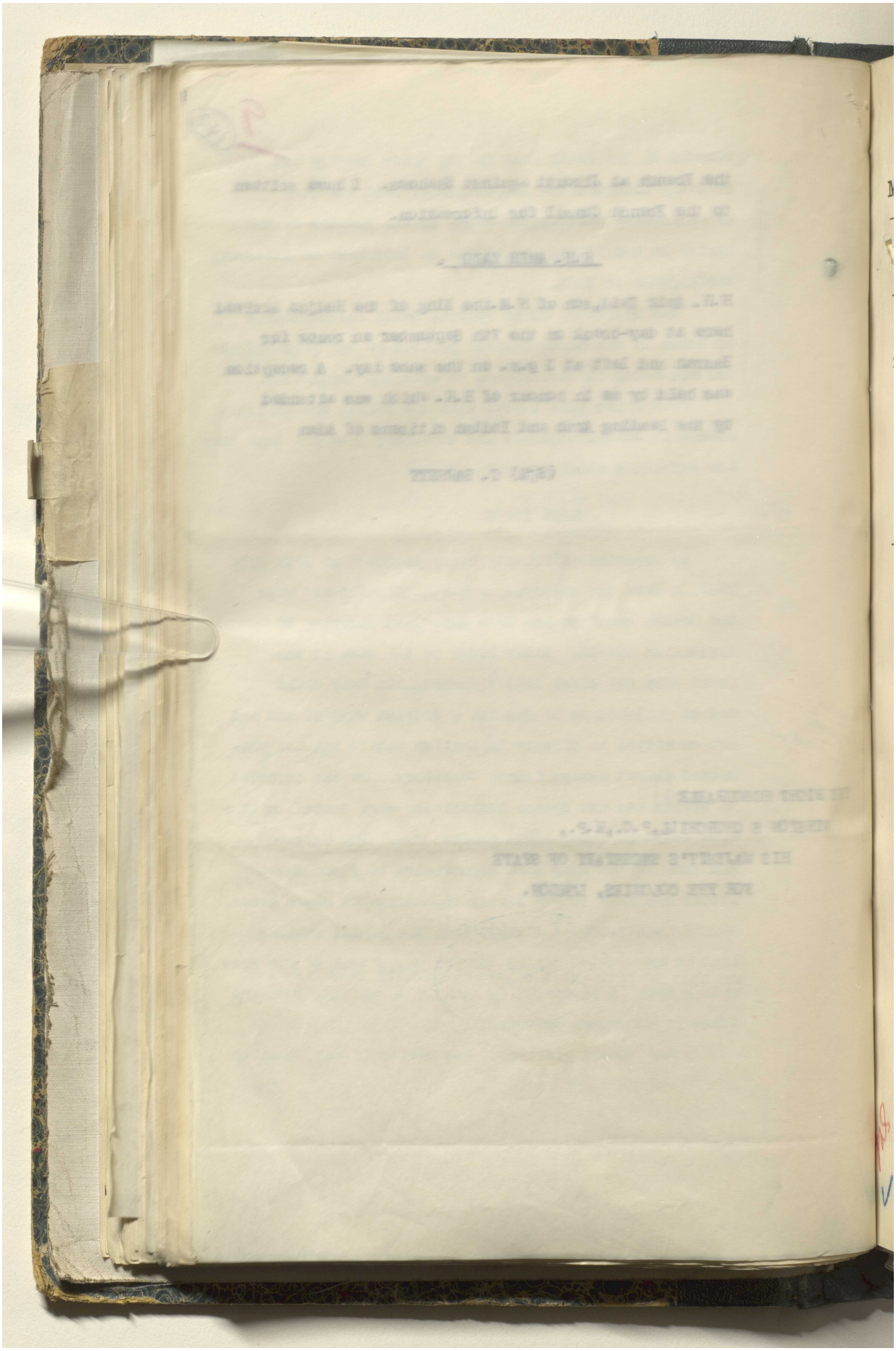

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PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16 (42)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 3900

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1922.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	5. x	[illegible]	Aden News Letter of 5 September.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	5-10	[illegible]	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
11 OCT 1922

FOR INFORMATION.

Mr. 3-4.

The Idrisi's methods of taxation are neither conducive to the prosperity of Hodeida nor to the Idrisi himself

Mr 4-5

The French mission to the Imam is reported to be returning to Mocha. In view of the reported intention of the French to endeavour to acquire this port it is a pity that it was not possible to give a more favorable reception to the Sherif of Mocha's overture to the Resident at Aden. As a result his anti-French bias may not be so pronounced

P.T.O.

Previous Papers—

5273 1500 3.22

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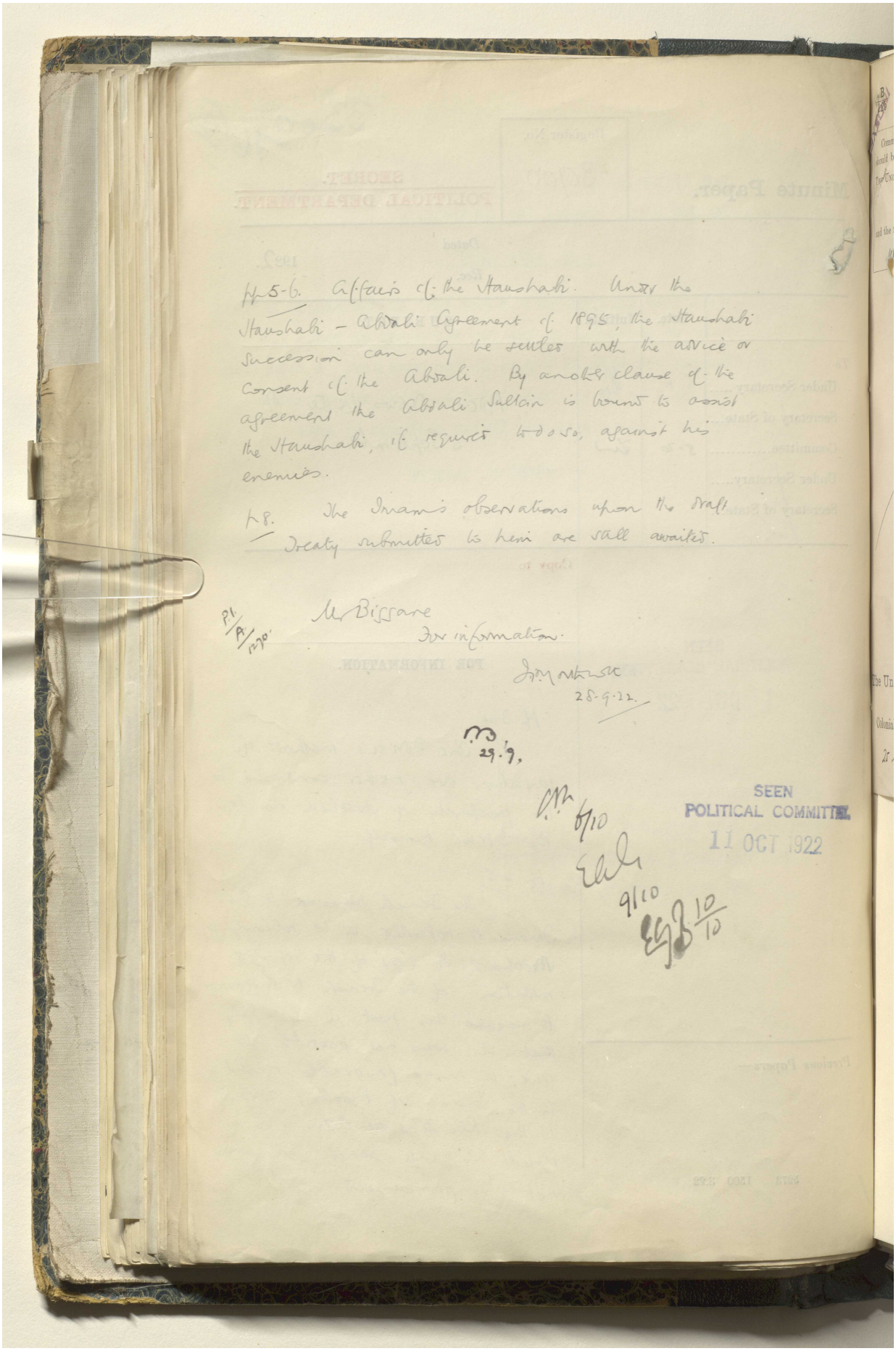

4-5-6. Affairs of the Haushabi. Under the Haushabi – Abdali Agreement of 1895, the Haushabi Succession can only be settled with the advice or Consent of the Abdali. By another clause of the agreement the Abdali Sultan is bound to assist the Haushabi, if required to do so, against his enemies.

7-8. The Imam's observations upon the draft Treaty submitted to him are still awaited.

Pl. A/1370.

Mr Bissare
For information.

28-9-22.

29.9.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
11 OCT 1922

9/10

9/10

10/10

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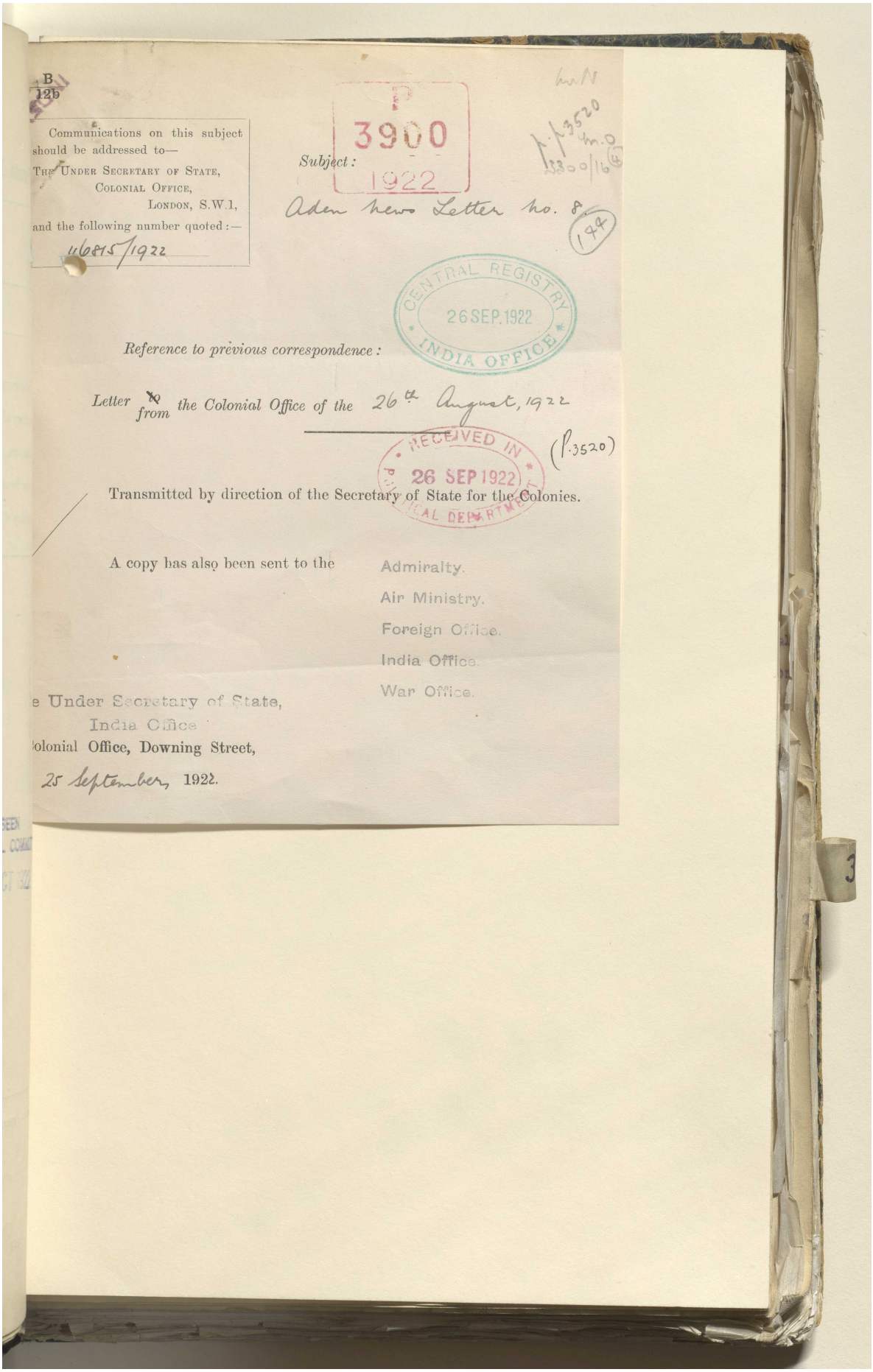

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
46815/1922

P
3900
1922

Subject:
Aden News Letter No. 8

CENTRAL REGISTRY
26 SEP. 1922
INDIA OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 26th August, 1922

RECEIVED IN
26 SEP 1922
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

(P.3520)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the

Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
India Office.
War Office.

e Under Secretary of State,
India Office
olonial Office, Downing Street,
25 September, 1922.

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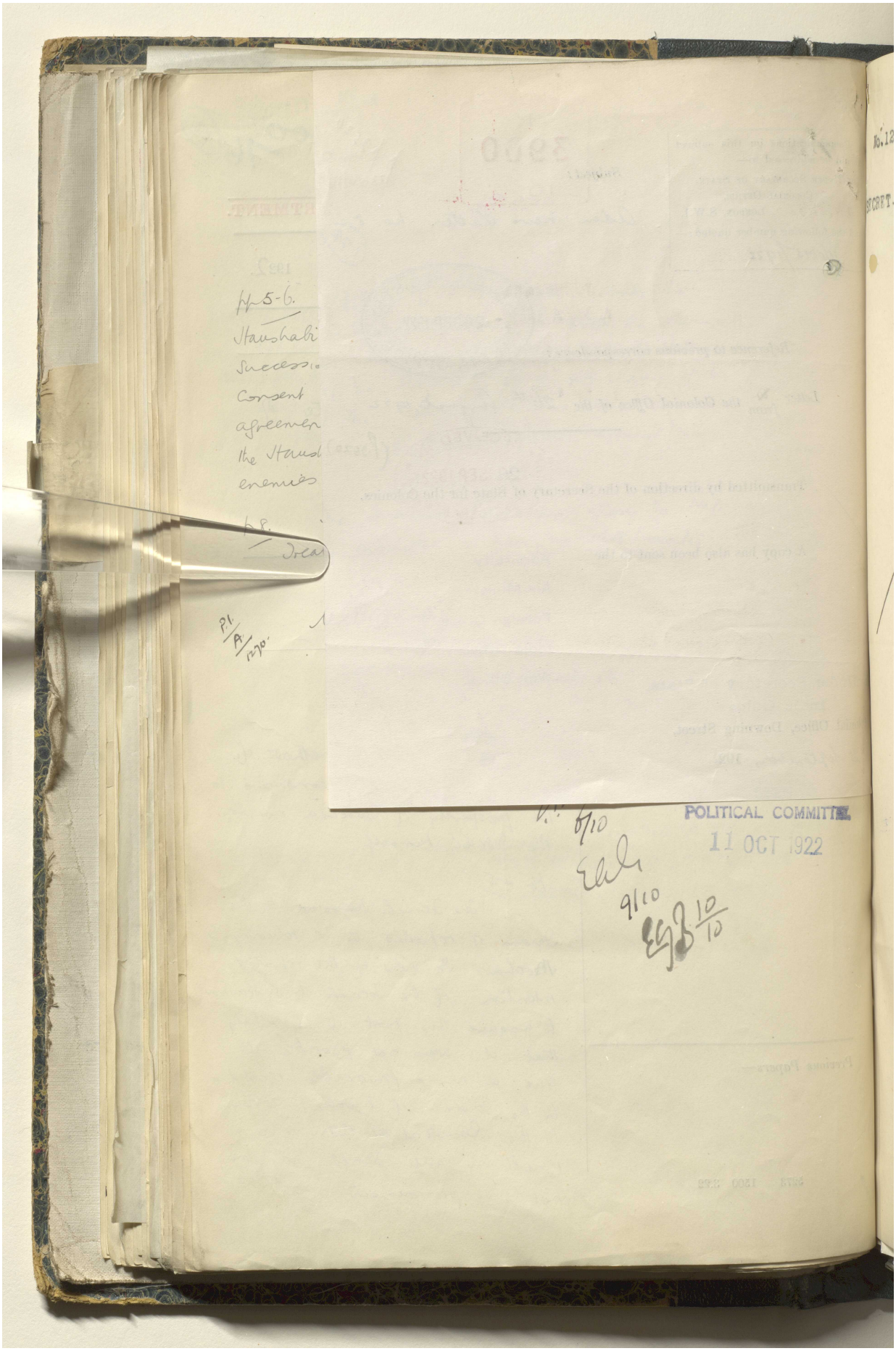

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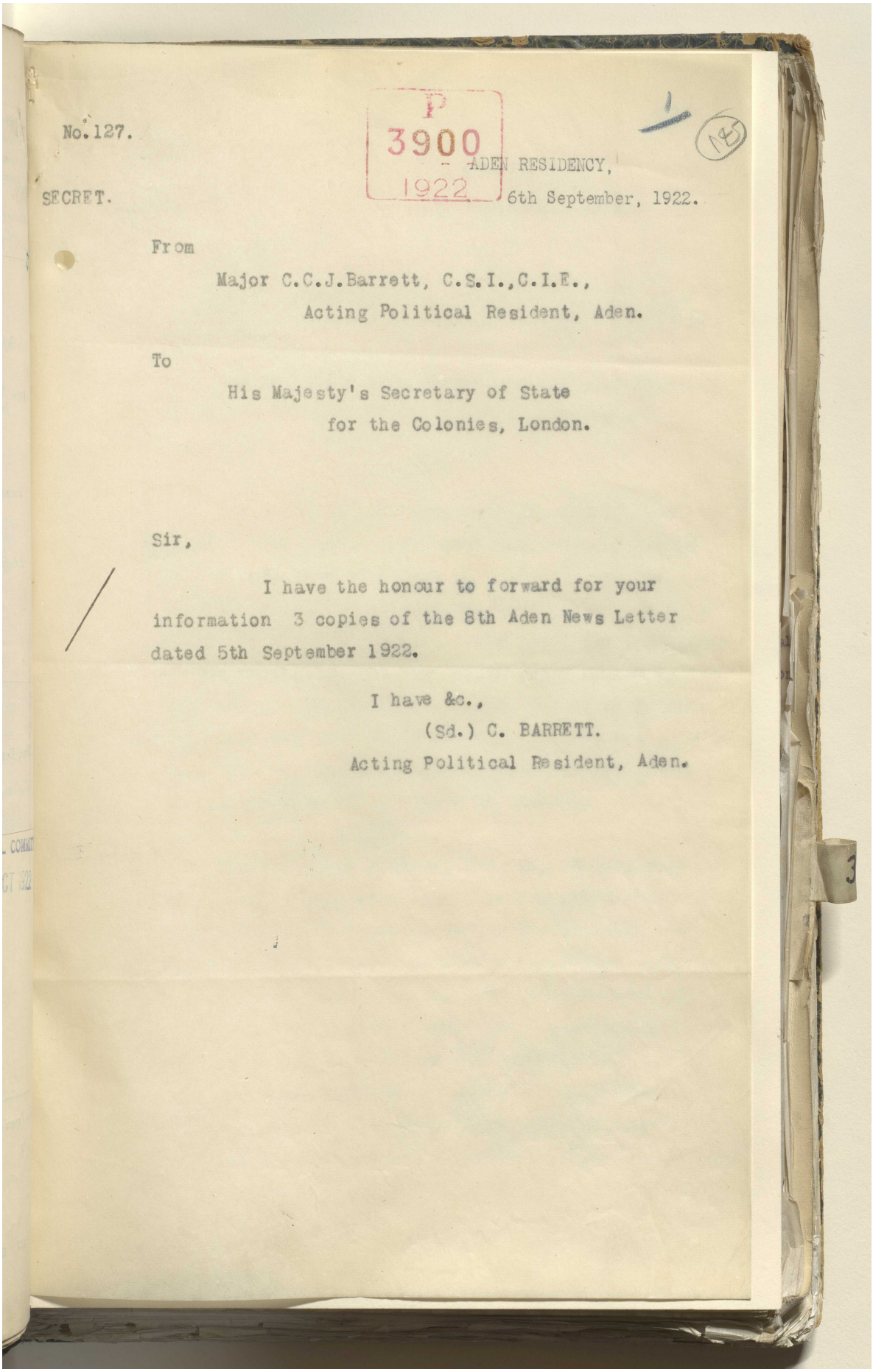

No. 127.

P 3900 1922

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
6th September, 1922.

From

Major C.C.J.Barrett, C.S.I.,C.I.E.,
Acting Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for your information 3 copies of the 8th Aden News Letter dated 5th September 1922.

I have &c.,
(Sd.) C. BARRETT.
Acting Political Resident, Aden.

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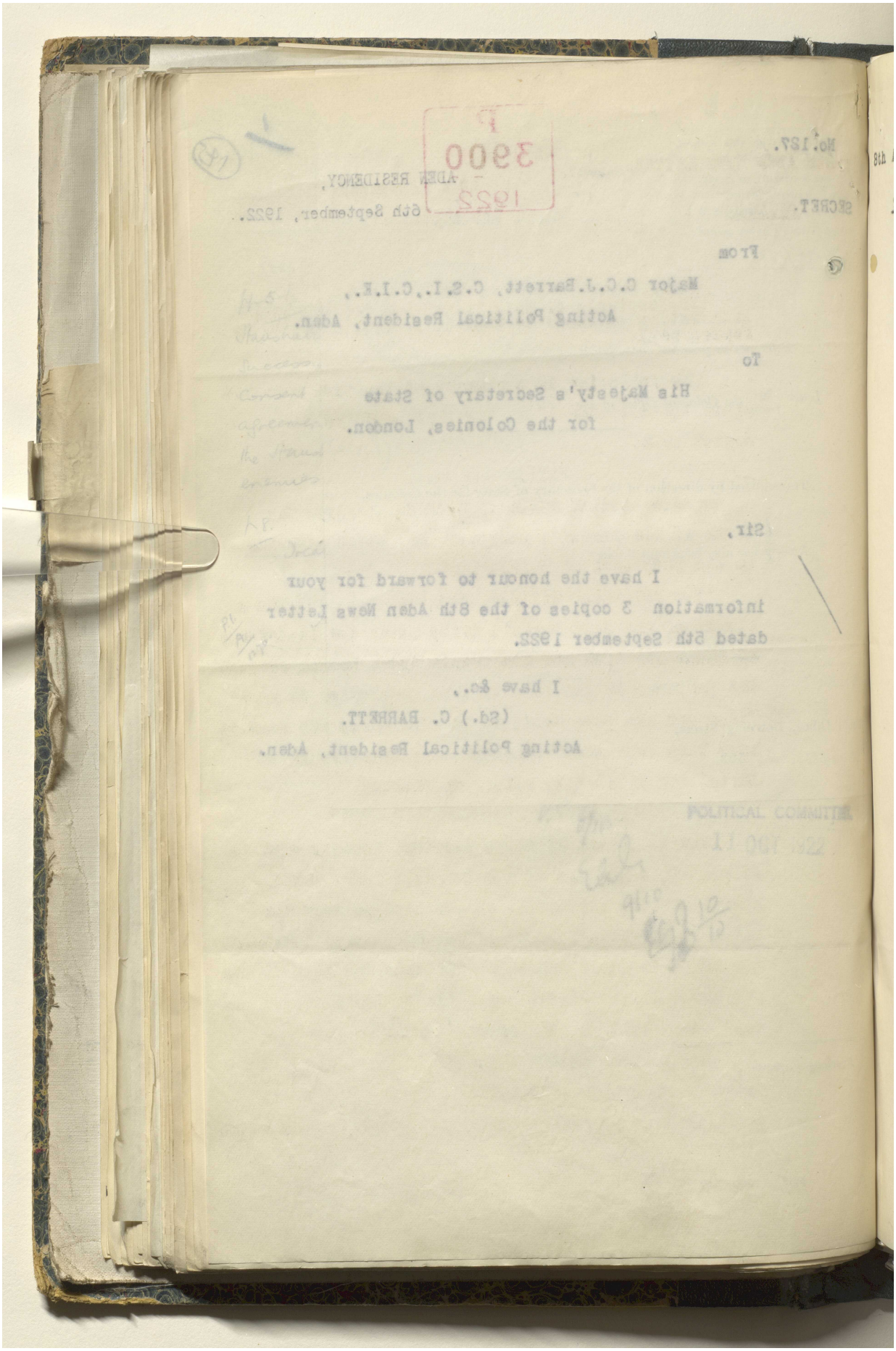

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8th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

SECRET.

5th September, 1922.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 3rd August 1922.

ASIR.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports the death of the Idrisi's youngest son, which occurred in the last week of July.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, also reports a rising of the Bani Mughaid tribe under the leadership of Hasan ibn Aidh and his cousin Abdur Rahman against the garrison of Ibn Saud in Abha, numbering 60 men. These men who were besieged in a fortress are said to have been released through the intervention of the Idrisi and allowed to return to Shahran.

TIHAMA

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that in July last, a section of the Zaraniqs under Ahmed Fitini who are unfriendly to the Idrisi, made two raids on the Idrisi Camps at Kam Bania near Mansuria and at Mandar near Hodeida. The Zaraniqs were driven away with the loss of 6 men. The Idrisi's casualties were three soldiers killed and one wounded.

The Menakha agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that Saiyid Ahmad and Shaikh Abdullah Massawa, nephew and father-in-law, respectively of

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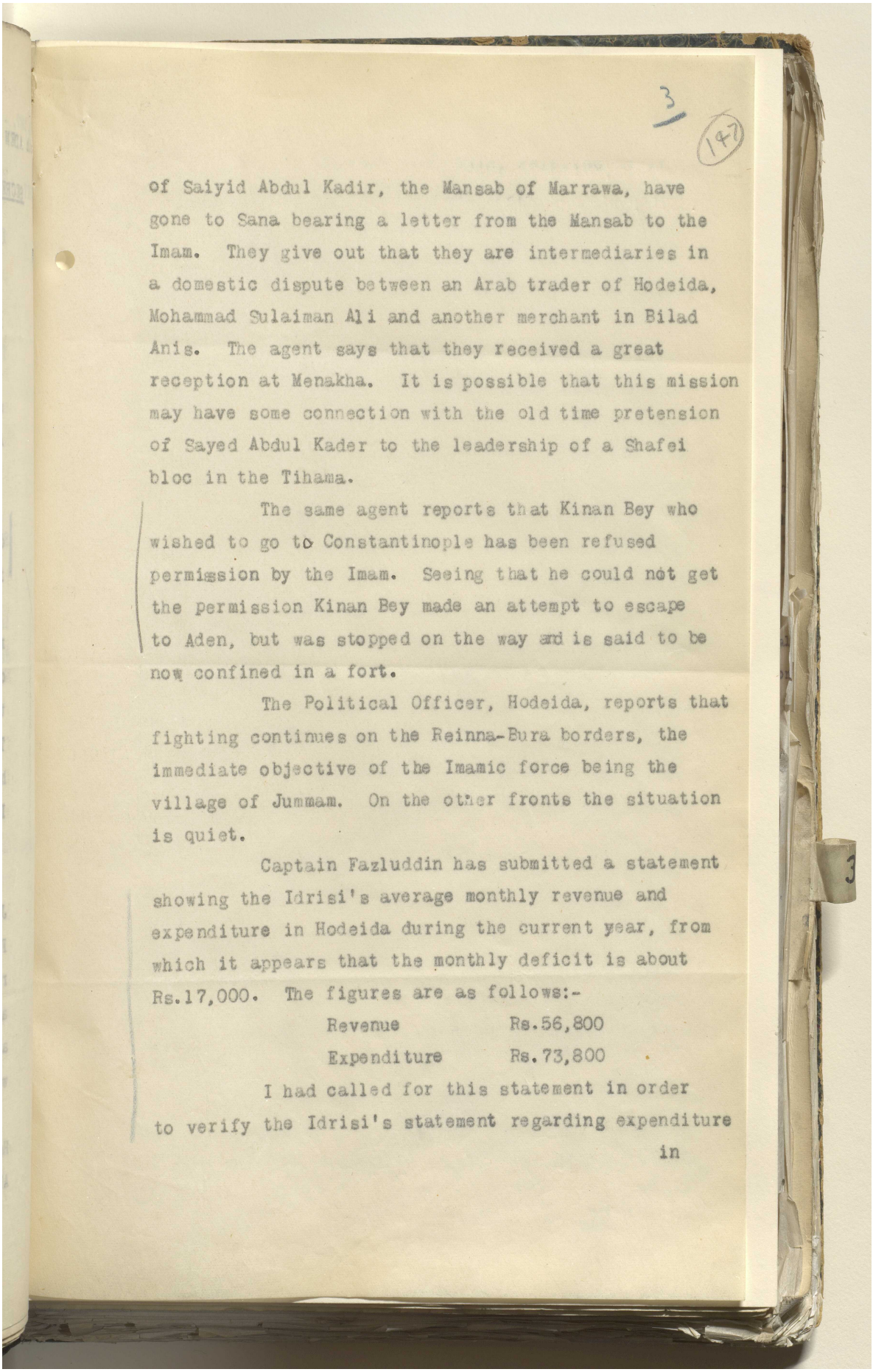

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147

of Saiyid Abdul Kadir, the Mansab of Marrawa, have gone to Sana bearing a letter from the Mansab to the Imam. They give out that they are intermediaries in a domestic dispute between an Arab trader of Hodeida, Mohammad Sulaiman Ali and another merchant in Bilad Anis. The agent says that they received a great reception at Menakha. It is possible that this mission may have some connection with the old time pretension of Sayed Abdul Kader to the leadership of a Shafei bloc in the Tihama.

The same agent reports that Kinan Bey who wished to go to Constantinople has been refused permission by the Imam. Seeing that he could not get the permission Kinan Bey made an attempt to escape to Aden, but was stopped on the way and is said to be now confined in a fort.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that fighting continues on the Reinna-Bura borders, the immediate objective of the Imamic force being the village of Jummam. On the other fronts the situation is quiet.

Captain Fazluddin has submitted a statement showing the Idrisi's average monthly revenue and expenditure in Hodeida during the current year, from which it appears that the monthly deficit is about Rs.17,000. The figures are as follows:-

Revenue	Rs.56,800
Expenditure	Rs.73,800

I had called for this statement in order to verify the Idrisi's statement regarding expenditure in

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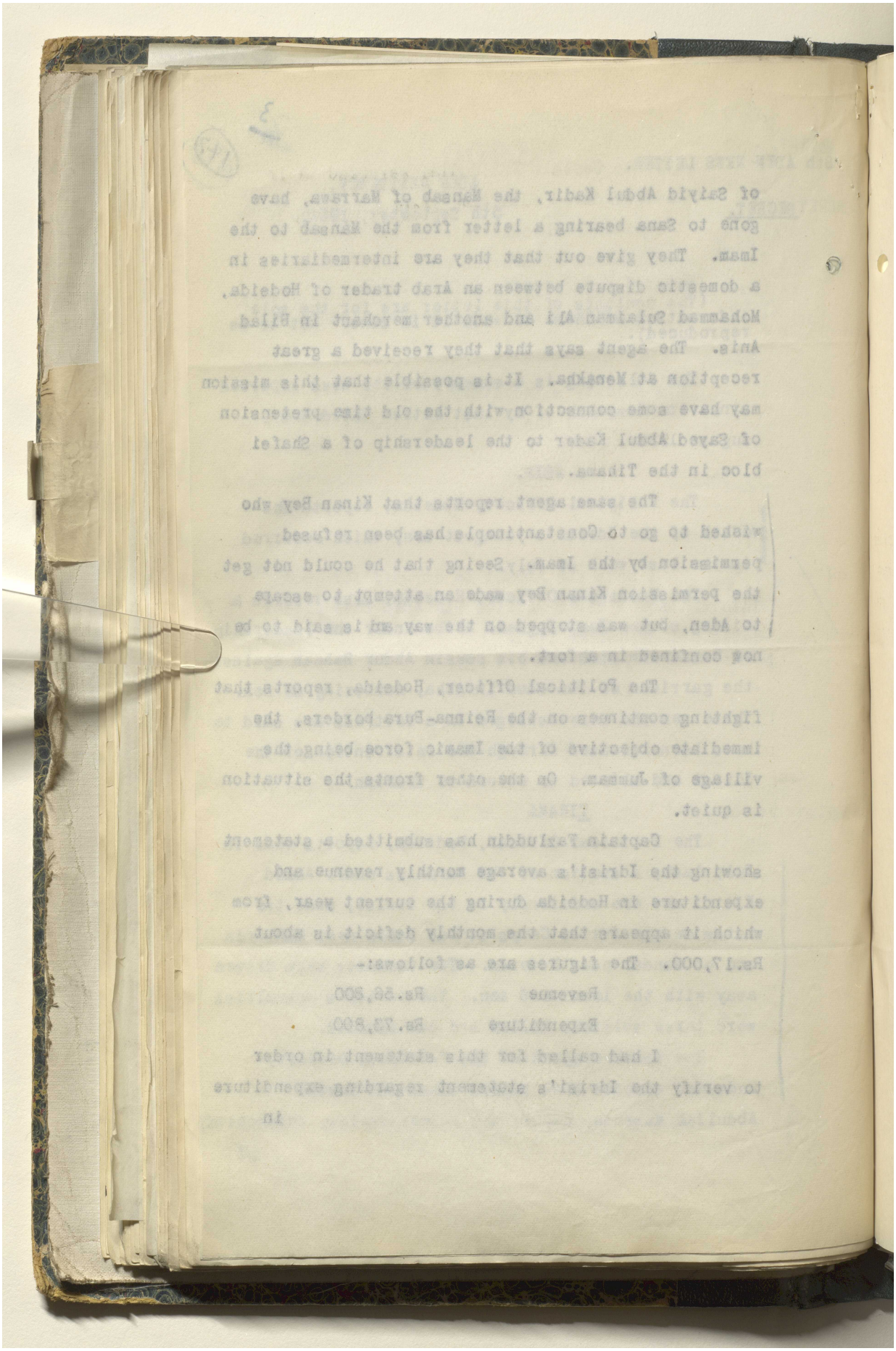

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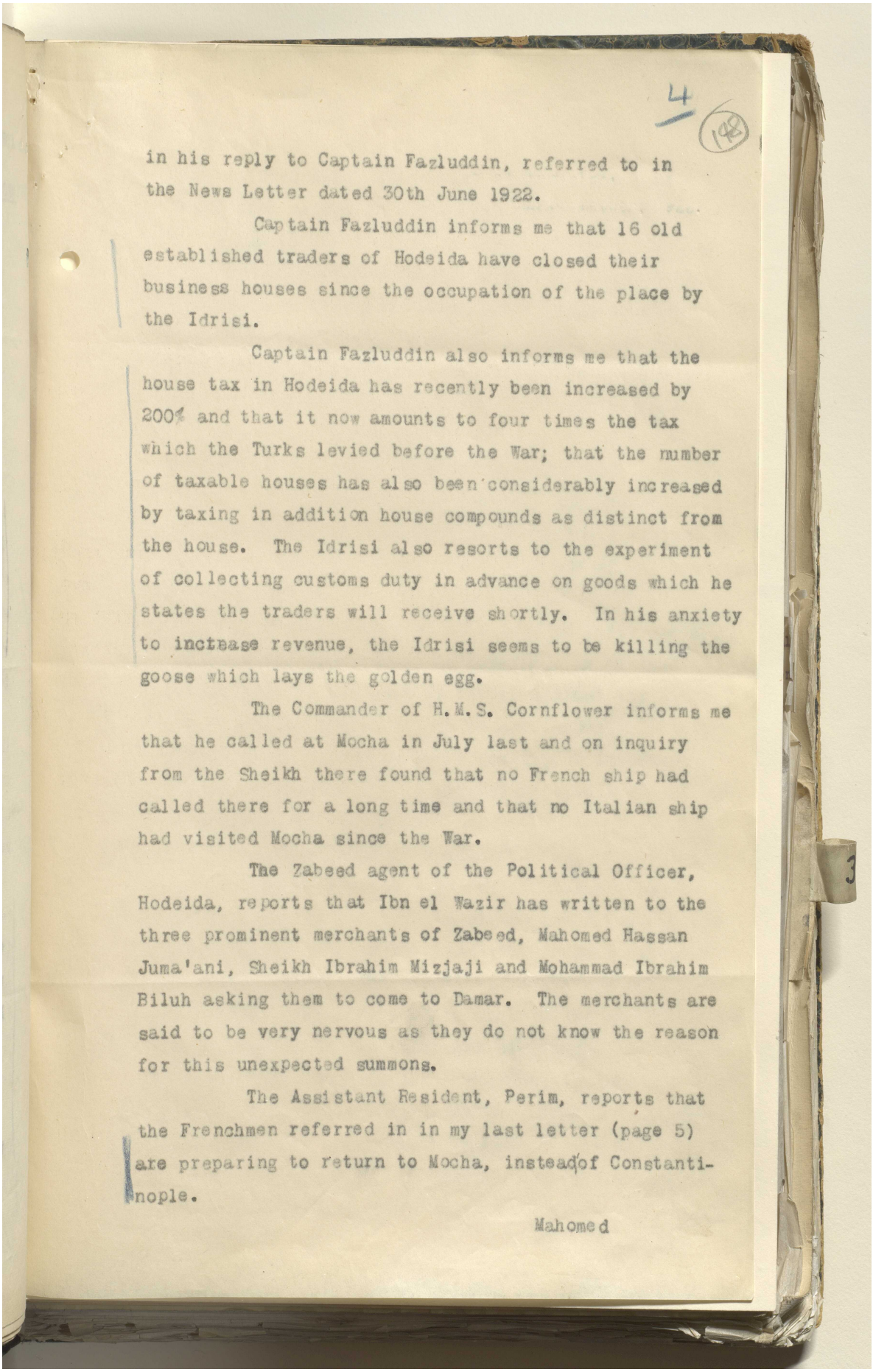

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(148)

in his reply to Captain Fazluddin, referred to in the News Letter dated 30th June 1922.

Captain Fazluddin informs me that 16 old established traders of Hodeida have closed their business houses since the occupation of the place by the Idrisi.

Captain Fazluddin also informs me that the house tax in Hodeida has recently been increased by 200% and that it now amounts to four times the tax which the Turks levied before the War; that the number of taxable houses has also been considerably increased by taxing in addition house compounds as distinct from the house. The Idrisi also resorts to the experiment of collecting customs duty in advance on goods which he states the traders will receive shortly. In his anxiety to increase revenue, the Idrisi seems to be killing the goose which lays the golden egg.

The Commander of H.M.S. Cornflower informs me that he called at Mocha in July last and on inquiry from the Sheikh there found that no French ship had called there for a long time and that no Italian ship had visited Mocha since the War.

The Zabeed agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that Ibn el Wazir has written to the three prominent merchants of Zabeed, Mahomed Hassan Juma'ani, Sheikh Ibrahim Mizjaji and Mohammad Ibrahim Biluh asking them to come to Damar. The merchants are said to be very nervous as they do not know the reason for this unexpected summons.

The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports that the Frenchmen referred in in my last letter (page 5) are preparing to return to Mocha, instead of Constantinople.

Mahomed

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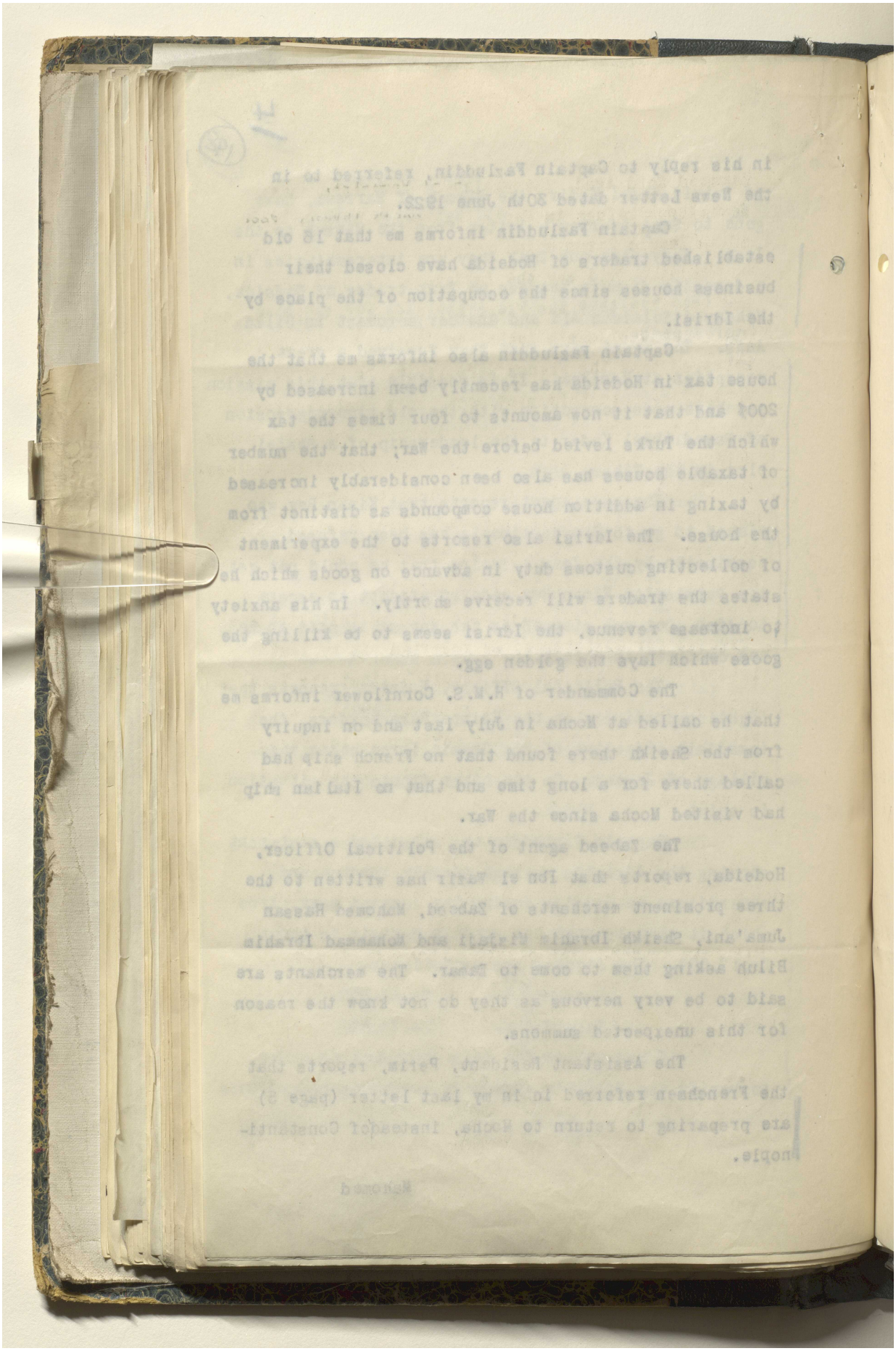

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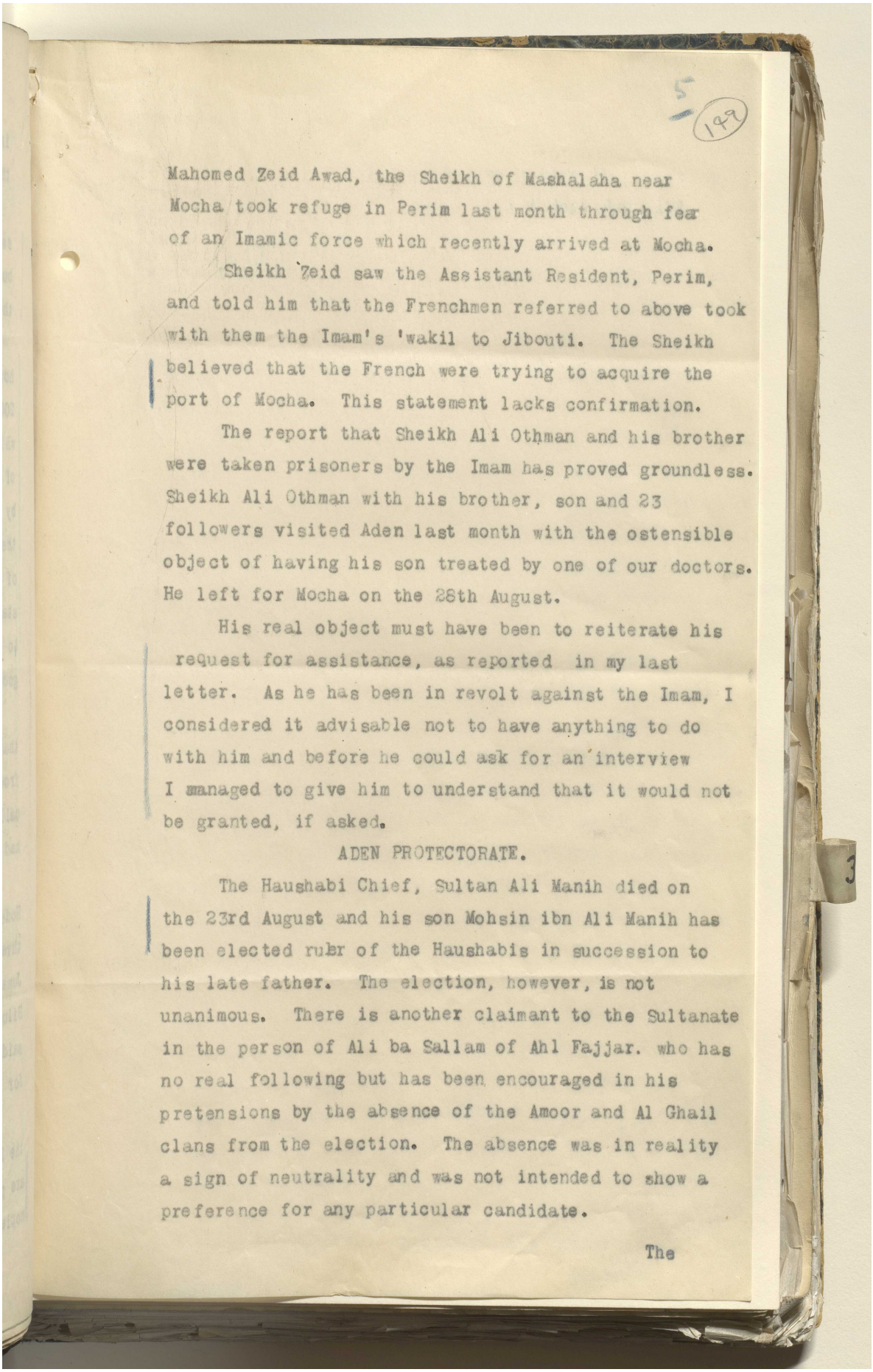

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Mahomed Zeid Awad, the Sheikh of Mashalaha near Mocha took refuge in Perim last month through fear of an Imamic force which recently arrived at Mocha.

Sheikh Zeid saw the Assistant Resident, Perim, and told him that the Frenchmen referred to above took with them the Imam's 'wakil to Jibouti. The Sheikh believed that the French were trying to acquire the port of Mocha. This statement lacks confirmation.

The report that Sheikh Ali Othman and his brother were taken prisoners by the Imam has proved groundless. Sheikh Ali Othman with his brother, son and 23 followers visited Aden last month with the ostensible object of having his son treated by one of our doctors. He left for Mocha on the 28th August.

His real object must have been to reiterate his request for assistance, as reported in my last letter. As he has been in revolt against the Imam, I considered it advisable not to have anything to do with him and before he could ask for an interview I managed to give him to understand that it would not be granted, if asked.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Haushabi Chief, Sultan Ali Manih died on the 23rd August and his son Mohsin ibn Ali Manih has been elected ruler of the Haushabis in succession to his late father. The election, however, is not unanimous. There is another claimant to the Sultanate in the person of Ali ba Sallam of Ahl Fajjar. who has no real following but has been encouraged in his pretensions by the absence of the Amoor and Al Ghail clans from the election. The absence was in reality a sign of neutrality and was not intended to show a preference for any particular candidate.

The

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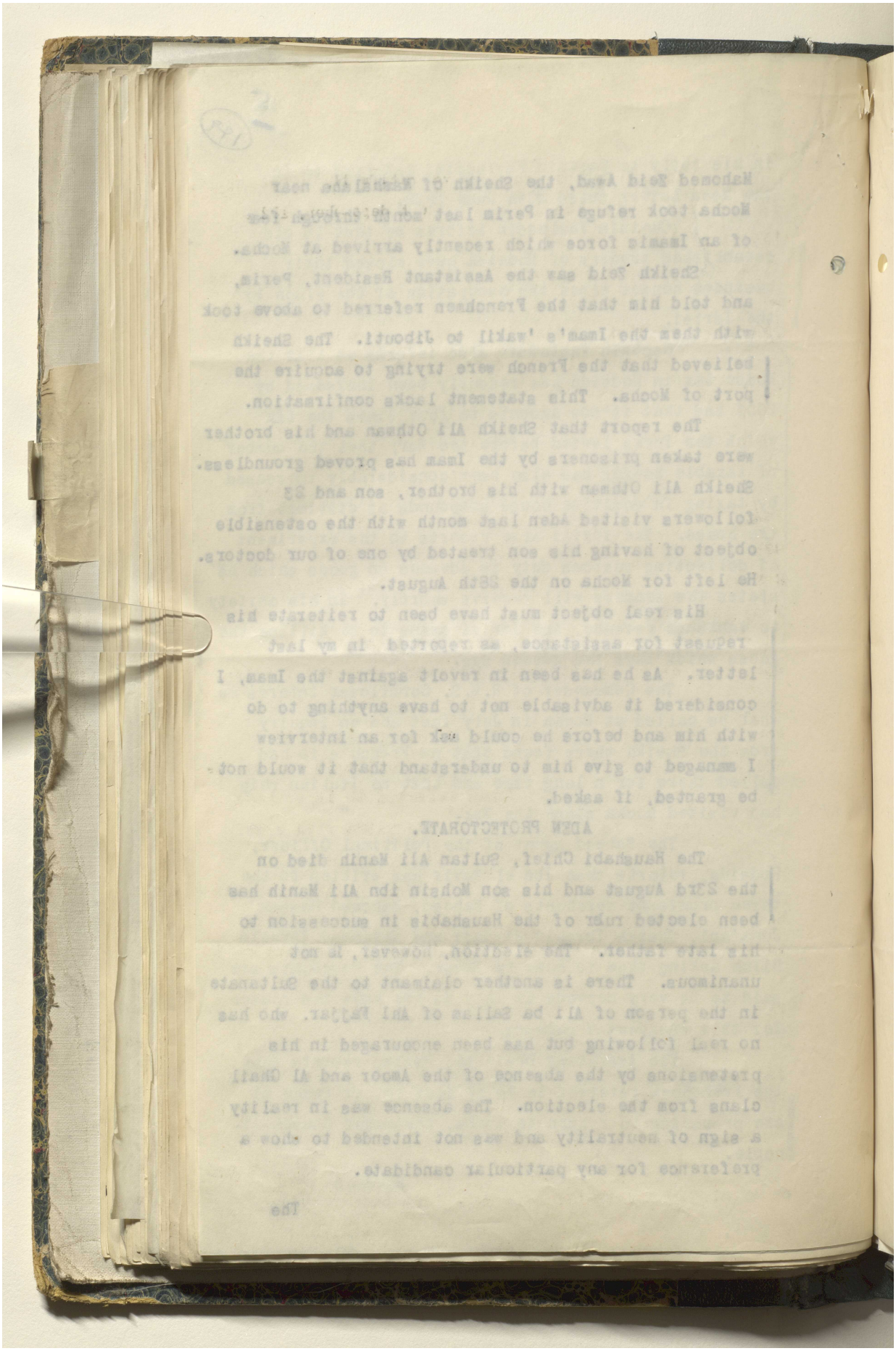

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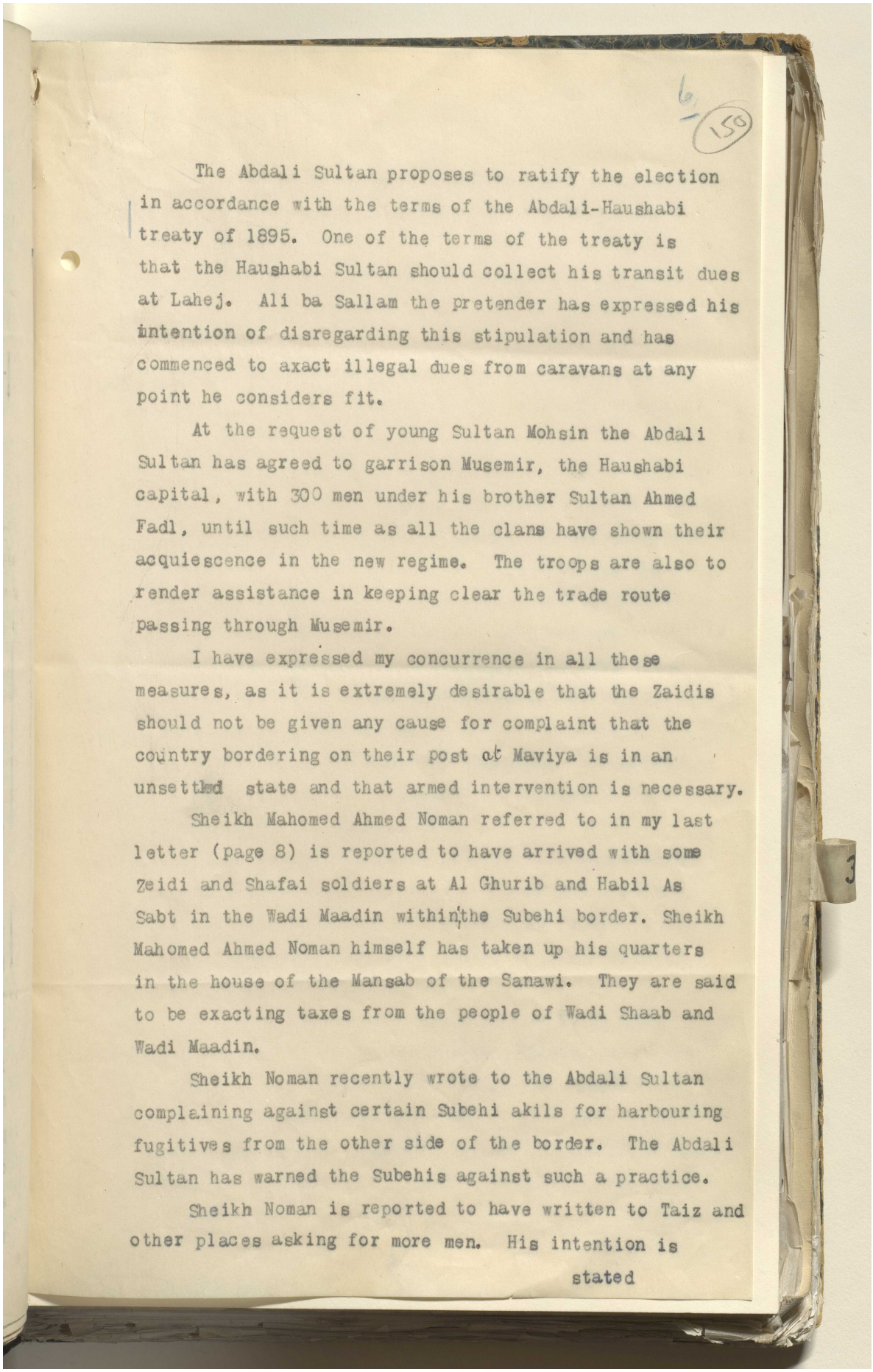

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The Abdali Sultan proposes to ratify the election in accordance with the terms of the Abdali-Haushabi treaty of 1895. One of the terms of the treaty is that the Haushabi Sultan should collect his transit dues at Lahej. Ali ba Sallam the pretender has expressed his intention of disregarding this stipulation and has commenced to axact illegal dues from caravans at any point he considers fit.

At the request of young Sultan Mohsin the Abdali Sultan has agreed to garrison Musemir, the Haushabi capital, with 300 men under his brother Sultan Ahmed Fadl, until such time as all the clans have shown their acquiescence in the new regime. The troops are also to render assistance in keeping clear the trade route passing through Musemir.

I have expressed my concurrence in all these measures, as it is extremely desirable that the Zaidis should not be given any cause for complaint that the country bordering on their post at Maviya is in an unsettled state and that armed intervention is necessary.

Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Noman referred to in my last letter (page 8) is reported to have arrived with some Zeidi and Shafai soldiers at Al Ghurib and Habil As Sabt in the Wadi Maadin within the Subehi border. Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Noman himself has taken up his quarters in the house of the Mansab of the Sanawi. They are said to be exacting taxes from the people of Wadi Shaab and Wadi Maadin.

Sheikh Noman recently wrote to the Abdali Sultan complaining against certain Subehi akils for harbouring fugitives from the other side of the border. The Abdali Sultan has warned the Subehis against such a practice.

Sheikh Noman is reported to have written to Taiz and other places asking for more men. His intention is

stated

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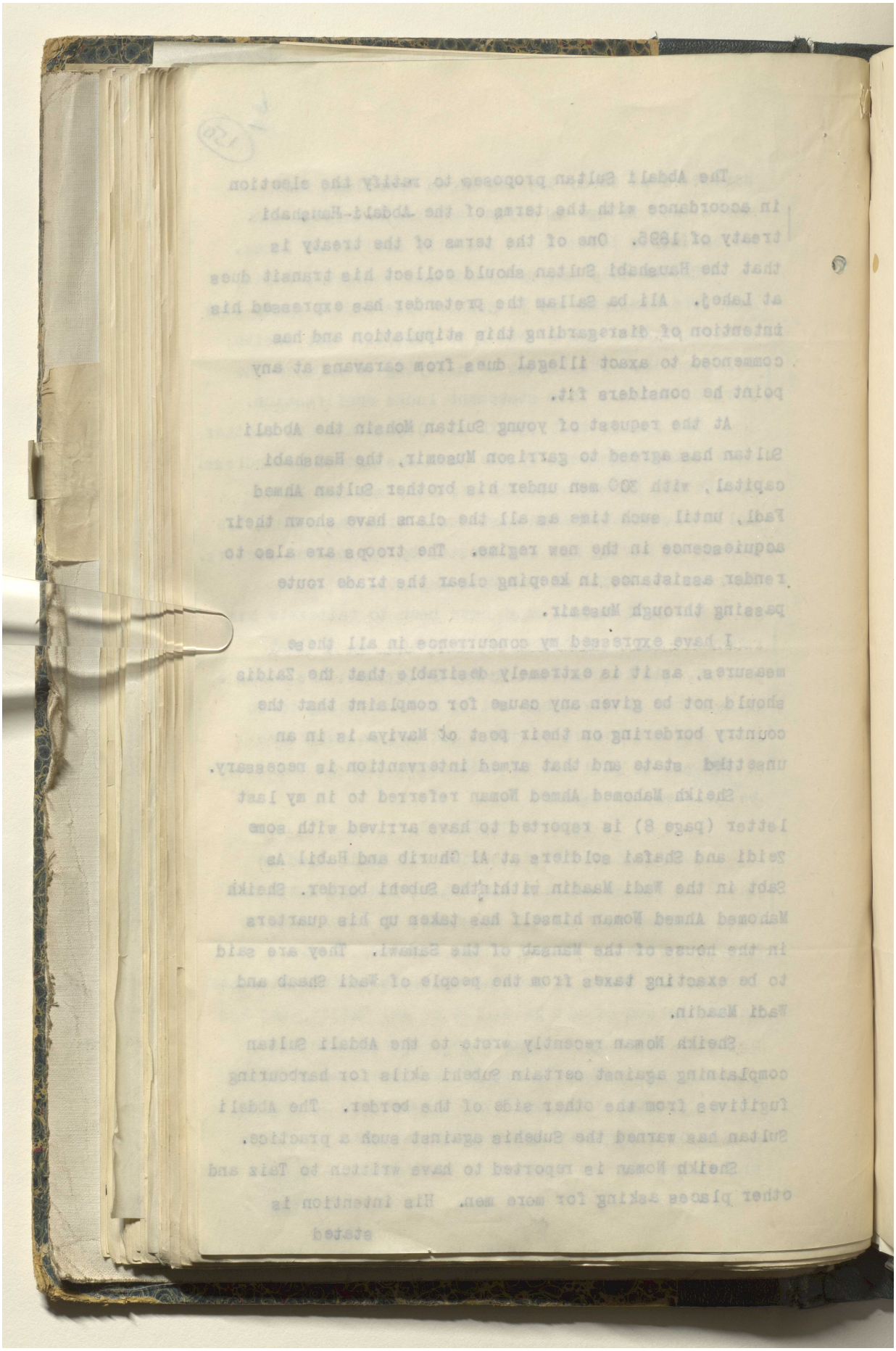

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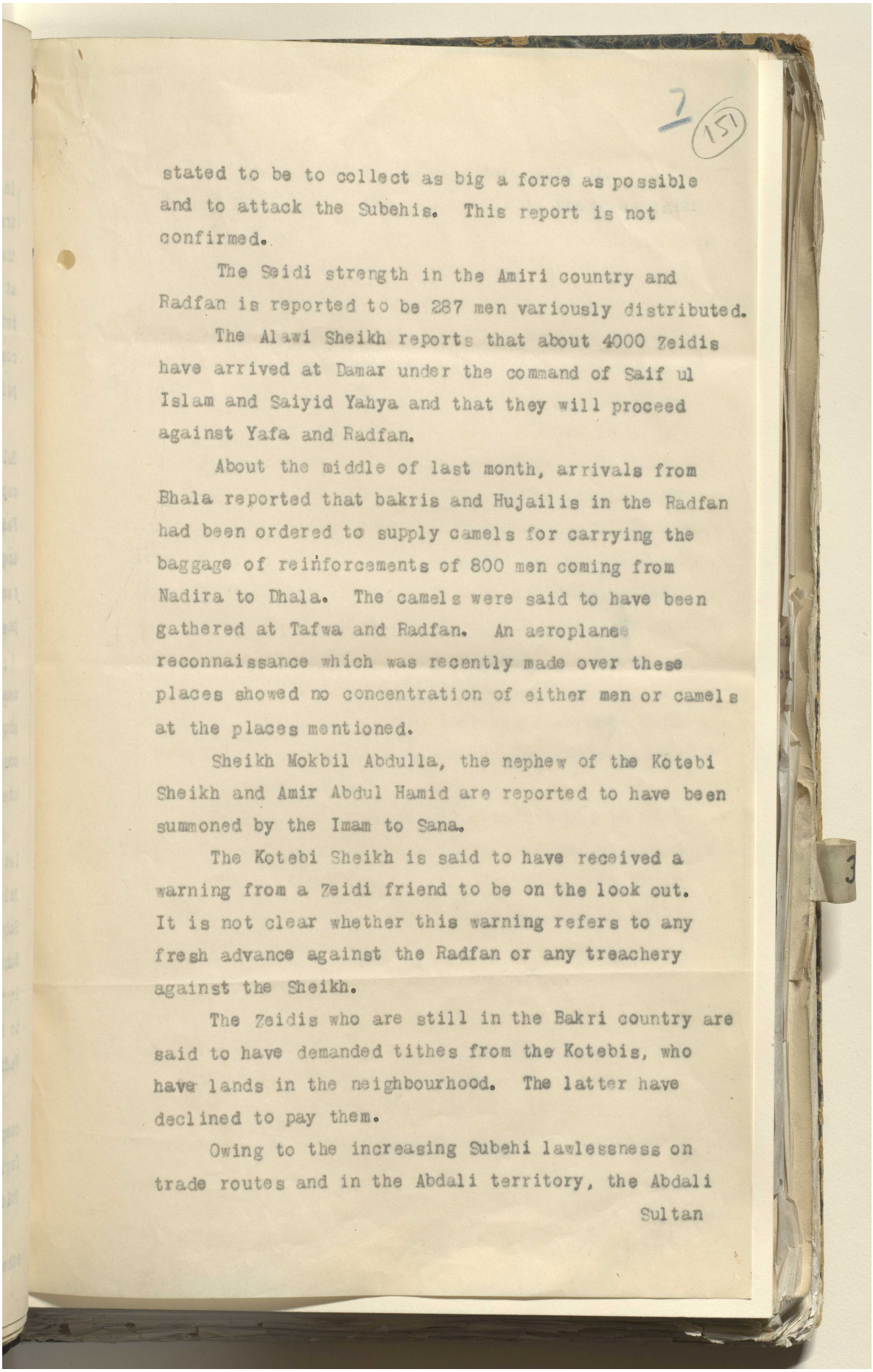

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stated to be to collect as big a force as possible and to attack the Subehis. This report is not confirmed.

The Zaidi strength in the Amiri country and Radfan is reported to be 287 men variously distributed.

The Alawi Sheikh reports that about 4000 Zeidis have arrived at Damar under the command of Saif ul Islam and Saiyid Yahya and that they will proceed against Yafa and Radfan.

About the middle of last month, arrivals from Dhala reported that bakris and Hujailis in the Radfan had been ordered to supply camels for carrying the baggage of reinforcements of 800 men coming from Nadira to Dhala. The camels were said to have been gathered at Tafwa and Radfan. An aeroplane reconnaissance which was recently made over these places showed no concentration of either men or camels at the places mentioned.

Sheikh Mokbil Abdulla, the nephew of the Kotebi Sheikh and Amir Abdul Hamid are reported to have been summoned by the Imam to Sana.

The Kotebi Sheikh is said to have received a warning from a Zeidi friend to be on the look out. It is not clear whether this warning refers to any fresh advance against the Radfan or any treachery against the Sheikh.

The Zeidis who are still in the Bakri country are said to have demanded tithes from the Kotebis, who have lands in the neighbourhood. The latter have declined to pay them.

Owing to the increasing Subehi lawlessness on trade routes and in the Abdali territory, the Abdali Sultan

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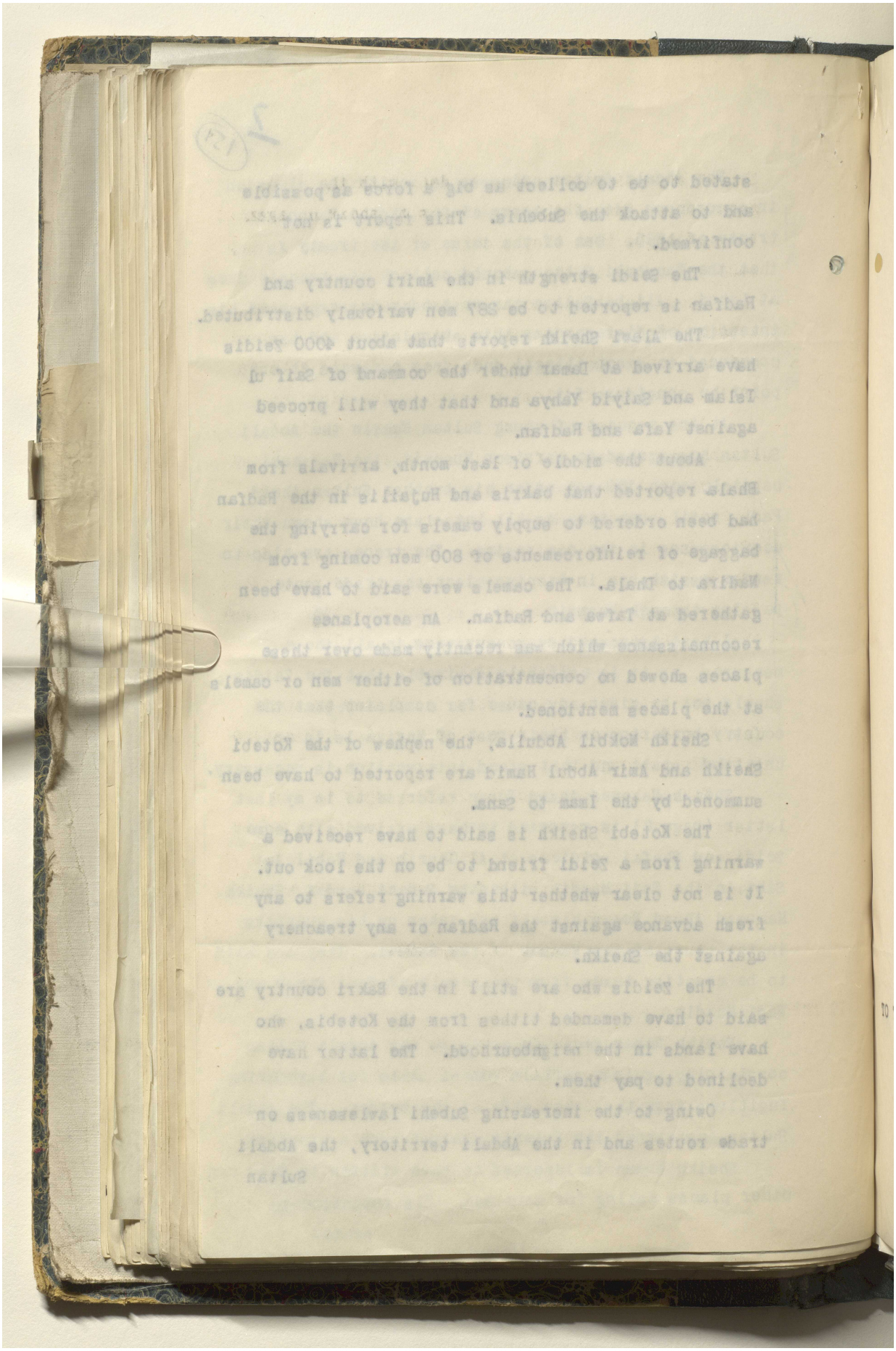

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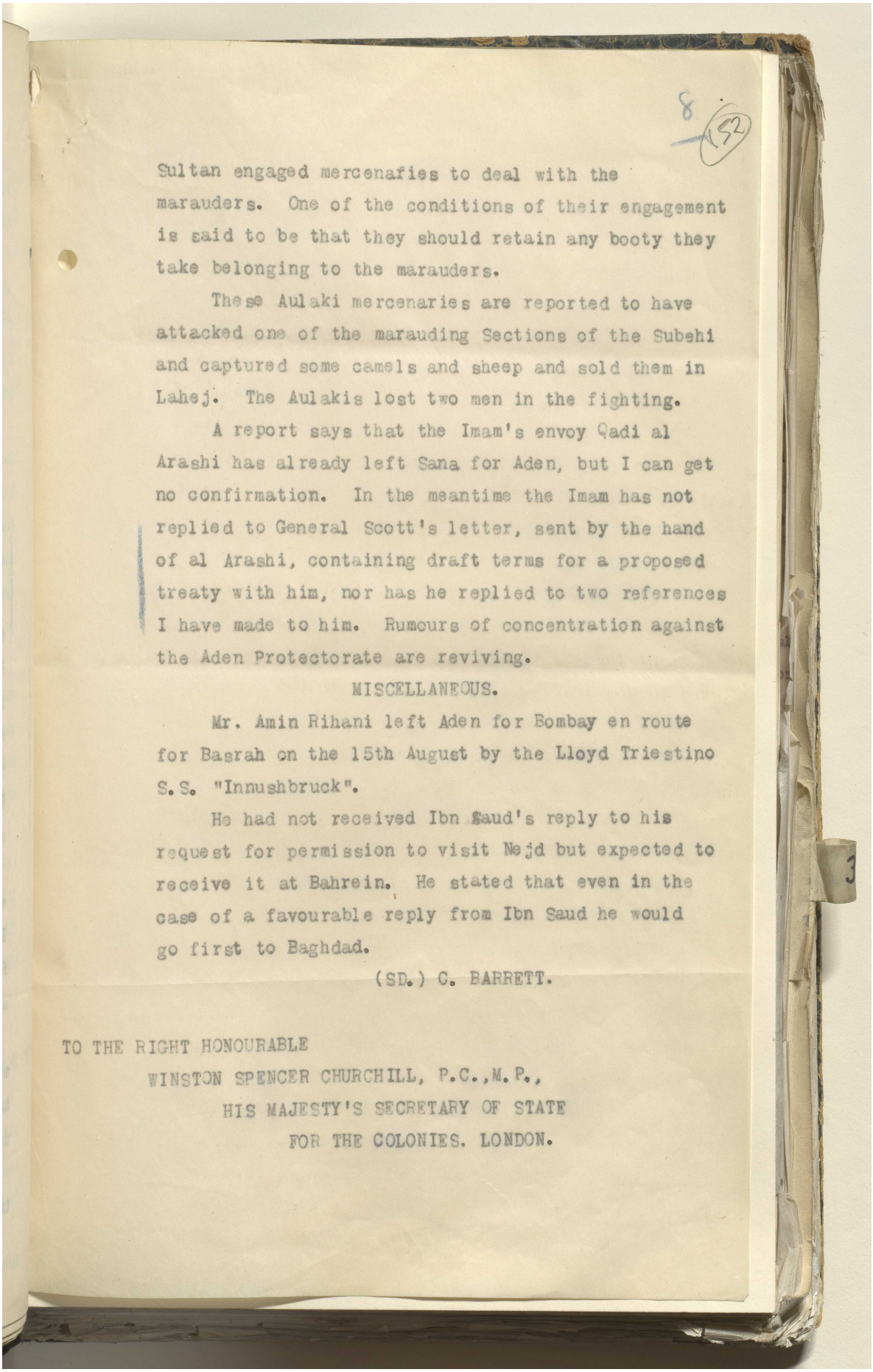

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Sultan engaged mercenaries to deal with the marauders. One of the conditions of their engagement is said to be that they should retain any booty they take belonging to the marauders.

These Aulaki mercenaries are reported to have attacked one of the marauding Sections of the Subehi and captured some camels and sheep and sold them in Lahej. The Aulakis lost two men in the fighting.

A report says that the Imam's envoy Qadi al Arashi has already left Sana for Aden, but I can get no confirmation. In the meantime the Imam has not replied to General Scott's letter, sent by the hand of al Arashi, containing draft terms for a proposed treaty with him, nor has he replied to two references I have made to him. Rumours of concentration against the Aden Protectorate are reviving.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Amin Rihani left Aden for Bombay en route for Basrah on the 15th August by the Lloyd Triestino S.S. "Innushbruck".

He had not received Ibn Saud's reply to his request for permission to visit Nejd but expected to receive it at Bahrein. He stated that even in the case of a favourable reply from Ibn Saud he would go first to Baghdad.

(SD.) C. BARRETT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL, P.C.,M.P.,
HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES. LONDON.

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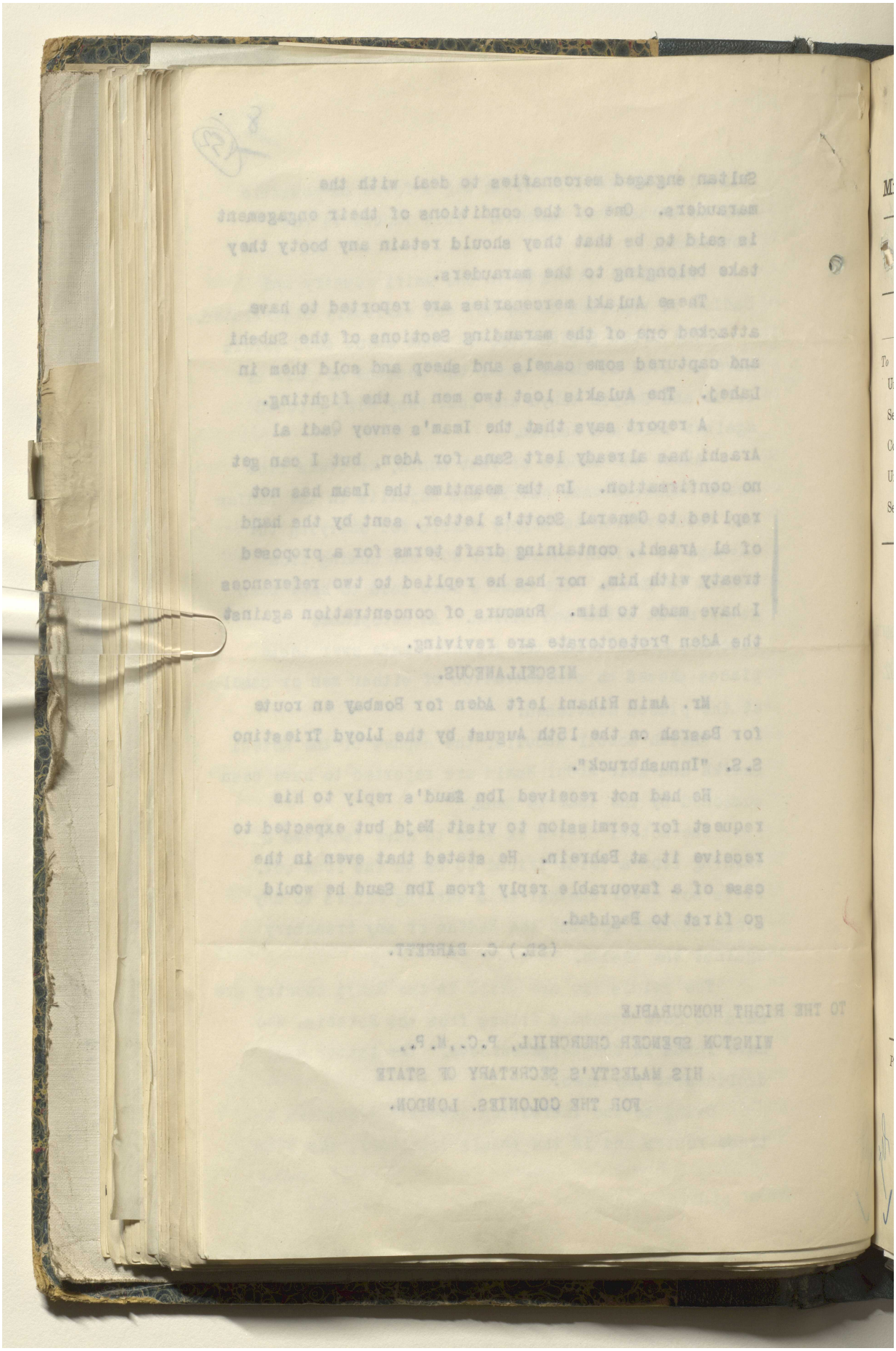

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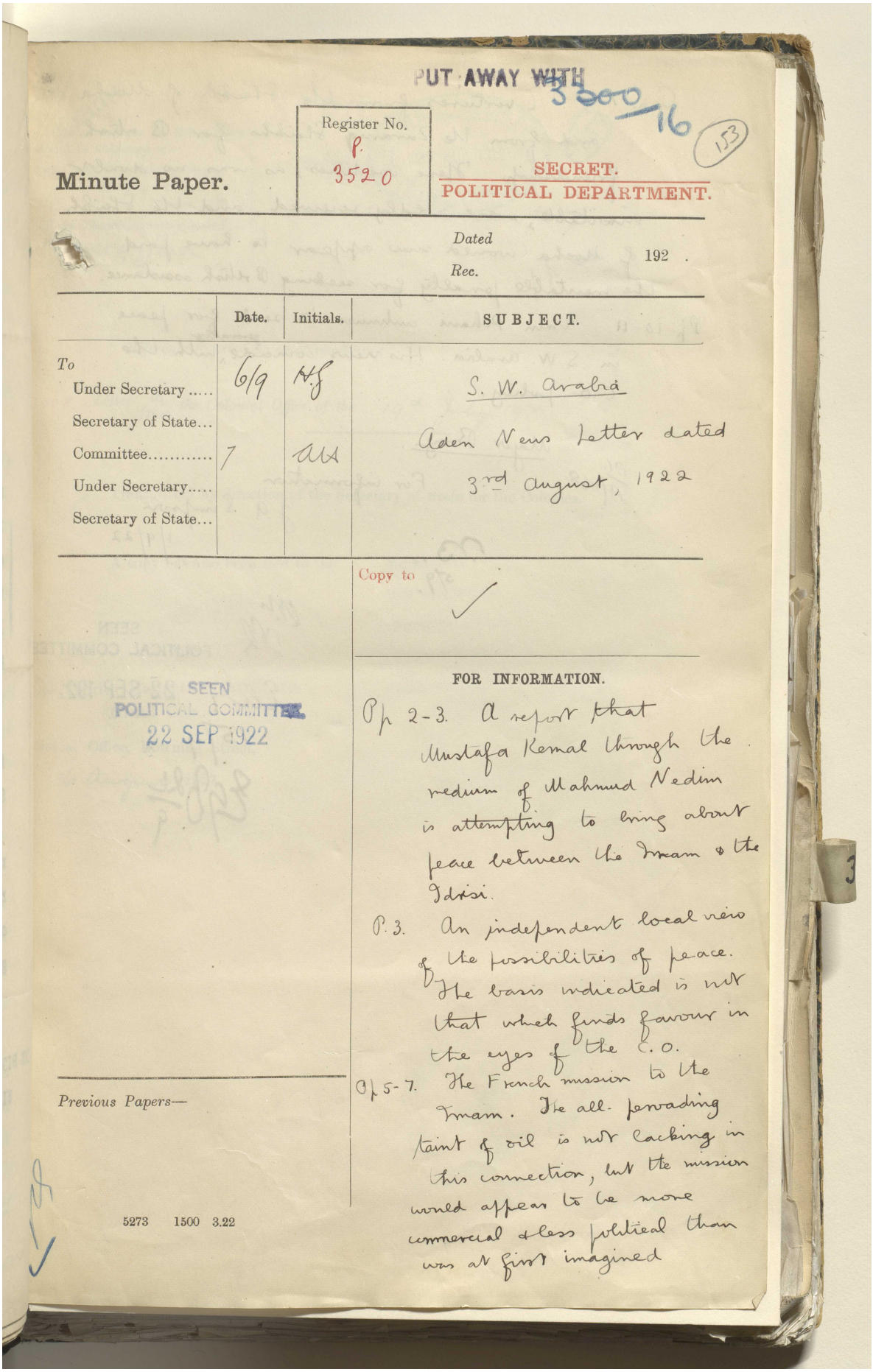

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Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 3520

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary	6/9	M.J	S. W. Arabia
Secretary of State...			Aden News Letter dated
Committee.....	7	ALL	3rd August, 1922
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to ✓

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
22 SEP 1922

FOR INFORMATION.

Pp 2-3. A report that Mustafa Kemal through the medium of Mahmud Nedim is attempting to bring about peace between the Imam & the Idrisi.

P. 3. An independent local view of the possibilities of peace. The basis indicated is not that which finds favour in the eyes of the C.O.

Pp 5-7. The French mission to the Imam. The all-pervading taint of oil is not lacking in this connection, but the mission would appear to be more commercial & less political than was at first imagined

Previous Papers—

5273 1500 3.22

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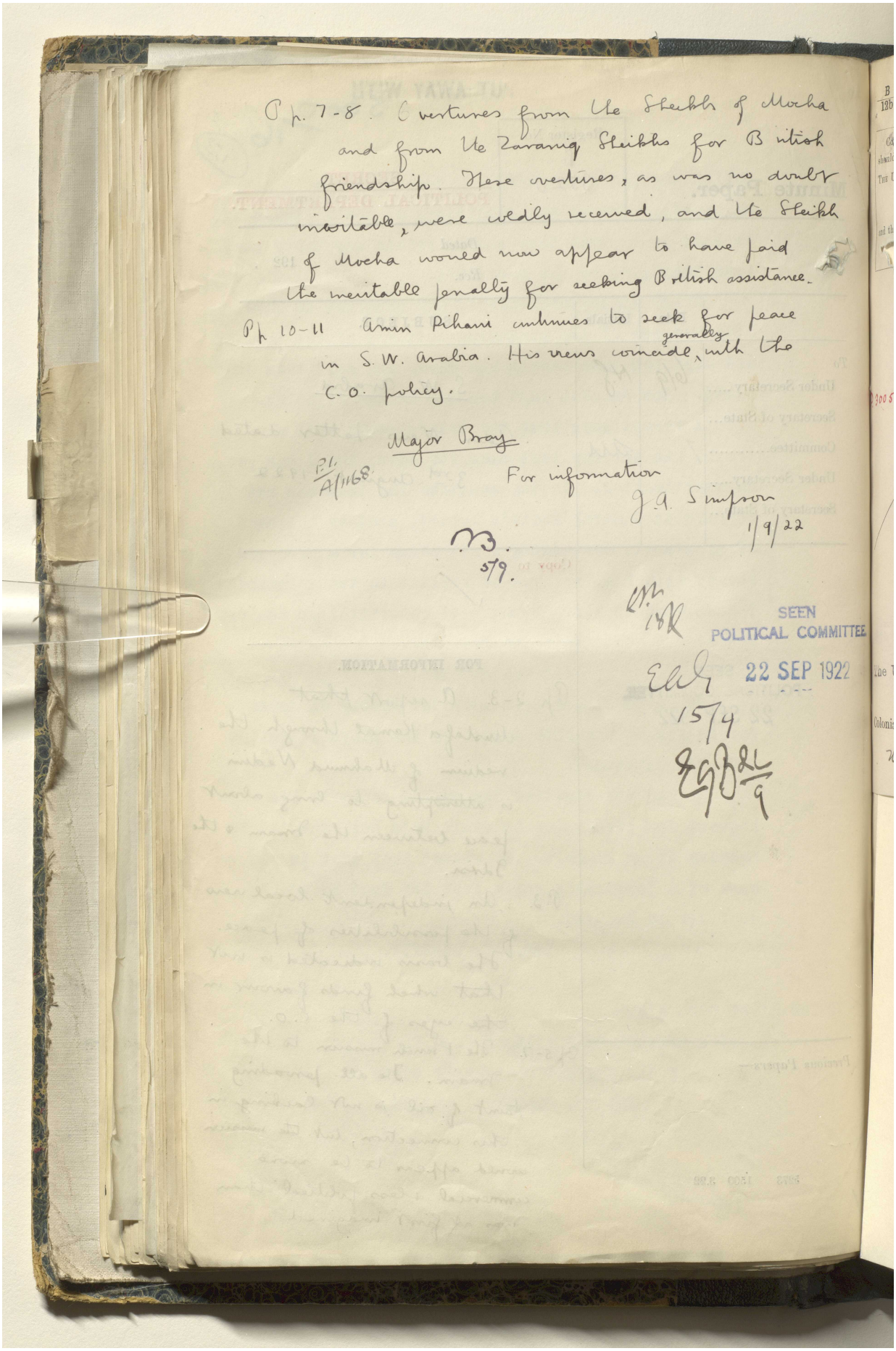

Pp. 7-8. Overtures from the Sheikhs of Mocha and from the Zaraniq Sheikhs for British friendship. These overtures, as was no doubt inevitable, were coldly received, and the Sheikh of Mocha would now appear to have paid the inevitable penalty for seeking British assistance.

Pp 10-11 Amin Rihani continues to seek for peace in S.W. Arabia. His views coincide generally with the C.O. policy.

Major Bray

P.I. A/1168

For information

J.A. Simpson
1/9/22

73.
579.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
22 SEP 1922

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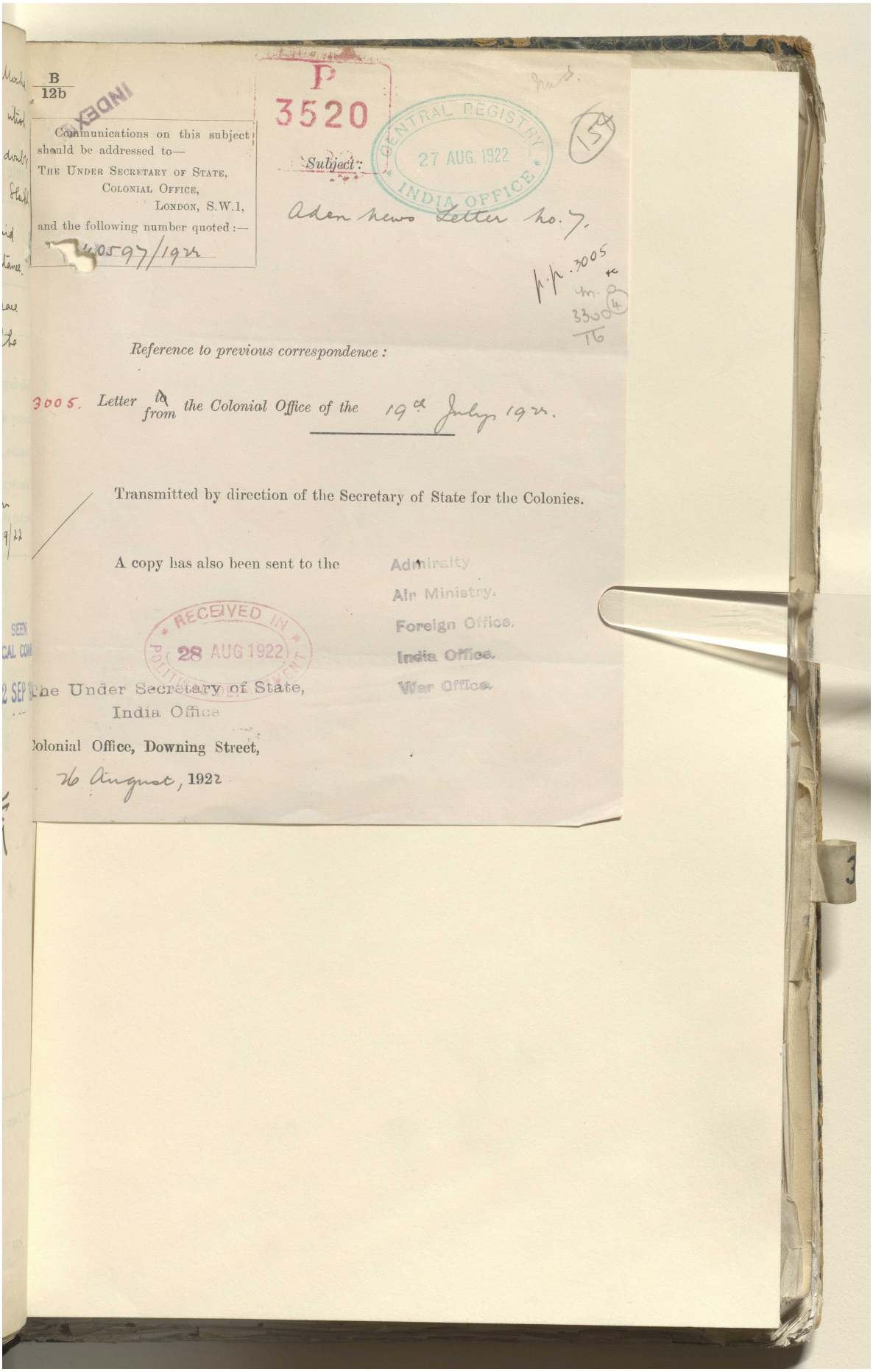

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
40597/1922

P
3520

Subject:

CENTRAL REGISTRY
27 AUG. 1922
INDIA OFFICE

Aden News Letter No. 7.

154

p.p. 3005
m. 8
3300
16

Reference to previous correspondence:

3005. Letter to / from the Colonial Office of the 19th July 1922.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the

Admiralty
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
India Office.
War Office.

RECEIVED IN
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
28 AUG 1922

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
26 August, 1922

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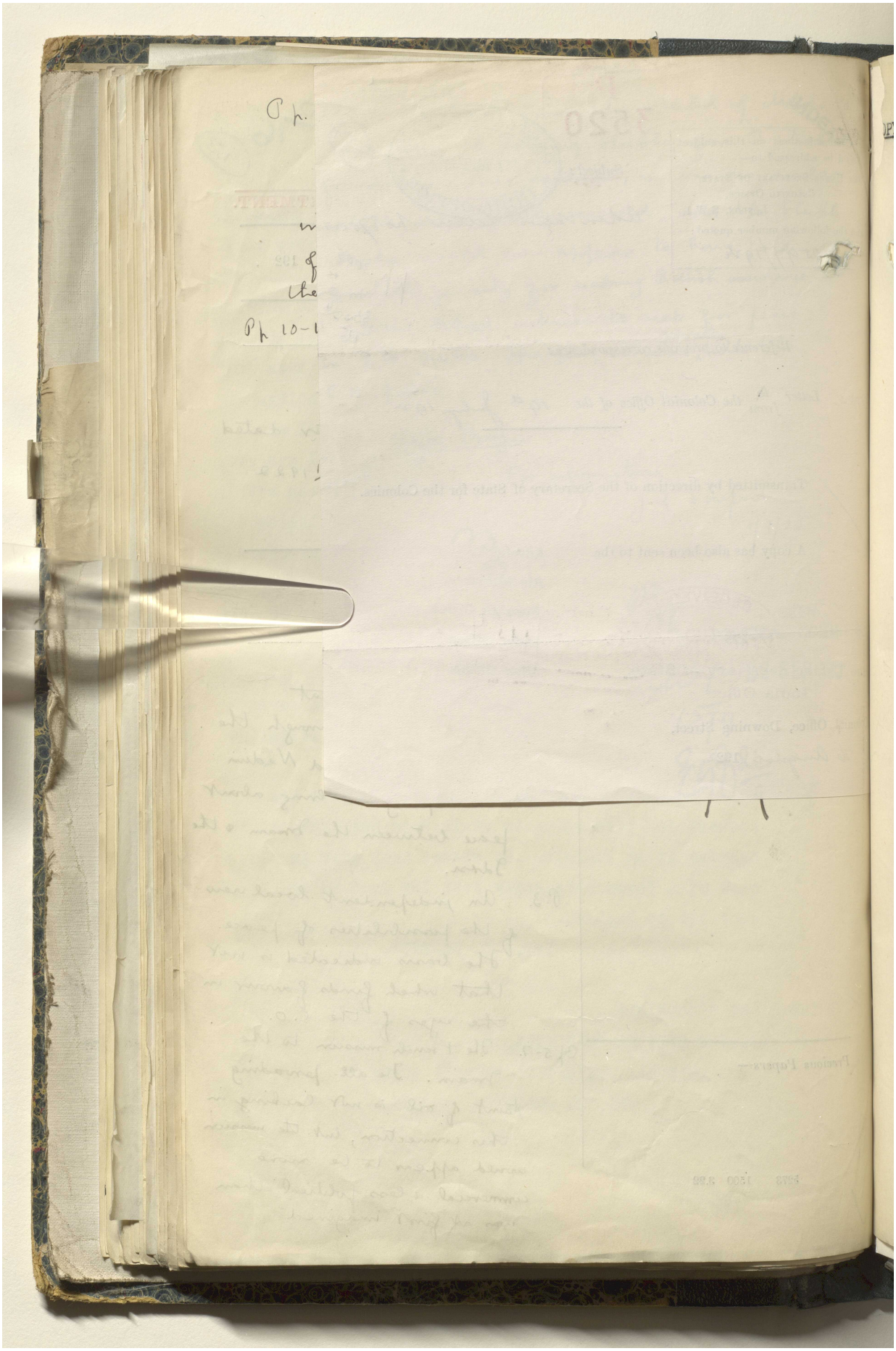

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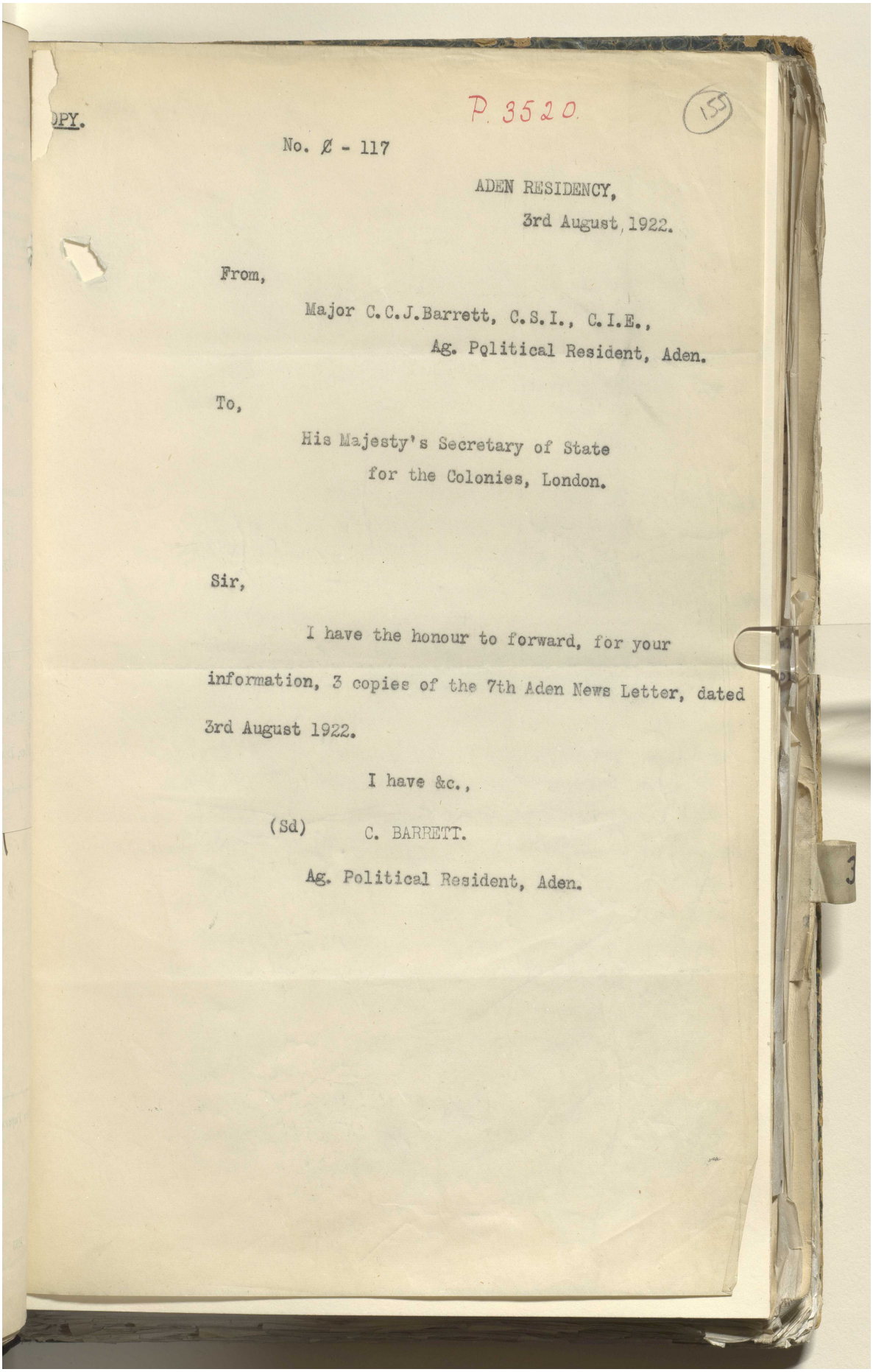

OPY.

P. 3520.

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No. Ø - 117

ADEN RESIDENCY,
3rd August, 1922.

From,

Major C.C.J.Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Ag. Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, 3 copies of the 7th Aden News Letter, dated 3rd August 1922.

I have &c.,

(Sd) C. BARRETT.

Ag. Political Resident, Aden.

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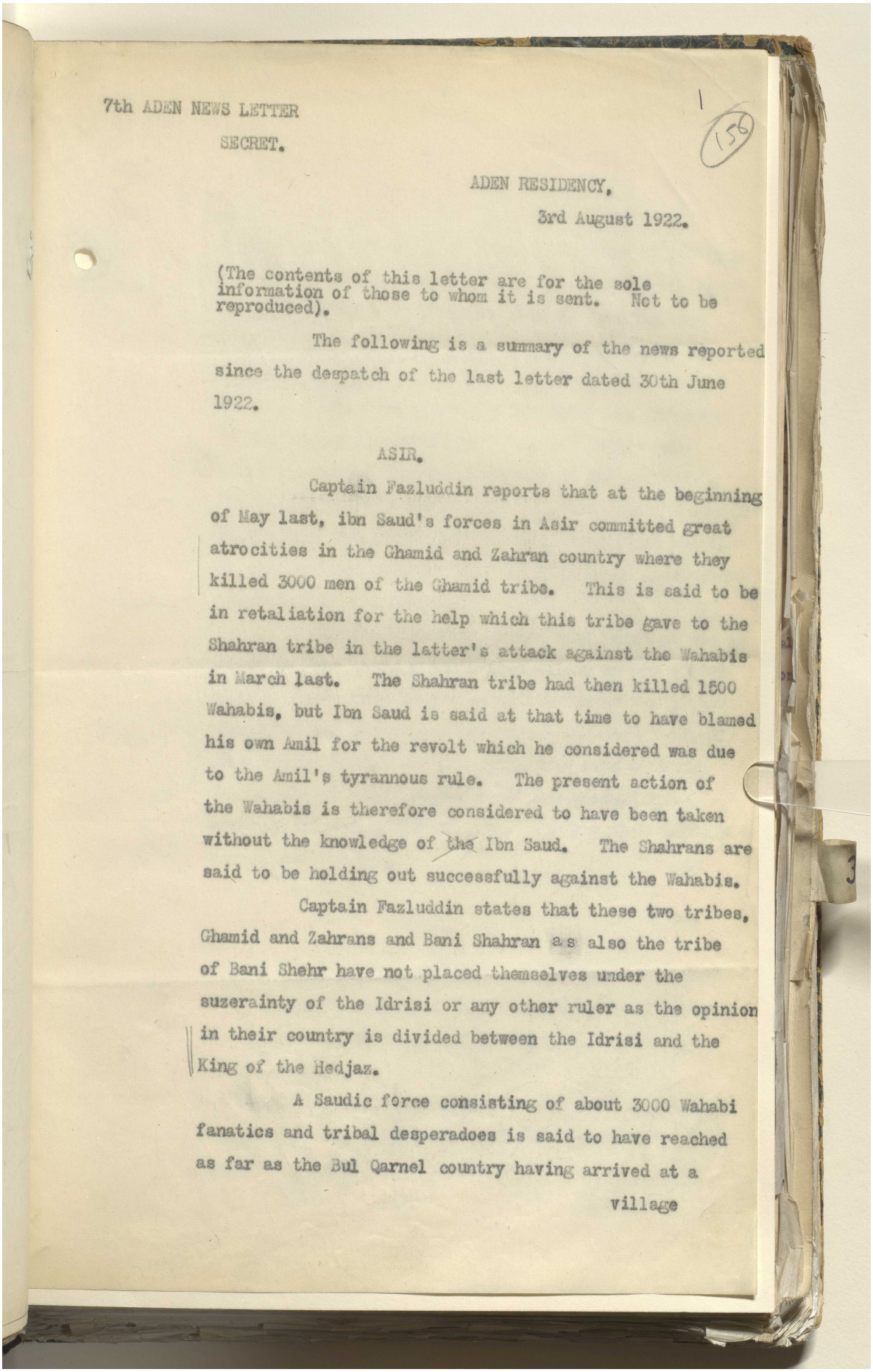

7th ADEN NEWS LETTER

SECRET.

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ADEN RESIDENCY,

3rd August 1922.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of the last letter dated 30th June 1922.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin reports that at the beginning of May last, ibn Saud's forces in Asir committed great atrocities in the Ghamid and Zahran country where they killed 3000 men of the Ghamid tribe. This is said to be in retaliation for the help which this tribe gave to the Shahran tribe in the latter's attack against the Wahabis in March last. The Shahran tribe had then killed 1500 Wahabis, but Ibn Saud is said at that time to have blamed his own Amil for the revolt which he considered was due to the Amil's tyrannous rule. The present action of the Wahabis is therefore considered to have been taken without the knowledge of the Ibn Saud. The Shahrans are said to be holding out successfully against the Wahabis.

Captain Fazluddin states that these two tribes, Ghamid and Zahrans and Bani Shahran as also the tribe of Bani Shehr have not placed themselves under the suzerainty of the Idrisi or any other ruler as the opinion in their country is divided between the Idrisi and the King of the Hedjaz.

A Saudic force consisting of about 3000 Wahabi fanatics and tribal desperadoes is said to have reached as far as the Bul Qarnel country having arrived at a

village

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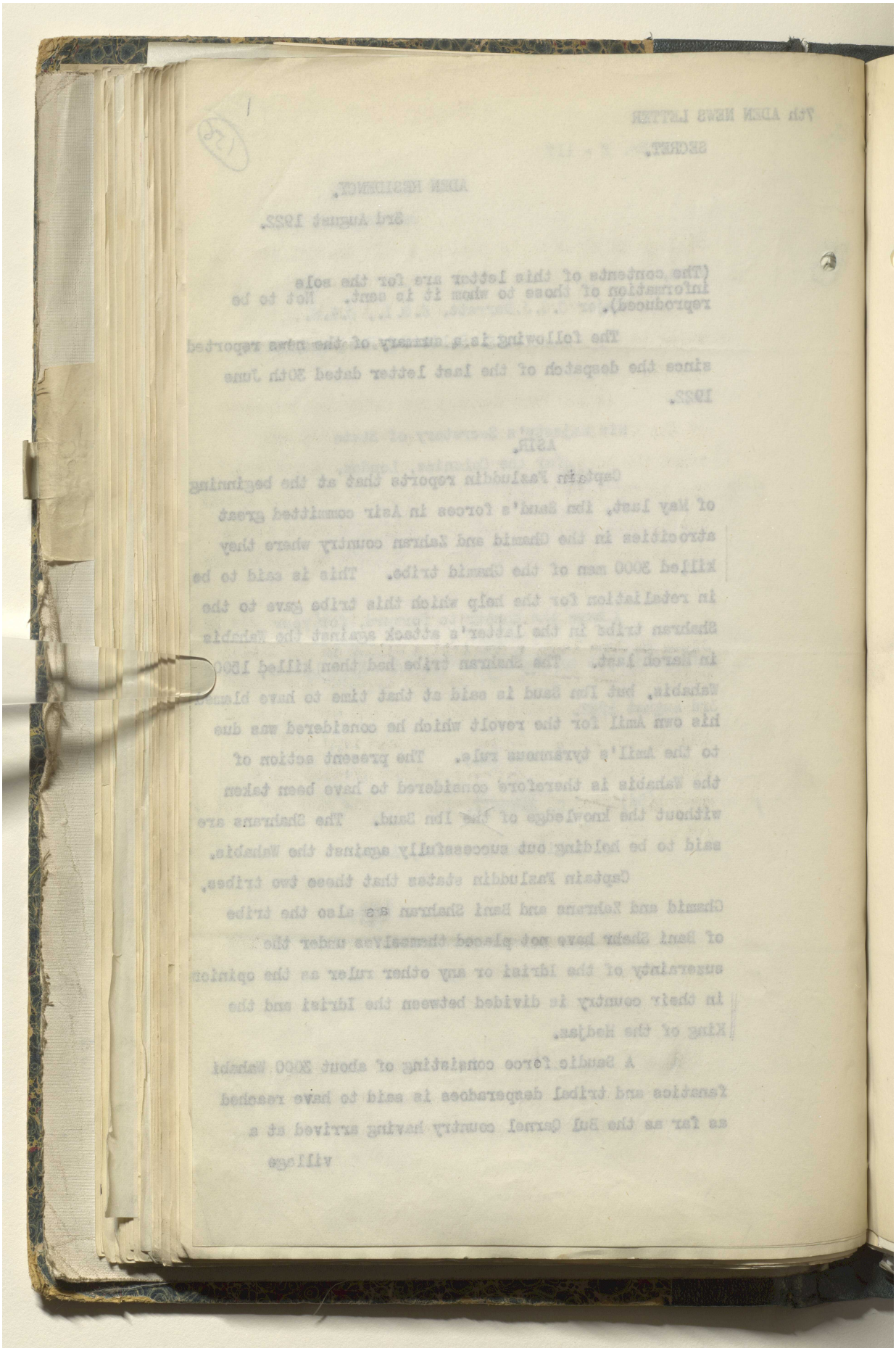

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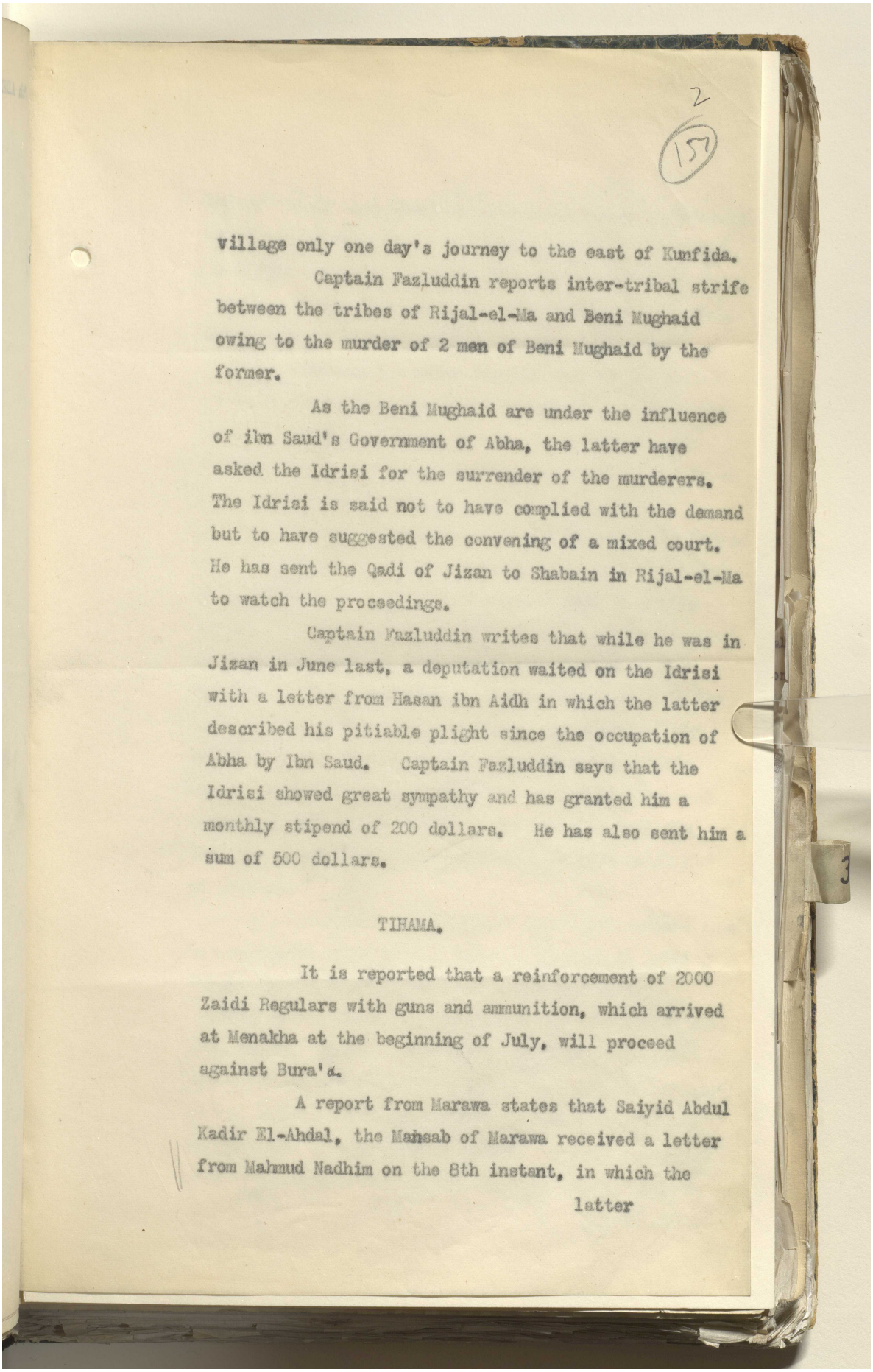

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village only one day's journey to the east of Kunfida.

Captain Fazluddin reports inter-tribal strife between the tribes of Rijal-el-Ma and Beni Mughaid owing to the murder of 2 men of Beni Mughaid by the former.

As the Beni Mughaid are under the influence of ibn Saud's Government of Abha, the latter have asked the Idrisi for the surrender of the murderers. The Idrisi is said not to have complied with the demand but to have suggested the convening of a mixed court. He has sent the Qadi of Jizan to Shabain in Rijal-el-Ma to watch the proceedings.

Captain Fazluddin writes that while he was in Jizan in June last, a deputation waited on the Idrisi with a letter from Hasan ibn Aidh in which the latter described his pitiable plight since the occupation of Abha by Ibn Saud. Captain Fazluddin says that the Idrisi showed great sympathy and has granted him a monthly stipend of 200 dollars. He has also sent him a sum of 500 dollars.

TIHAMA.

It is reported that a reinforcement of 2000 Zaidi Regulars with guns and ammunition, which arrived at Menakha at the beginning of July, will proceed against Bura'a.

A report from Marawa states that Saiyid Abdul Kadir El-Ahdal, the Mahsab of Marawa received a letter from Mahmud Nadhim on the 8th instant, in which the latter

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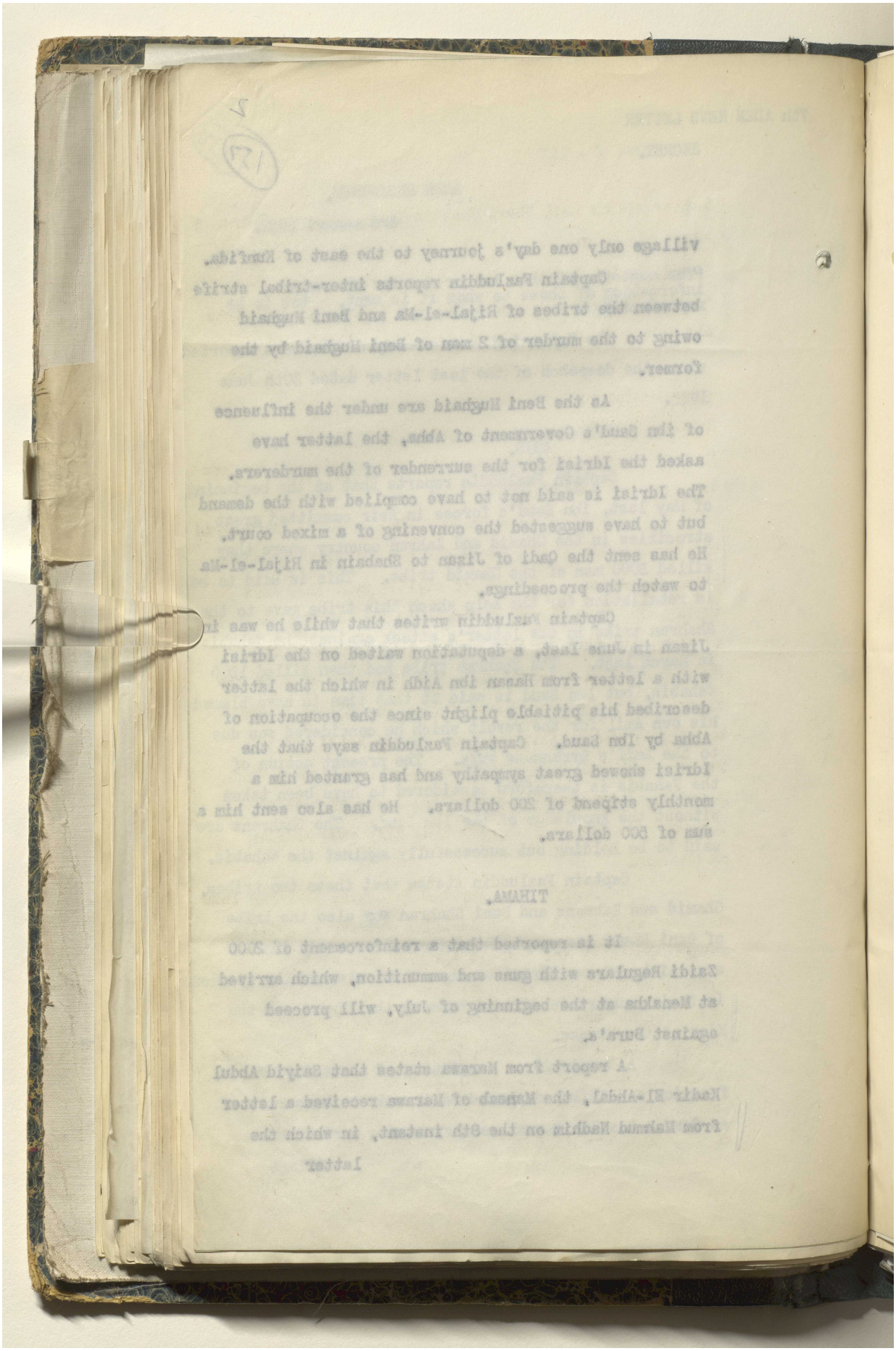

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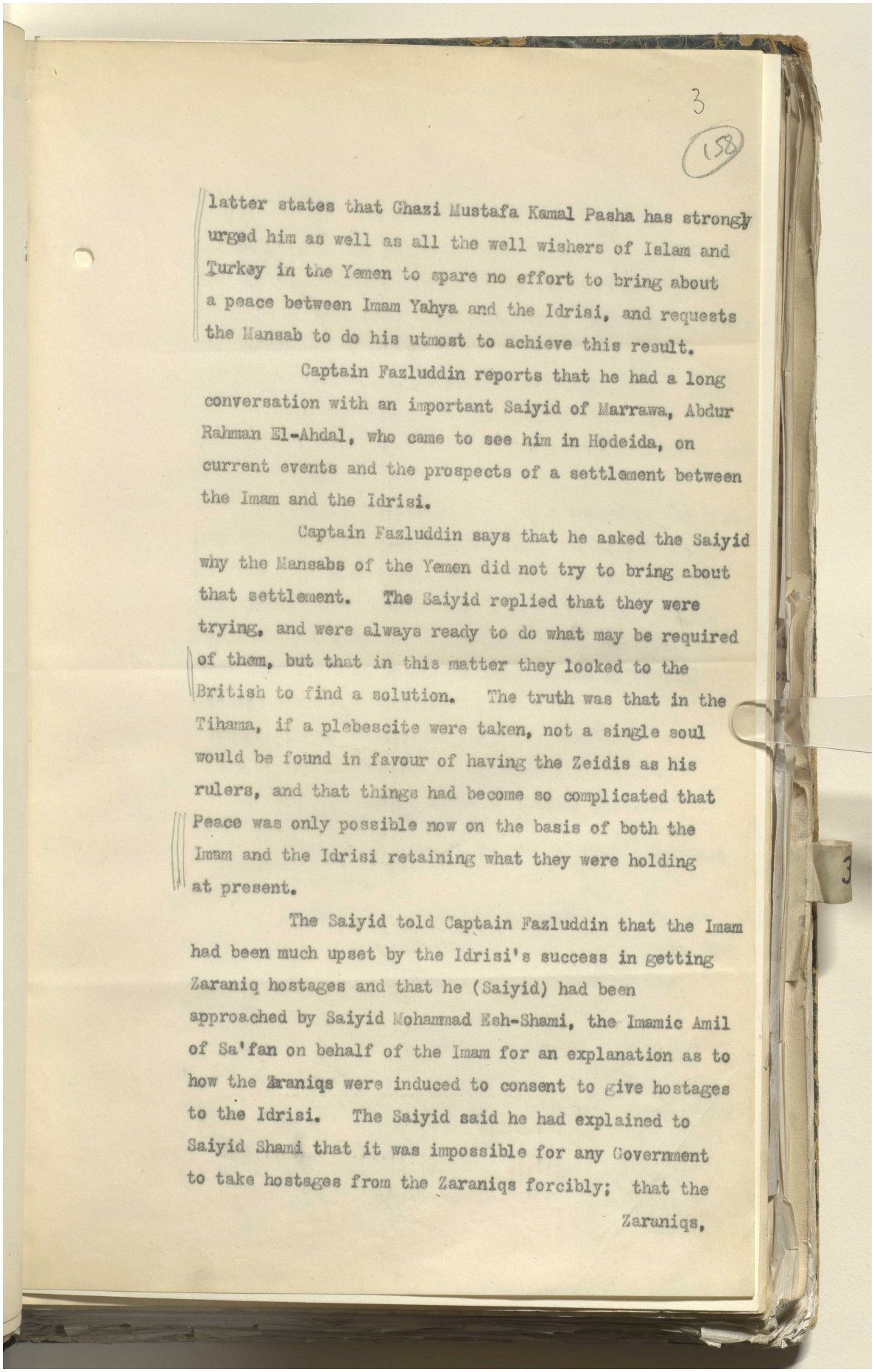

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latter states that Ghazi Mustafa Kamal Pasha has strongly urged him as well as all the well wishers of Islam and Turkey in the Yemen to spare no effort to bring about a peace between Imam Yahya and the Idrisi, and requests the Mansab to do his utmost to achieve this result.

Captain Fazluddin reports that he had a long conversation with an important Saiyid of Marrawa, Abdur Rahman El-Ahdal, who came to see him in Hodeida, on current events and the prospects of a settlement between the Imam and the Idrisi.

Captain Fazluddin says that he asked the Saiyid why the Mansabs of the Yemen did not try to bring about that settlement. The Saiyid replied that they were trying, and were always ready to do what may be required of them, but that in this matter they looked to the British to find a solution. The truth was that in the Tihama, if a plebescite were taken, not a single soul would be found in favour of having the Zeidis as his rulers, and that things had become so complicated that Peace was only possible now on the basis of both the Imam and the Idrisi retaining what they were holding at present.

The Saiyid told Captain Fazluddin that the Imam had been much upset by the Idrisi's success in getting Zaraniq hostages and that he (Saiyid) had been approached by Saiyid Mohammad Esh-Shami, the Imamic Amil of Sa'fan on behalf of the Imam for an explanation as to how the Zaraniqs were induced to consent to give hostages to the Idrisi. The Saiyid said he had explained to Saiyid Shami that it was impossible for any Government to take hostages from the Zaraniqs forcibly; that the

Zaraniqs,

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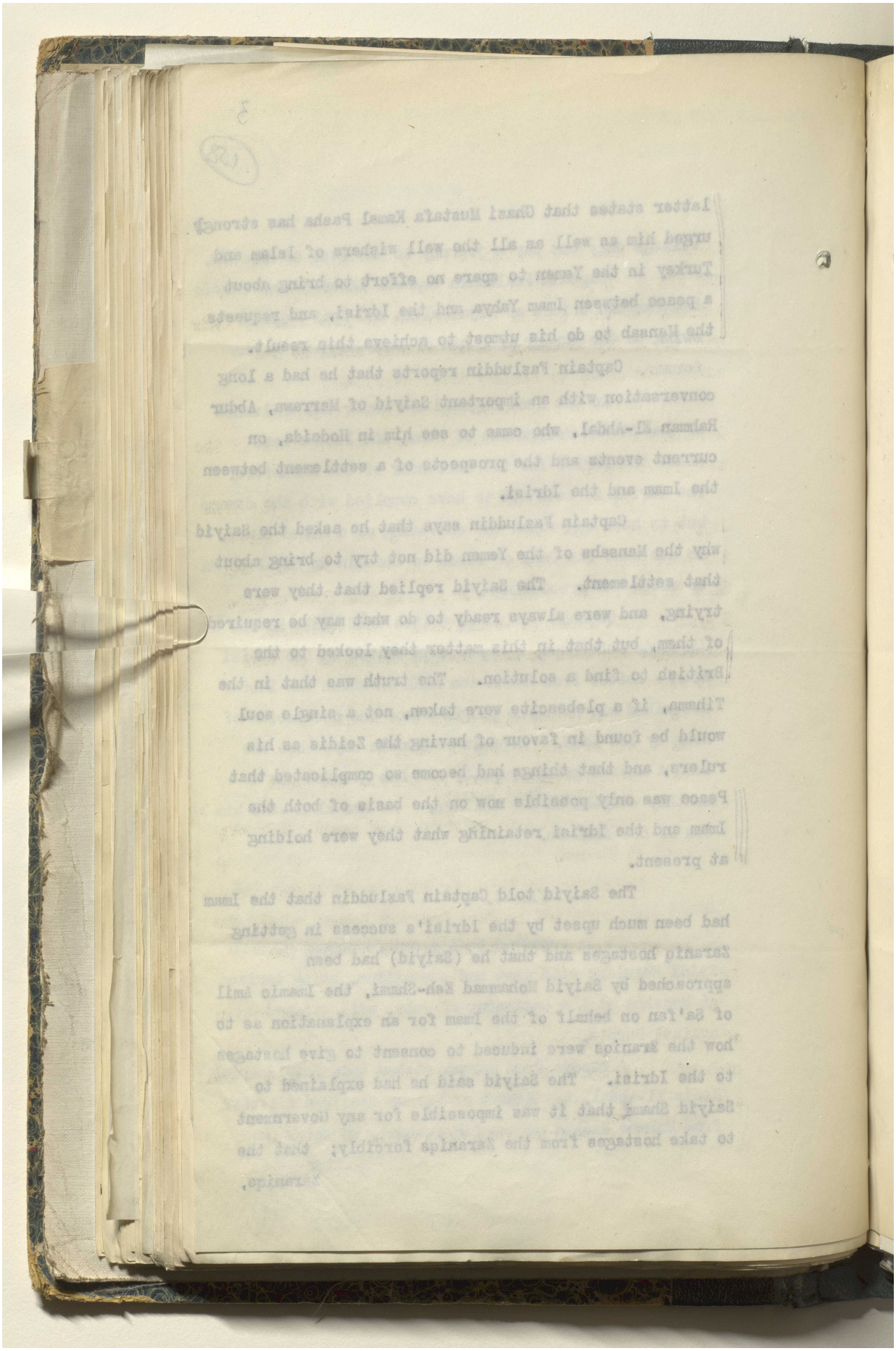

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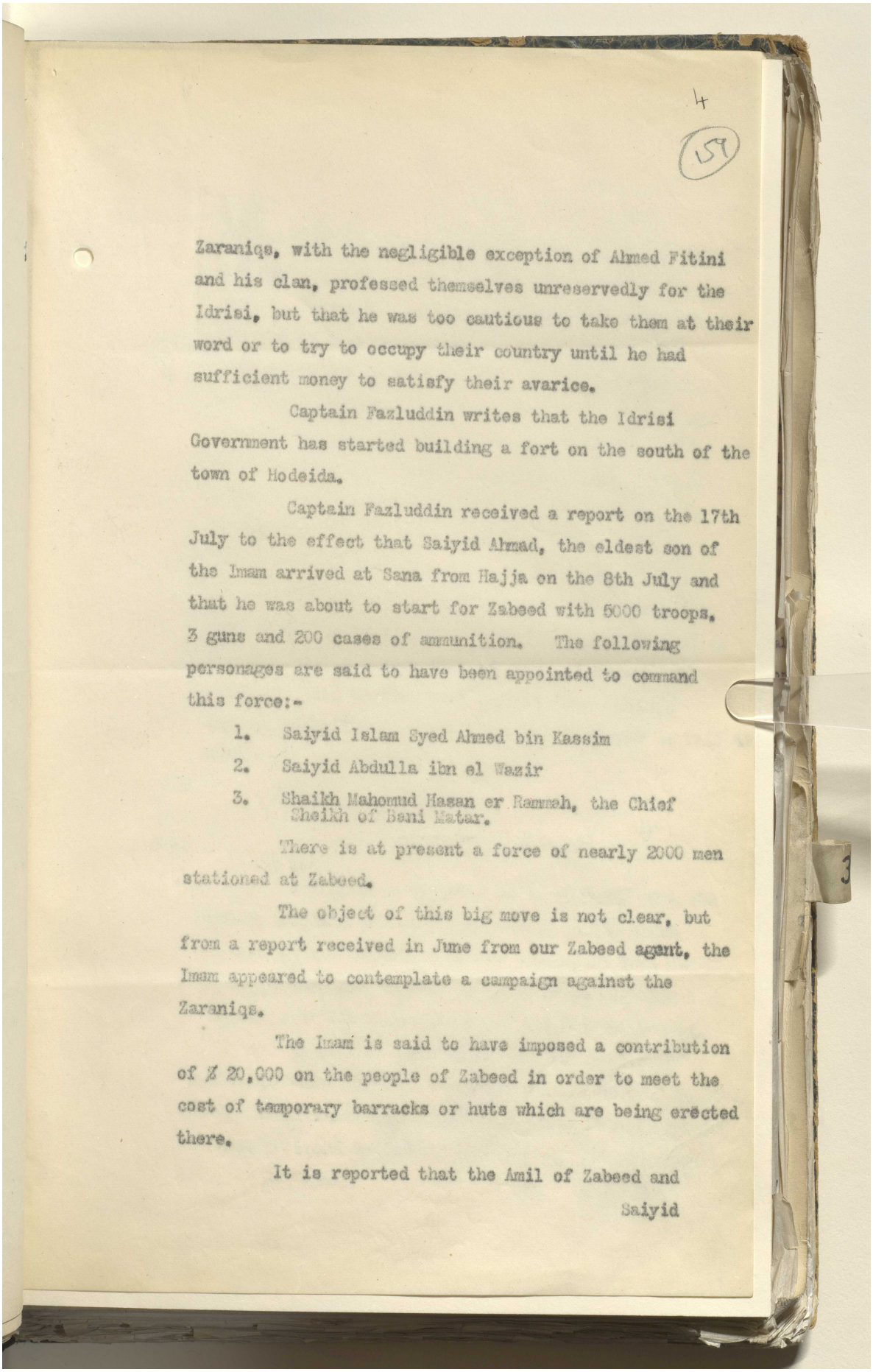

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Zaraniqs, with the negligible exception of Ahmed Fitini and his clan, professed themselves unreservedly for the Idrisi, but that he was too cautious to take them at their word or to try to occupy their country until he had sufficient money to satisfy their avarice.

Captain Fazluddin writes that the Idrisi Government has started building a fort on the south of the town of Hodeida.

Captain Fazluddin received a report on the 17th July to the effect that Saiyid Ahmad, the eldest son of the Imam arrived at Sana from Hajja on the 8th July and that he was about to start for Zabeed with 6000 troops, 3 guns and 200 cases of ammunition. The following personages are said to have been appointed to command this force:-

1. Saiyid Islam Syed Ahmed bin Kassim
2. Saiyid Abdulla ibn el Wazir
3. Shaikh Mahomud Hasan er Rammeh, the Chief Sheikh of Bani Matar.

There is at present a force of nearly 2000 men stationed at Zabeed.

The object of this big move is not clear, but from a report received in June from our Zabeed agent, the Imam appeared to contemplate a campaign against the Zaraniqs.

The Imam is said to have imposed a contribution of ℳ 20,000 on the people of Zabeed in order to meet the cost of temporary barracks or huts which are being erected there.

It is reported that the Amil of Zabeed and

Saiyid

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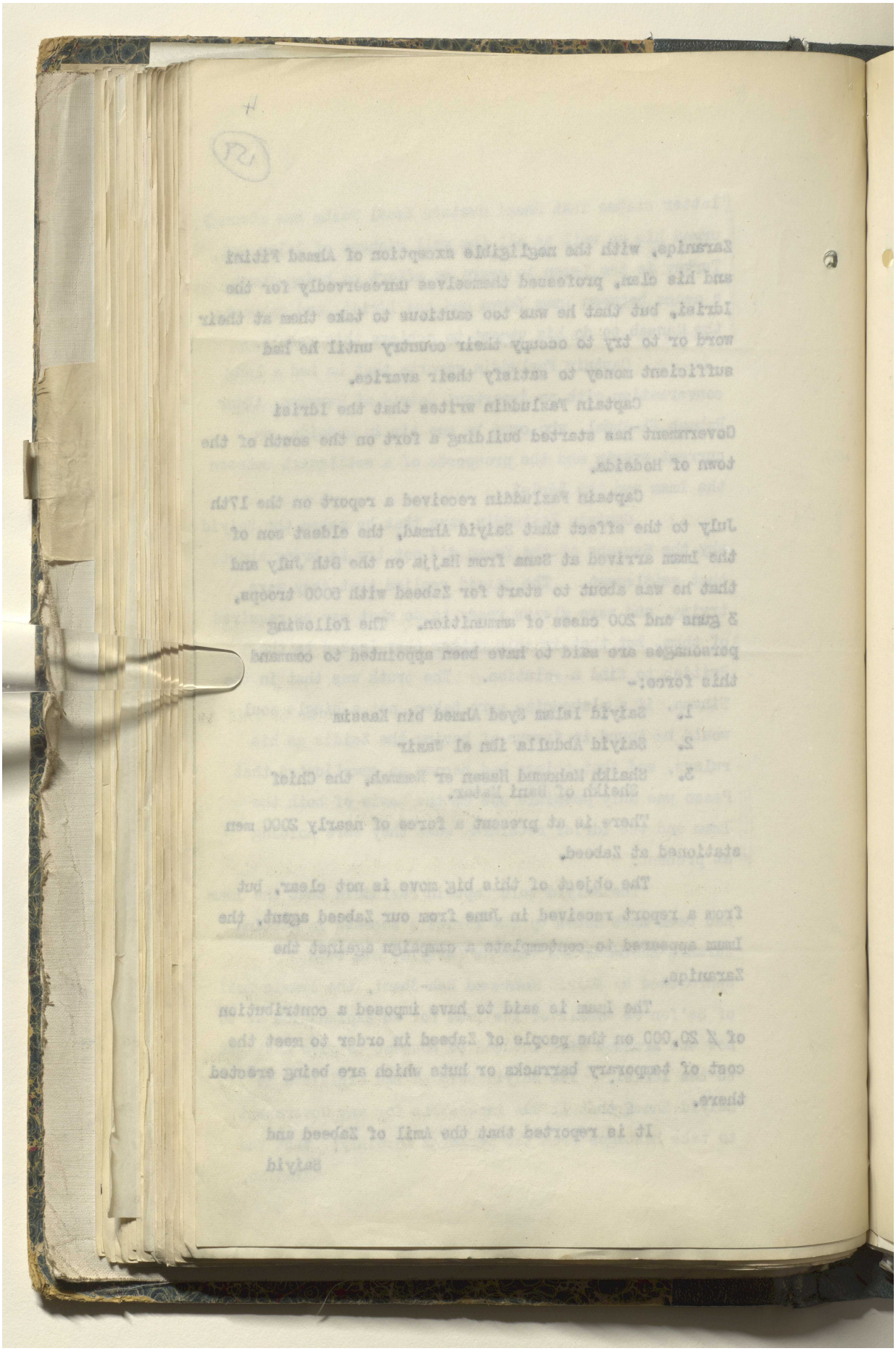

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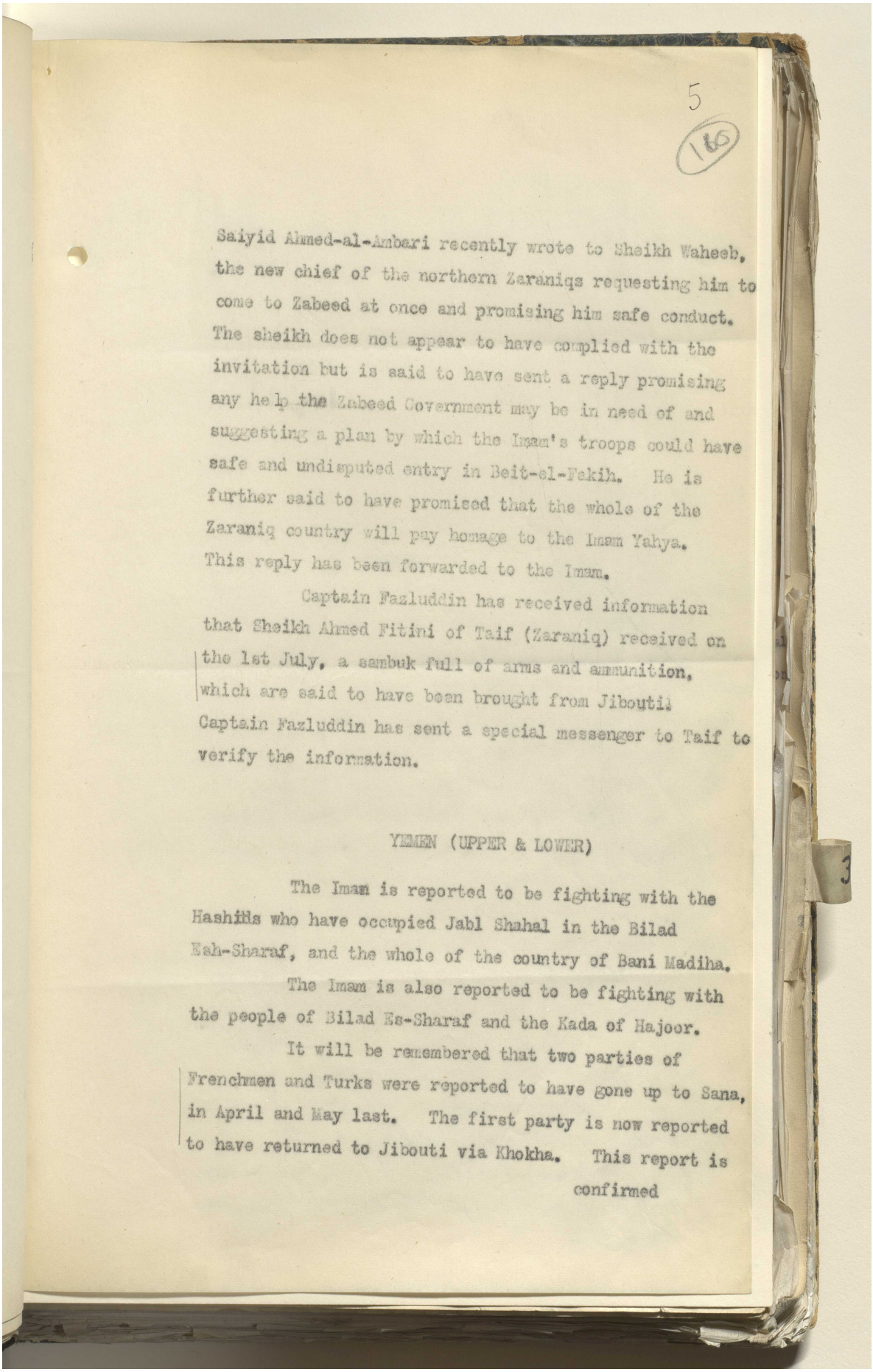

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Saiyid Ahmed-al-Ambari recently wrote to Sheikh Waheeb, the new chief of the northern Zaraniqs requesting him to come to Zabeed at once and promising him safe conduct. The sheikh does not appear to have complied with the invitation but is said to have sent a reply promising any help the Zabeed Government may be in need of and suggesting a plan by which the Imam's troops could have safe and undisputed entry in Beit-el-Fakih. He is further said to have promised that the whole of the Zaraniq country will pay homage to the Imam Yahya. This reply has been forwarded to the Imam.

Captain Fazluddin has received information that Sheikh Ahmed Fitini of Taif (Zaraniq) received on the 1st July, a sambuk full of arms and ammunition, which are said to have been brought from Jibouti. Captain Fazluddin has sent a special messenger to Taif to verify the information.

YEMEN (UPPER & LOWER)

The Imam is reported to be fighting with the Hashids who have occupied Jabl Shahal in the Bilad Esh-Sharaf, and the whole of the country of Bani Madiha.

The Imam is also reported to be fighting with the people of Bilad Es-Sharaf and the Kada of Hajoor.

It will be remembered that two parties of Frenchmen and Turks were reported to have gone up to Sana, in April and May last. The first party is now reported to have returned to Jibouti via Khokha. This report is confirmed

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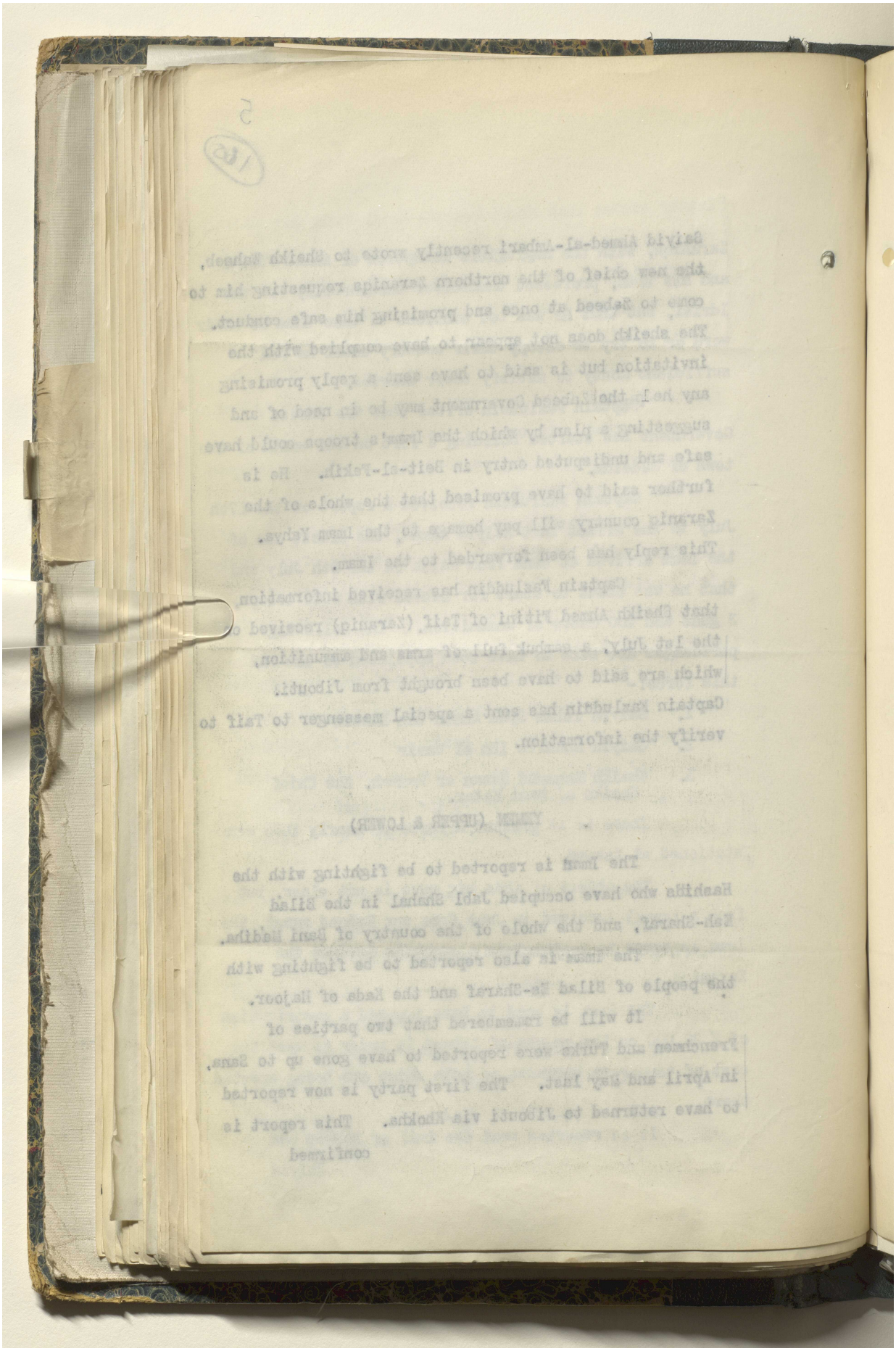

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confirmed by our Sana agent who states that the French party of 3 men left Sana about the beginning of July for Khokha via Taiz; and that 3 members of the second party also left Sana about the same time, with a letter from the Imam to the Amil of Taiz and that the remaining members of the latter party have been transferred from the Imam's guest house to a house near the residence of Mahmud Nadhim.

According to the information already reported in previous letters, the first party consisted of one Frenchman, one Interpreter and one servant, while the second consisted of 2 Turks and 4 Frenchmen and servants According to our Mokha agent all the Frenchmen who were reported by the Sana agent to have left Sana, have returned to Jibouti. The Mokha agent states that 3 days before the arrival of the Frenchmen all the Sheiks and others along the route were warned to be on their best behaviour and that the Frenchmen were escorted by 200 Arab Regulars. The agent says that one of the Frenchmen spoke to the people in the following terms:-

"We shall develop the country and find out salt pits. We are merchants like yourselves and do not think that we have ambition to occupy your country. You should know that your Turkish Government and ourselves are friends and we have come in here for your good."

There now remain in Sana 2 Turks and one Frenchman belonging to the second party.

Captain Fazluddin has received a report to the effect that the French mission in Sana has bought or hired four shops there which belonged to some European

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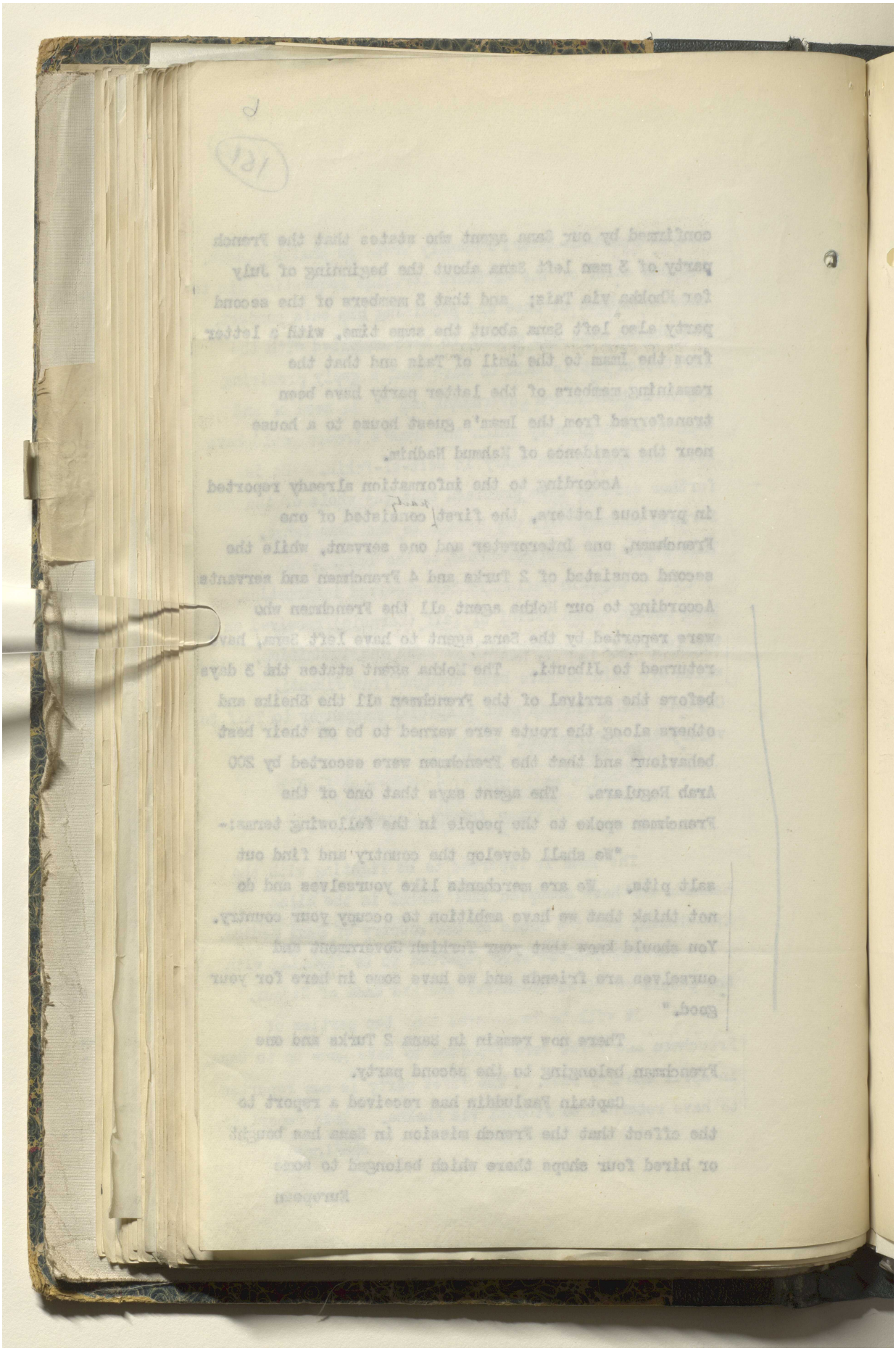

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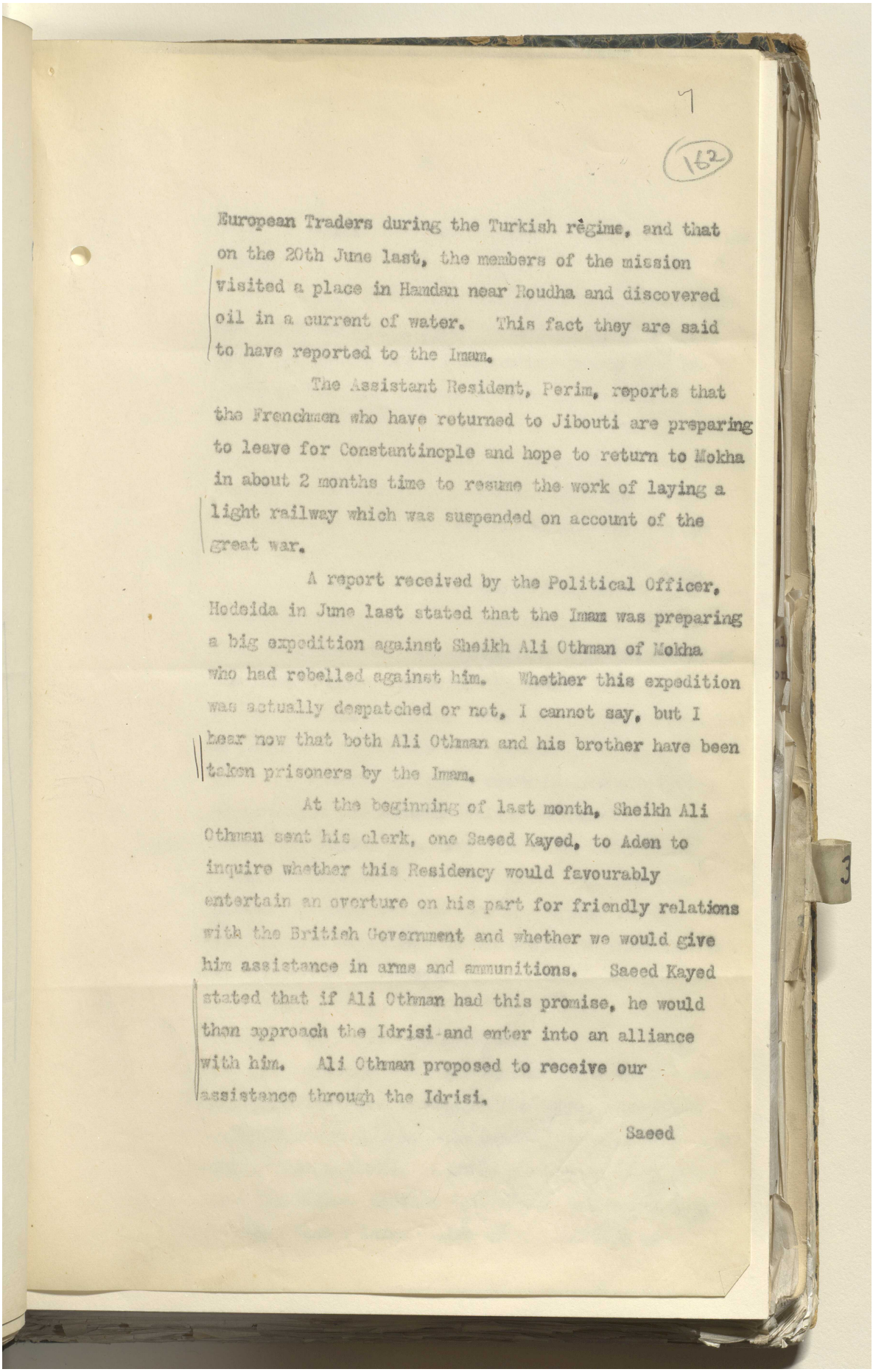

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European Traders during the Turkish régime, and that on the 20th June last, the members of the mission visited a place in Hamdan near Roudha and discovered oil in a current of water. This fact they are said to have reported to the Imam.

The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports that the Frenchmen who have returned to Jibouti are preparing to leave for Constantinople and hope to return to Mokha in about 2 months time to resume the work of laying a light railway which was suspended on account of the great war.

A report received by the Political Officer, Hodeida in June last stated that the Imam was preparing a big expedition against Sheikh Ali Othman of Mokha who had rebelled against him. Whether this expedition was actually despatched or not, I cannot say, but I hear now that both Ali Othman and his brother have been taken prisoners by the Imam.

At the beginning of last month, Sheikh Ali Othman sent his clerk, one Saeed Kayed, to Aden to inquire whether this Residency would favourably entertain an overture on his part for friendly relations with the British Government and whether we would give him assistance in arms and ammunitions. Saeed Kayed stated that if Ali Othman had this promise, he would then approach the Idrisi and enter into an alliance with him. Ali Othman proposed to receive our assistance through the Idrisi.

Saeed

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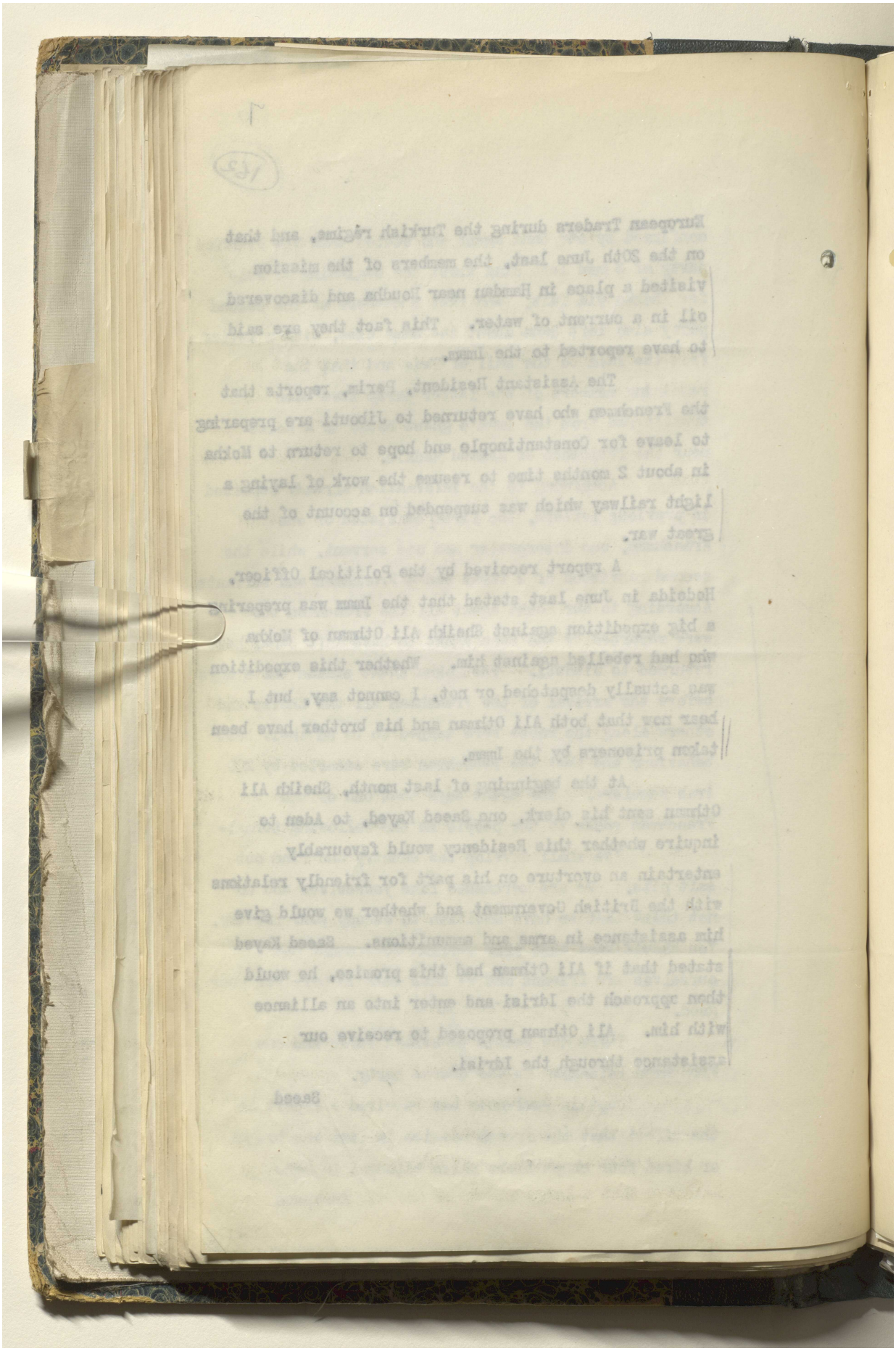

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Saeed Kayed was given a suitable non-committal reply.

I gathered from this man that Ali Othman did not allow the French party to land at Mokha in April last, and I have heard from another source that he wrote to the Imam that he and the Sheikh of Sheikh Said would not under any circumstances agree to French influence being established in the Yemen, either in the form of concessions or trading houses etc., and that they would not have any connection with any Foreign Power except the British.

Saeed Kayed informed me that on the 19th June last a Turk came from Sana accompanied by some Arabs and inspected the Mokha light house on behalf of the Imam. Mons. Coccalis, the French light house keeper is still at Mokha. The light house is reported to be in a very bad state of repair.

I have received a communication purporting to come from the Zaraniq Shaikhs asking that the British Government should recognise them as an independent state in alliance with Great Britain and help them against the Imam and the Idrisi. I have replied that H.B.M's Government do not desire to interfere in the affairs of the Arabs.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Our news correspondent at Jebel Jihaf under date 6th July reports that Saiyid Yahya, commanding at Dhala and Saiyid Mahomed Shami, the Amil, have left Dhala, that the Amil, Al Ansi, who was in Jalila, has left for Kataba, leaving Qadi Husain to act for him. He stes that a large number of the soldiers and the

araif

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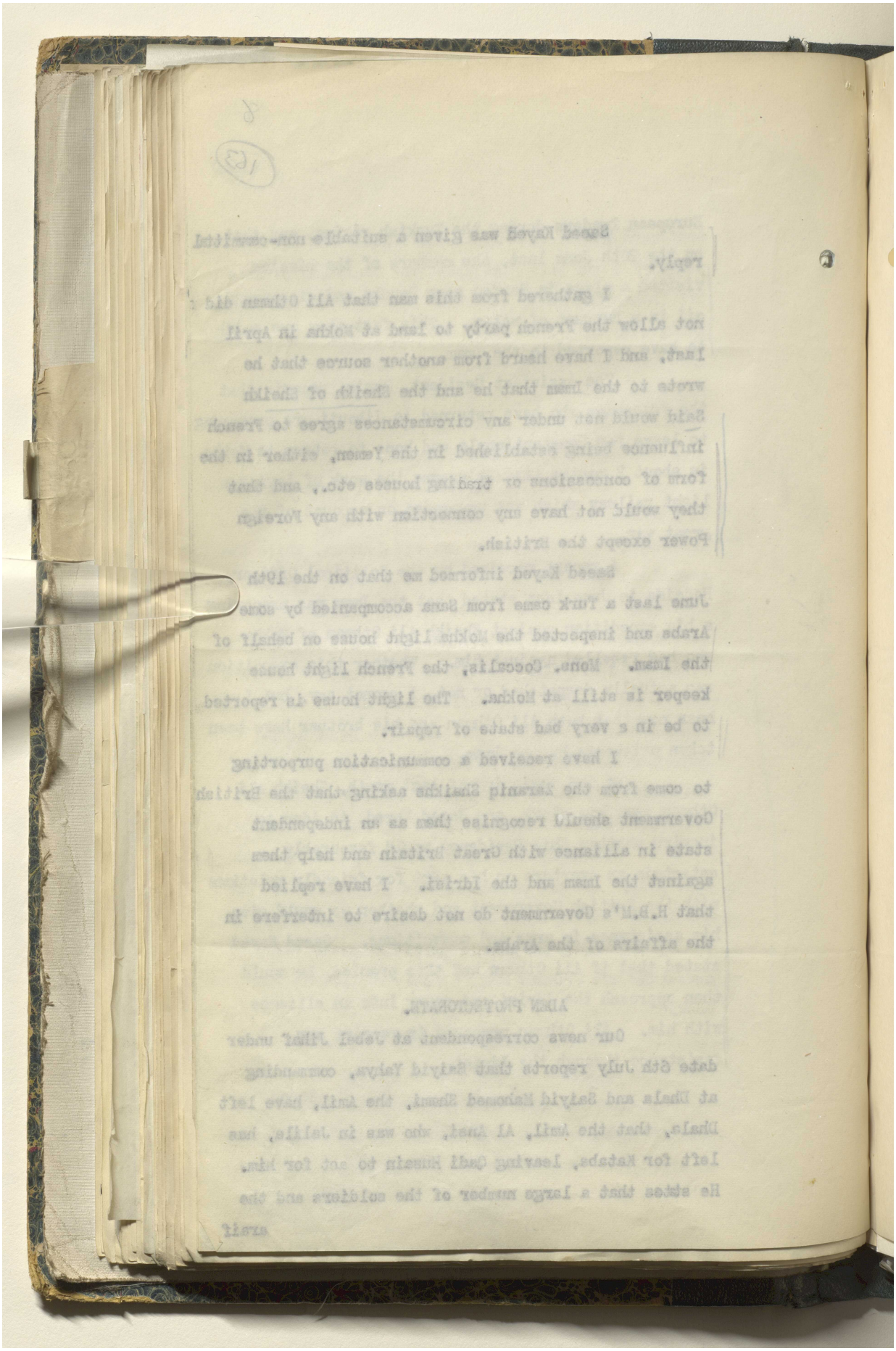

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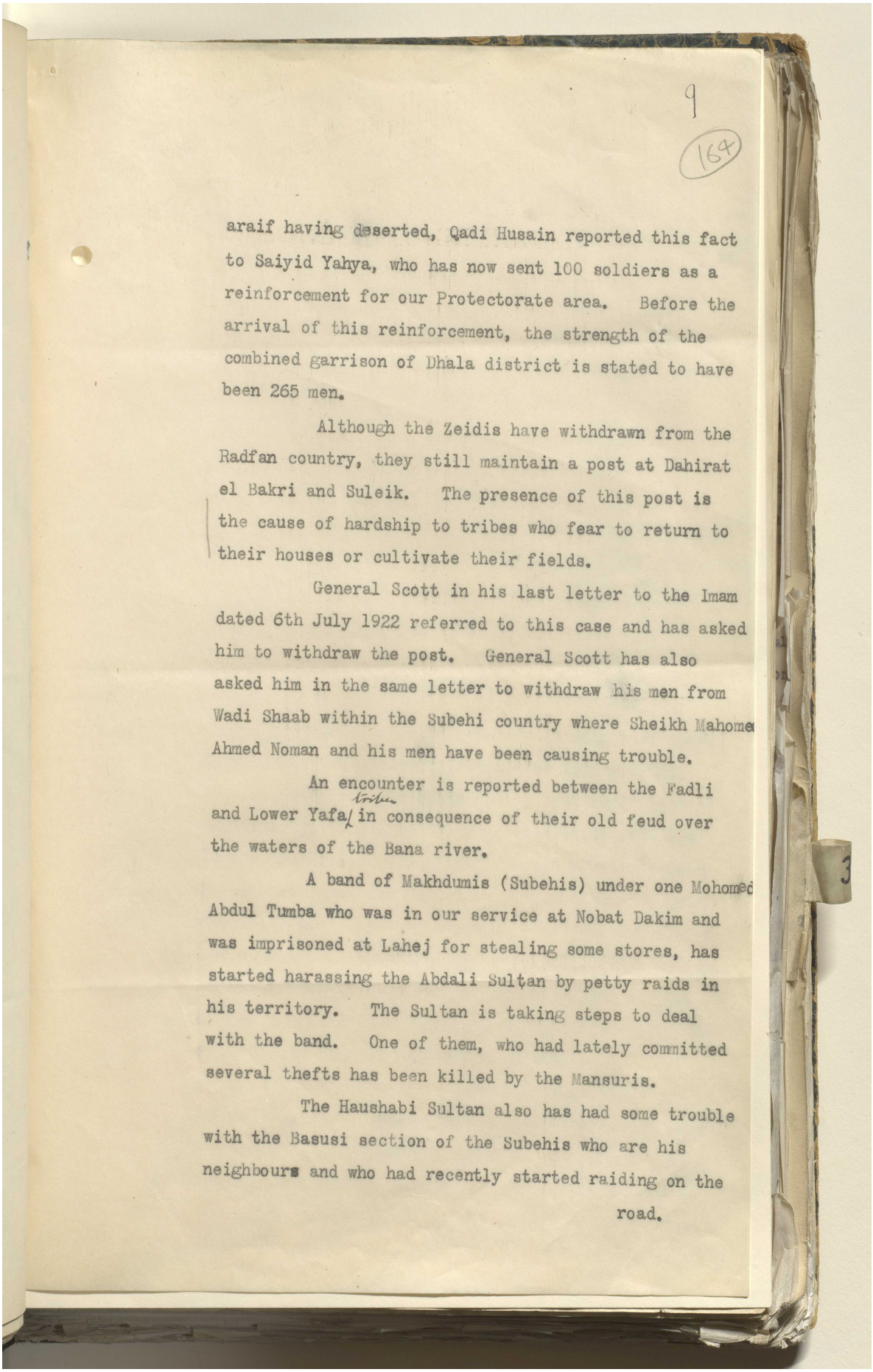

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araif having deserted, Qadi Husain reported this fact to Saiyid Yahya, who has now sent 100 soldiers as a reinforcement for our Protectorate area. Before the arrival of this reinforcement, the strength of the combined garrison of Dhala district is stated to have been 265 men.

Although the Zeidis have withdrawn from the Radfan country, they still maintain a post at Dahirat el Bakri and Suleik. The presence of this post is the cause of hardship to tribes who fear to return to their houses or cultivate their fields.

General Scott in his last letter to the Imam dated 6th July 1922 referred to this case and has asked him to withdraw the post. General Scott has also asked him in the same letter to withdraw his men from Wadi Shaab within the Subehi country where Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Noman and his men have been causing trouble.

An encounter is reported between the Fadli tribes and Lower Yafa/ in consequence of their old feud over the waters of the Bana river.

A band of Makhdumis (Subehis) under one Mohomed Abdul Tumba who was in our service at Nobat Dakim and was imprisoned at Lahej for stealing some stores, has started harassing the Abdali Sultan by petty raids in his territory. The Sultan is taking steps to deal with the band. One of them, who had lately committed several thefts has been killed by the Mansuris.

The Haushabi Sultan also has had some trouble with the Basusi section of the Subehis who are his neighbours and who had recently started raiding on the road.

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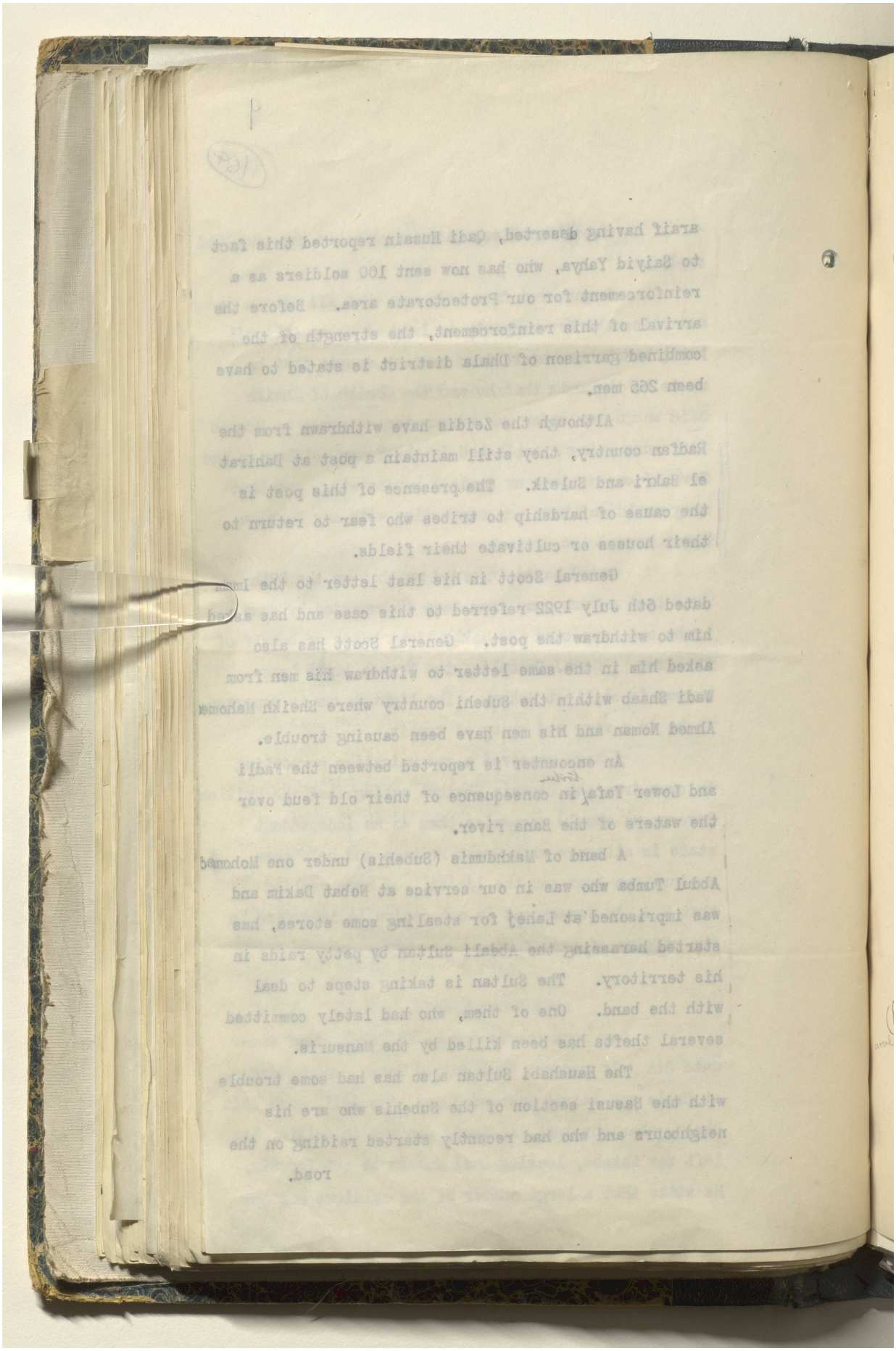

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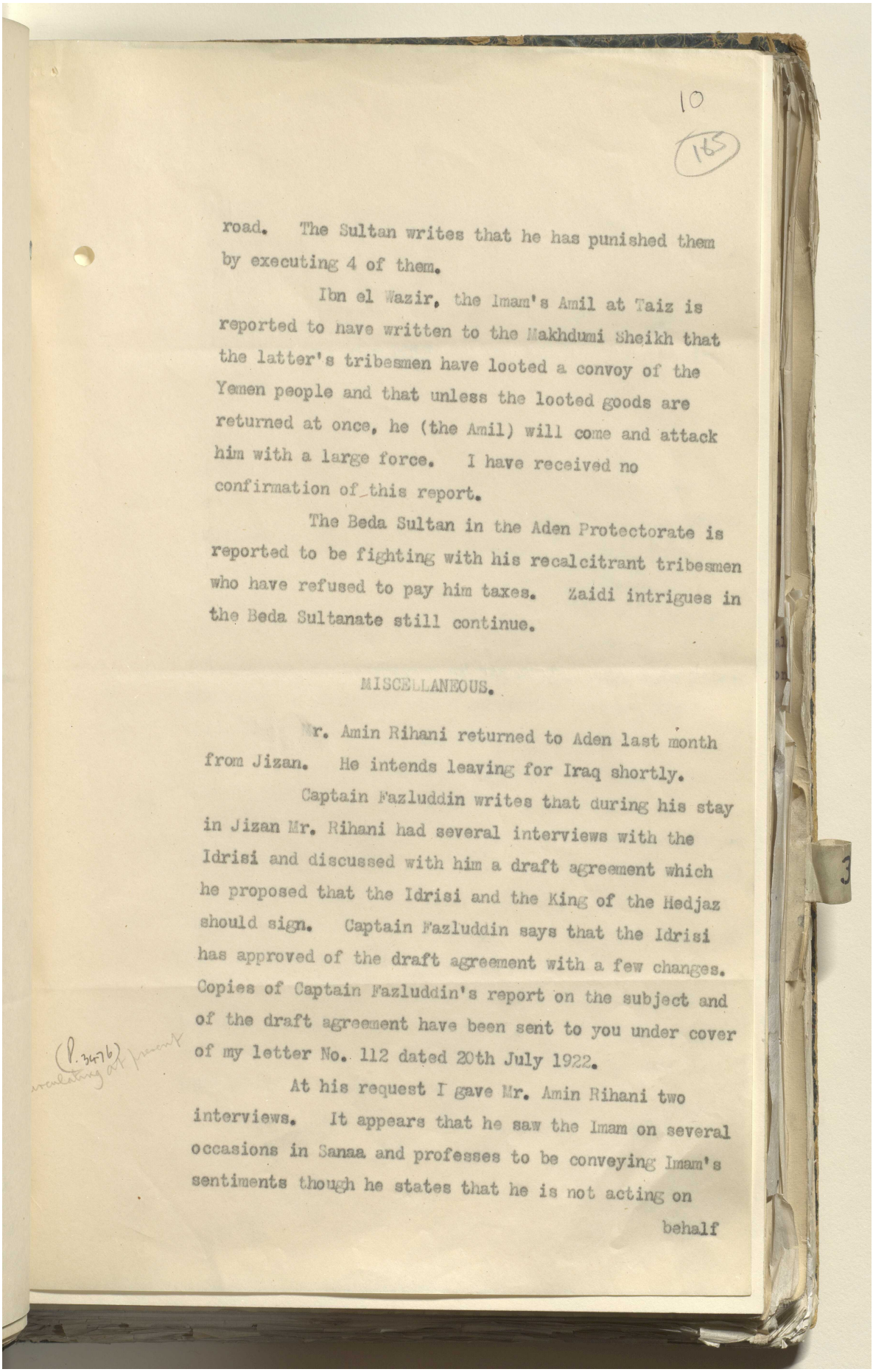

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road. The Sultan writes that he has punished them by executing 4 of them.

Ibn el Wazir, the Imam's Amil at Taiz is reported to have written to the Makhdumi Sheikh that the latter's tribesmen have looted a convoy of the Yemen people and that unless the looted goods are returned at once, he (the Amil) will come and attack him with a large force. I have received no confirmation of this report.

The Beda Sultan in the Aden Protectorate is reported to be fighting with his recalcitrant tribesmen who have refused to pay him taxes. Zaidi intrigues in the Beda Sultanate still continue.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Amin Rihani returned to Aden last month from Jizan. He intends leaving for Iraq shortly.

Captain Fazluddin writes that during his stay in Jizan Mr. Rihani had several interviews with the Idrisi and discussed with him a draft agreement which he proposed that the Idrisi and the King of the Hedjaz should sign. Captain Fazluddin says that the Idrisi has approved of the draft agreement with a few changes. Copies of Captain Fazluddin's report on the subject and of the draft agreement have been sent to you under cover of my letter No. 112 dated 20th July 1922.

(P. 3476) circulating at present

At his request I gave Mr. Amin Rihani two interviews. It appears that he saw the Imam on several occasions in Sanaa and professes to be conveying Imam's sentiments though he states that he is not acting on behalf

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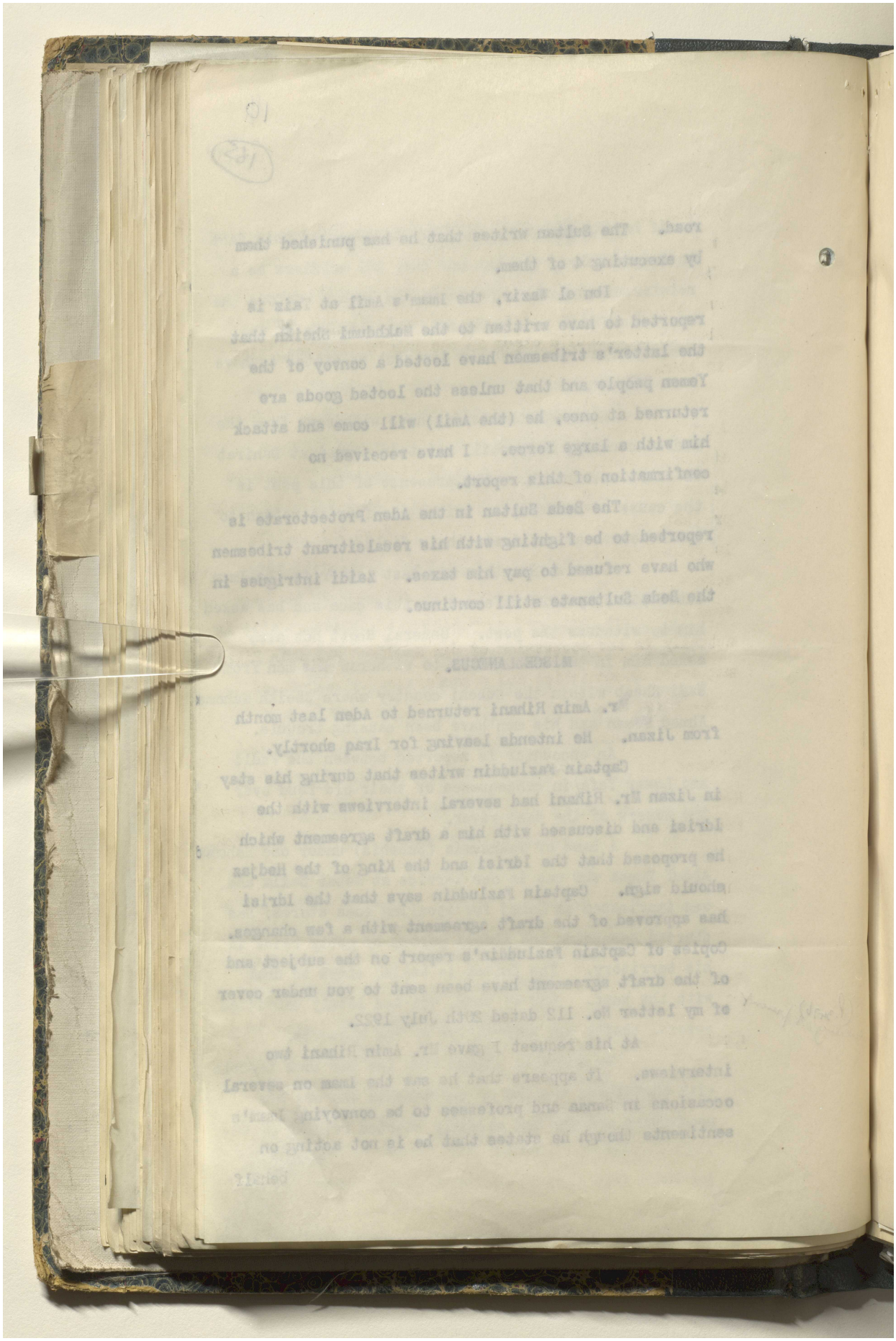

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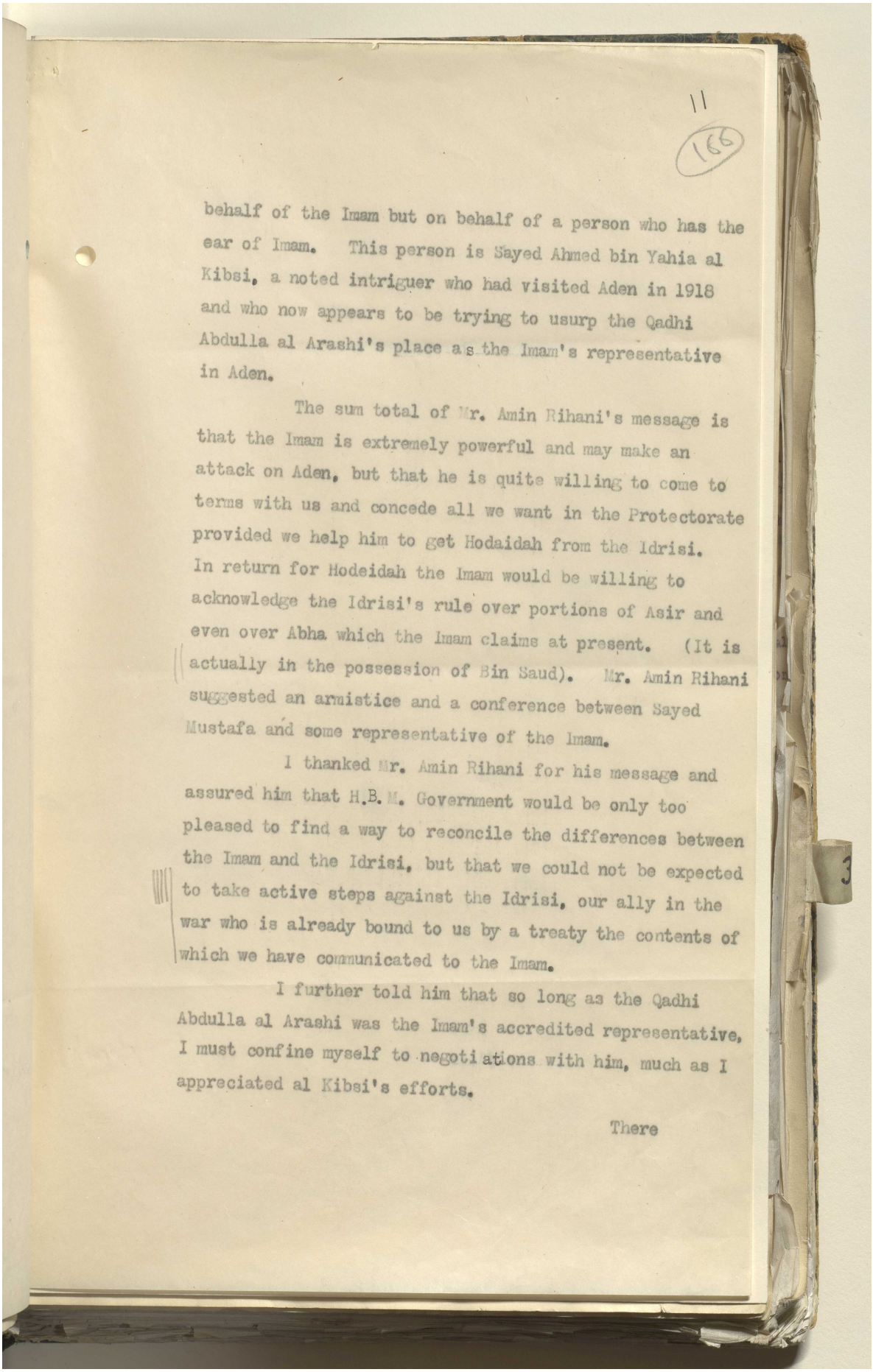

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behalf of the Imam but on behalf of a person who has the ear of Imam. This person is Sayed Ahmed bin Yahia al Kibsi, a noted intriguer who had visited Aden in 1918 and who now appears to be trying to usurp the Qadhi Abdulla al Arashi's place as the Imam's representative in Aden.

The sum total of Mr. Amin Rihani's message is that the Imam is extremely powerful and may make an attack on Aden, but that he is quite willing to come to terms with us and concede all we want in the Protectorate provided we help him to get Hodaidah from the Idrisi. In return for Hodeidah the Imam would be willing to acknowledge the Idrisi's rule over portions of Asir and even over Abha which the Imam claims at present. (It is actually in the possession of Bin Saud). Mr. Amin Rihani suggested an armistice and a conference between Sayed Mustafa and some representative of the Imam.

I thanked Mr. Amin Rihani for his message and assured him that H.B.M. Government would be only too pleased to find a way to reconcile the differences between the Imam and the Idrisi, but that we could not be expected to take active steps against the Idrisi, our ally in the war who is already bound to us by a treaty the contents of which we have communicated to the Imam.

I further told him that so long as the Qadhi Abdulla al Arashi was the Imam's accredited representative, I must confine myself to negotiations with him, much as I appreciated al Kibsi's efforts.

There

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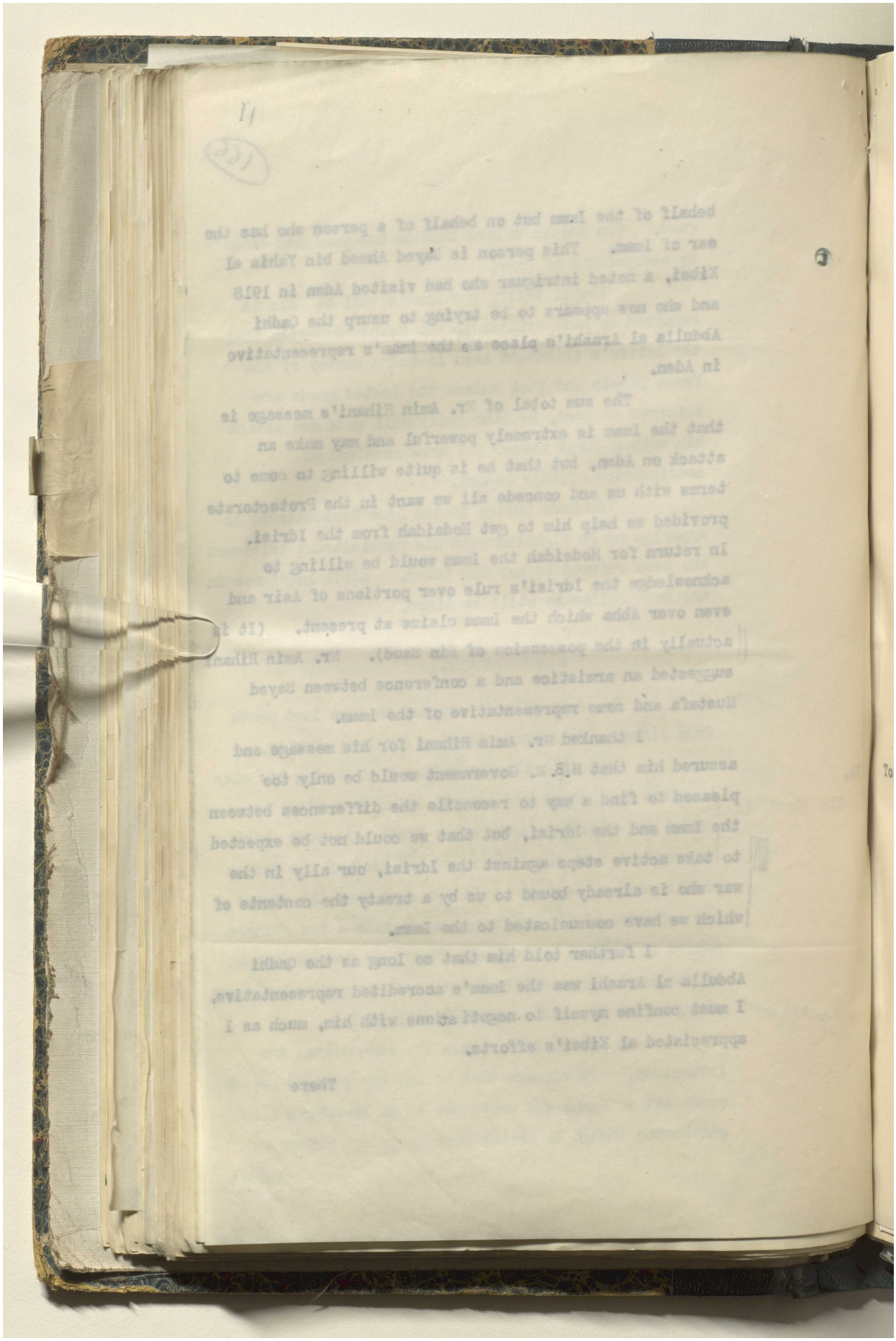

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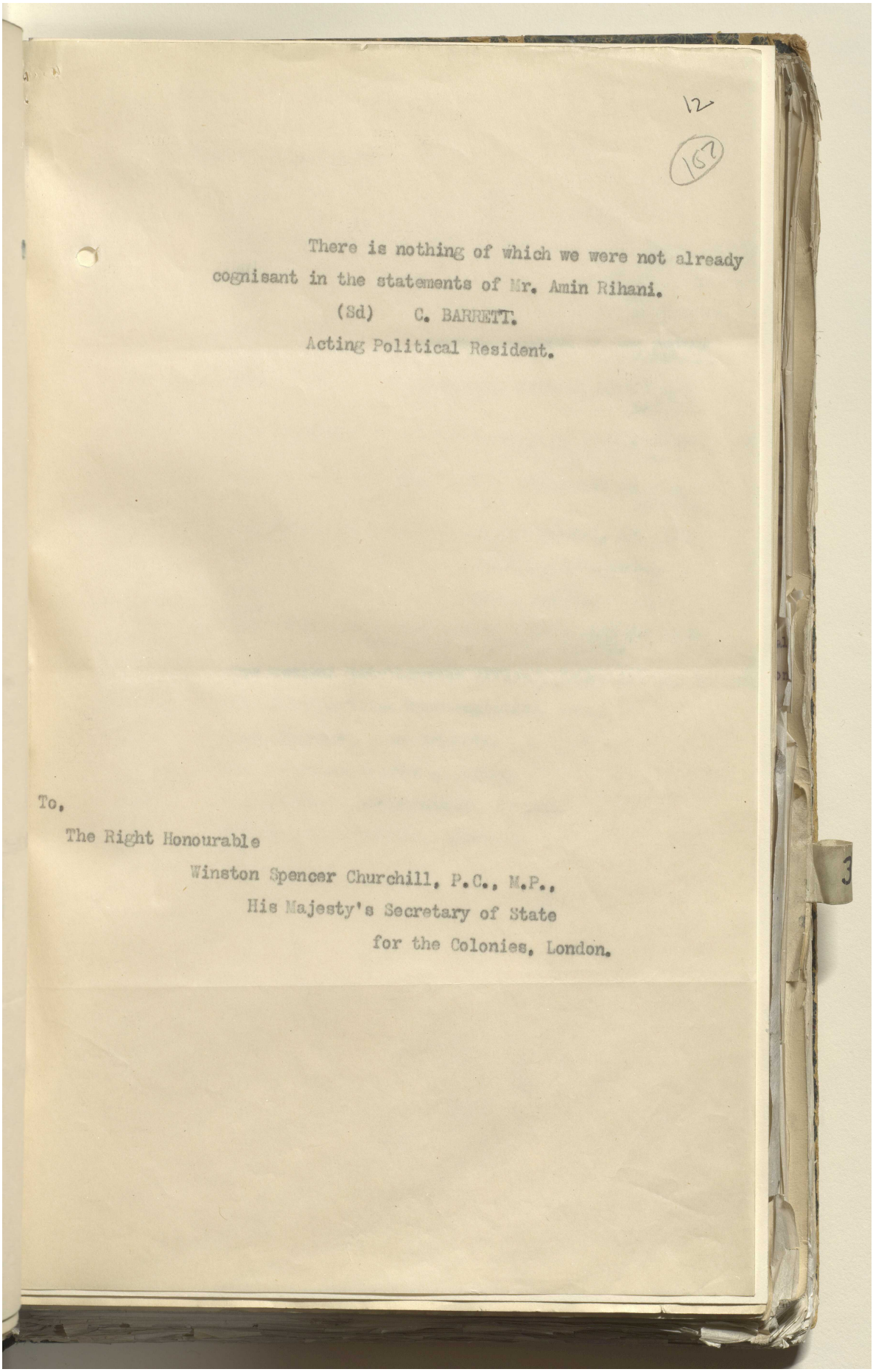

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There is nothing of which we were not already cognisant in the statements of Mr. Amin Rihani.

(Sd) C. BARRETT.

Acting Political Resident.

To,

The Right Honourable

Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.,

His Majesty's Secretary of State

for the Colonies, London.

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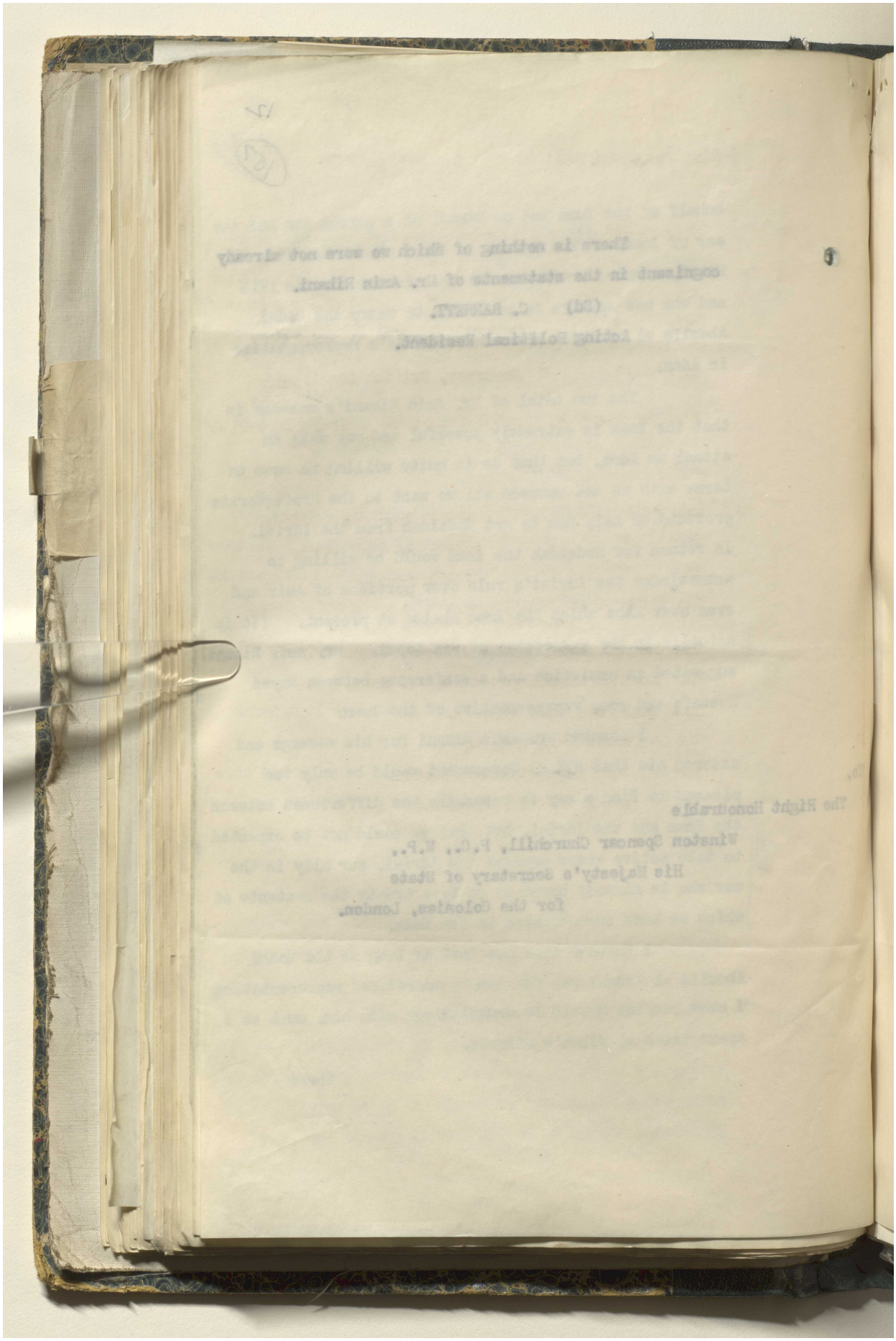

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The Chief British Representative, Aman.
Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamarn.
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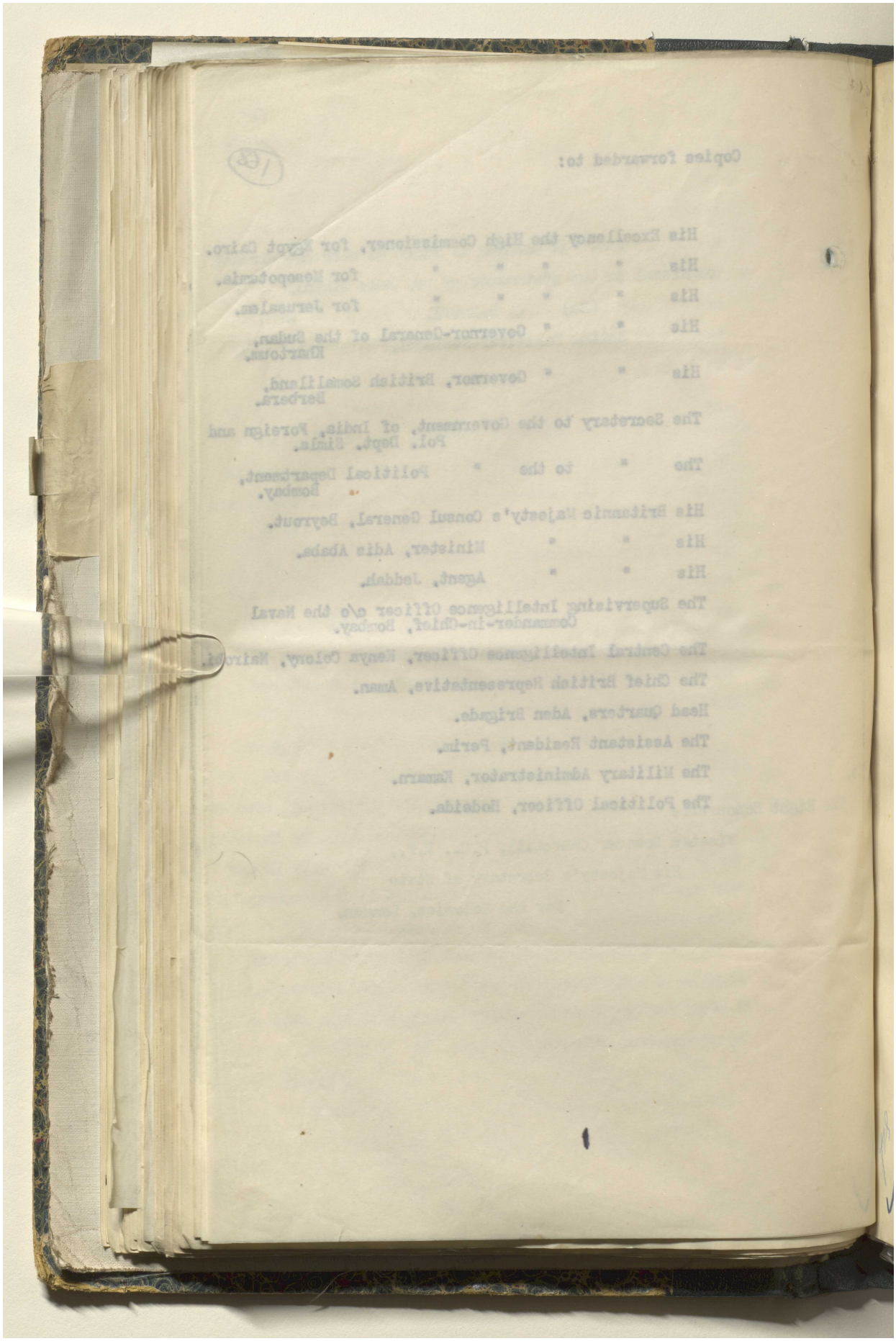

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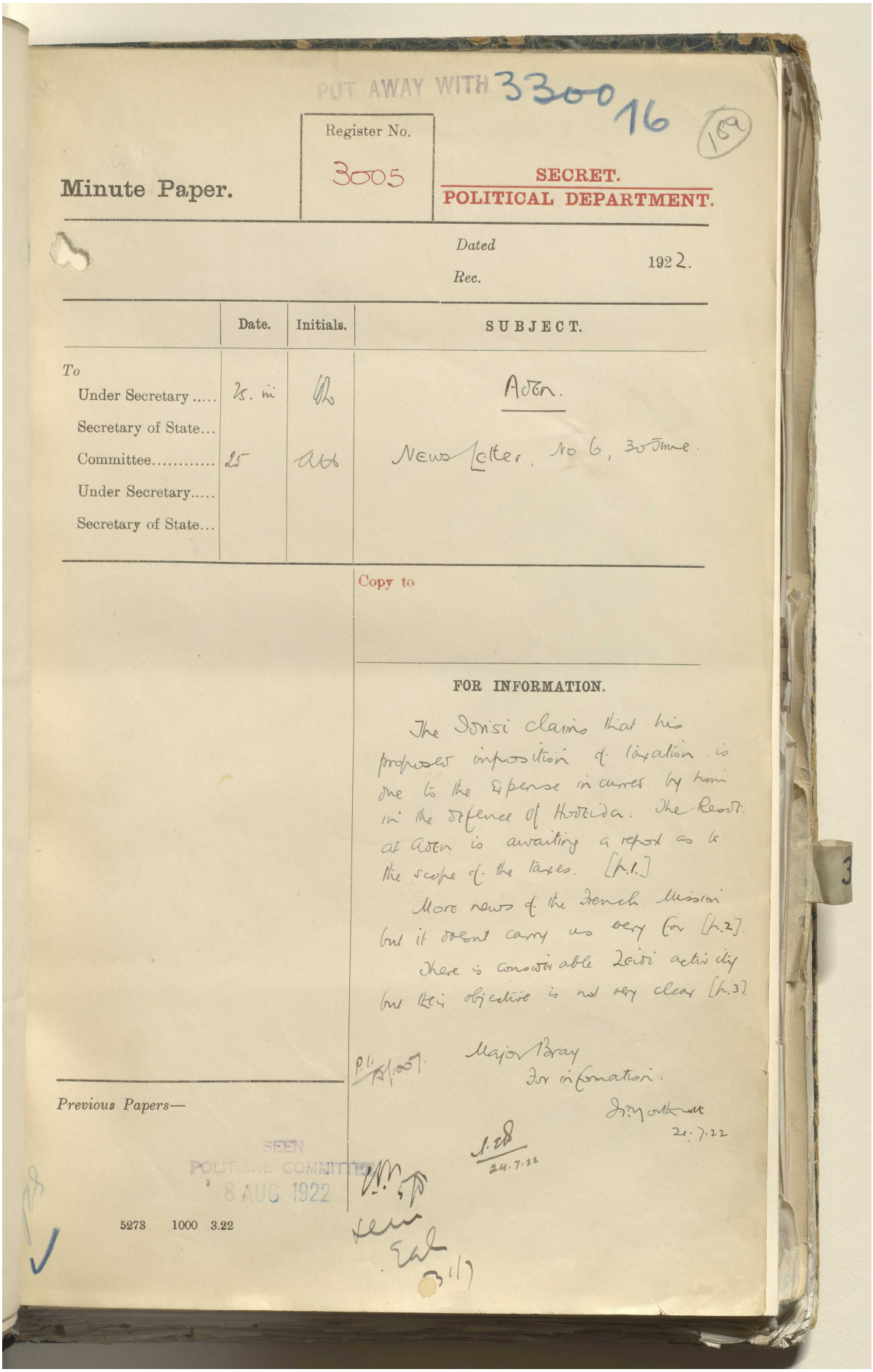

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 3005

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1922.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	25. vii		Aden.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	25		News Letter, No 6, 30 June.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

The Idrisi claims that his proposed imposition of taxation is due to the expense incurred by him in the defence of Hodeida. The Resdt. at Aden is awaiting a report as to the scope of the taxes. [p.1.]

More news of the French Mission but it doesn't carry us very far [p.2].

There is considerable Idrisi activity but their objective is not very clear [p.3]

P.L. 8/8/22. Major Bray
For information.
J.M. 21.7.22

J.E.B. 24.7.22

Previous Papers—

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
8 AUG 1922

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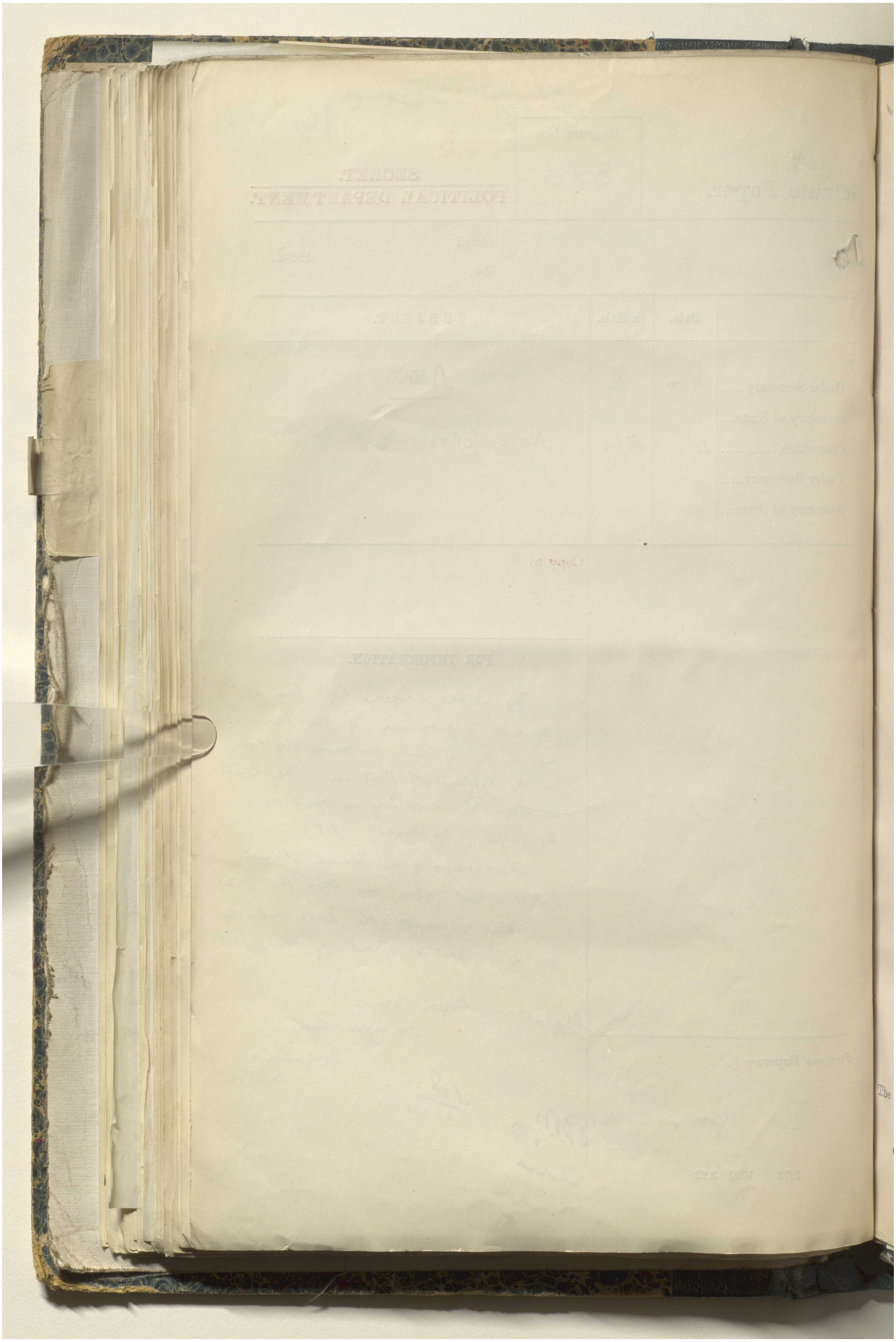

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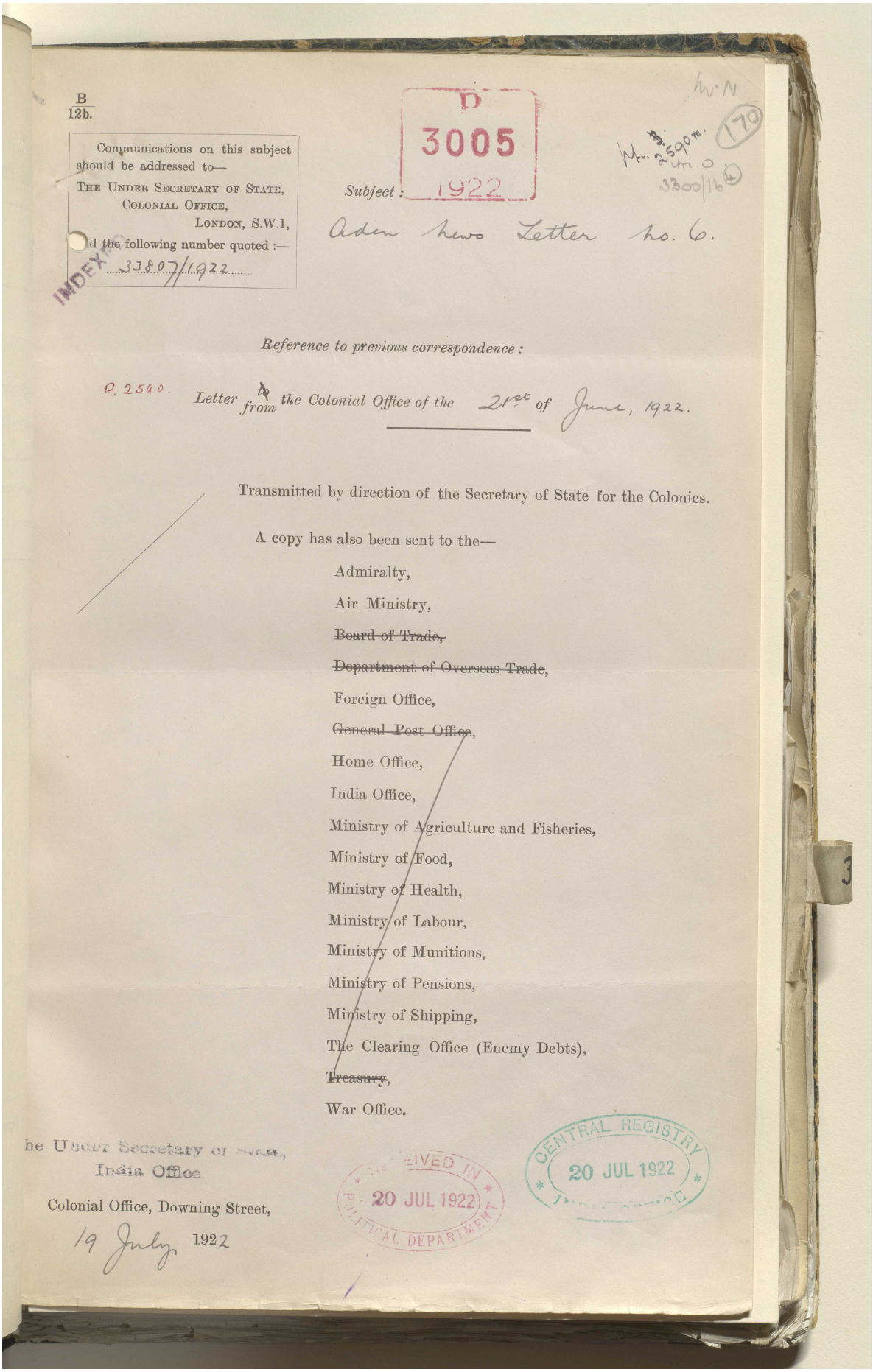

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
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COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
33807/1922

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D
3005
1922

Subject : Aden News Letter No. 6.

P. 2590.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 21st of June, 1922.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the—

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Ministry of Labour,
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Ministry of Pensions,
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The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
~~Treasury,~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
19 July 1922

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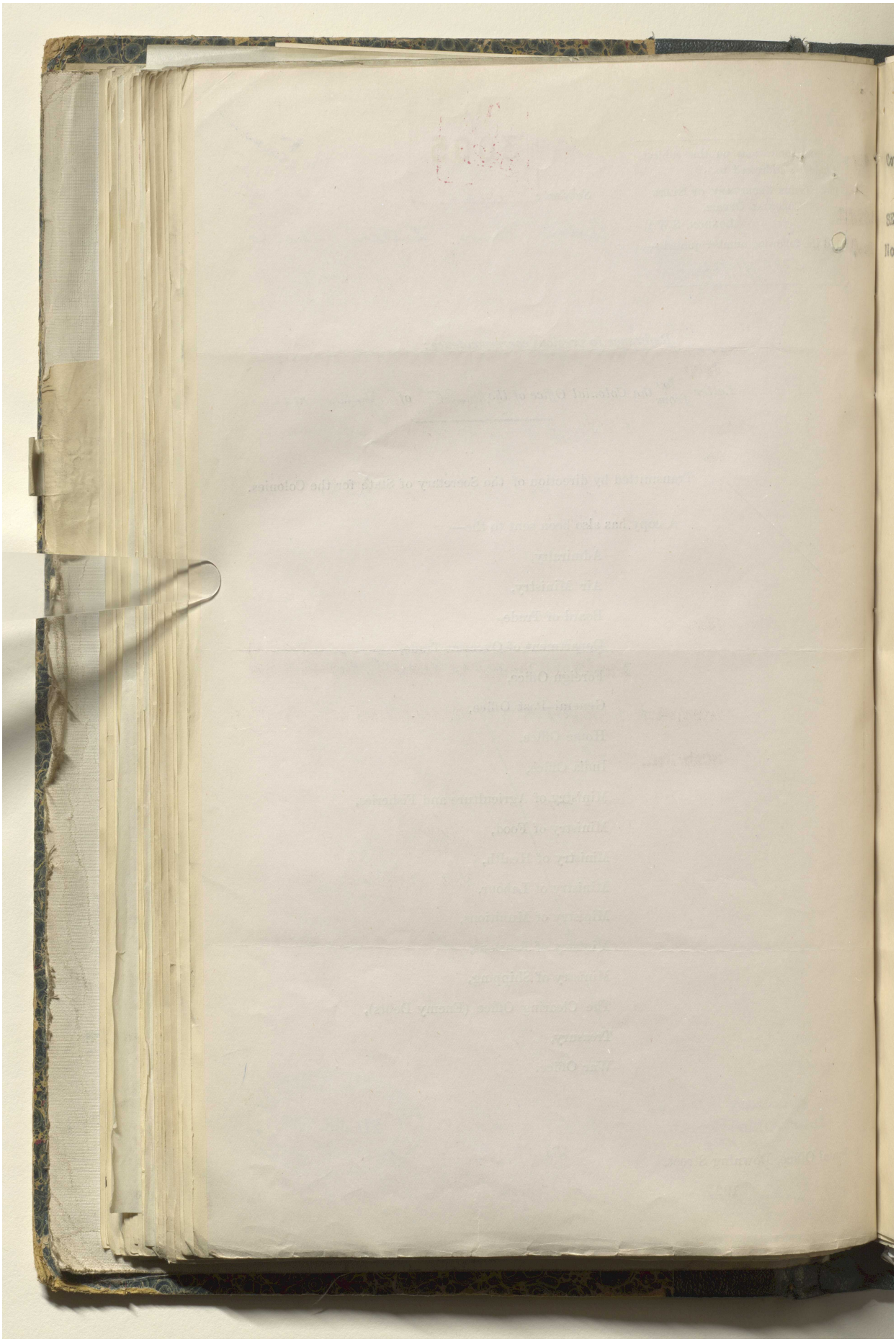

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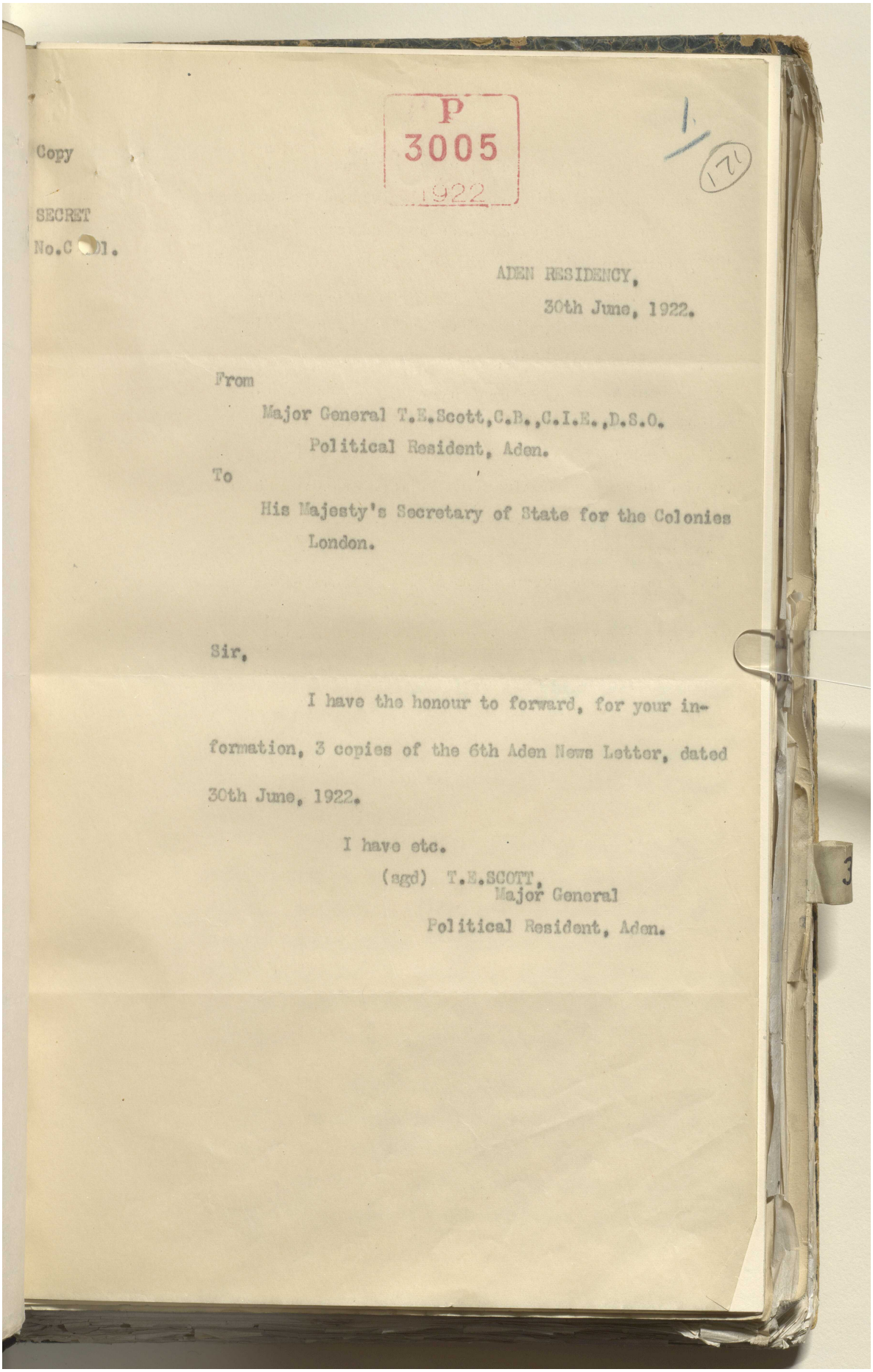

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Copy

SECRET
No.C [illegible]1.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
30th June, 1922.

From

Major General T.E.Scott,C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, 3 copies of the 6th Aden News Letter, dated 30th June, 1922.

I have etc.
(sgd) T.E.SCOTT,
Major General
Political Resident, Aden.

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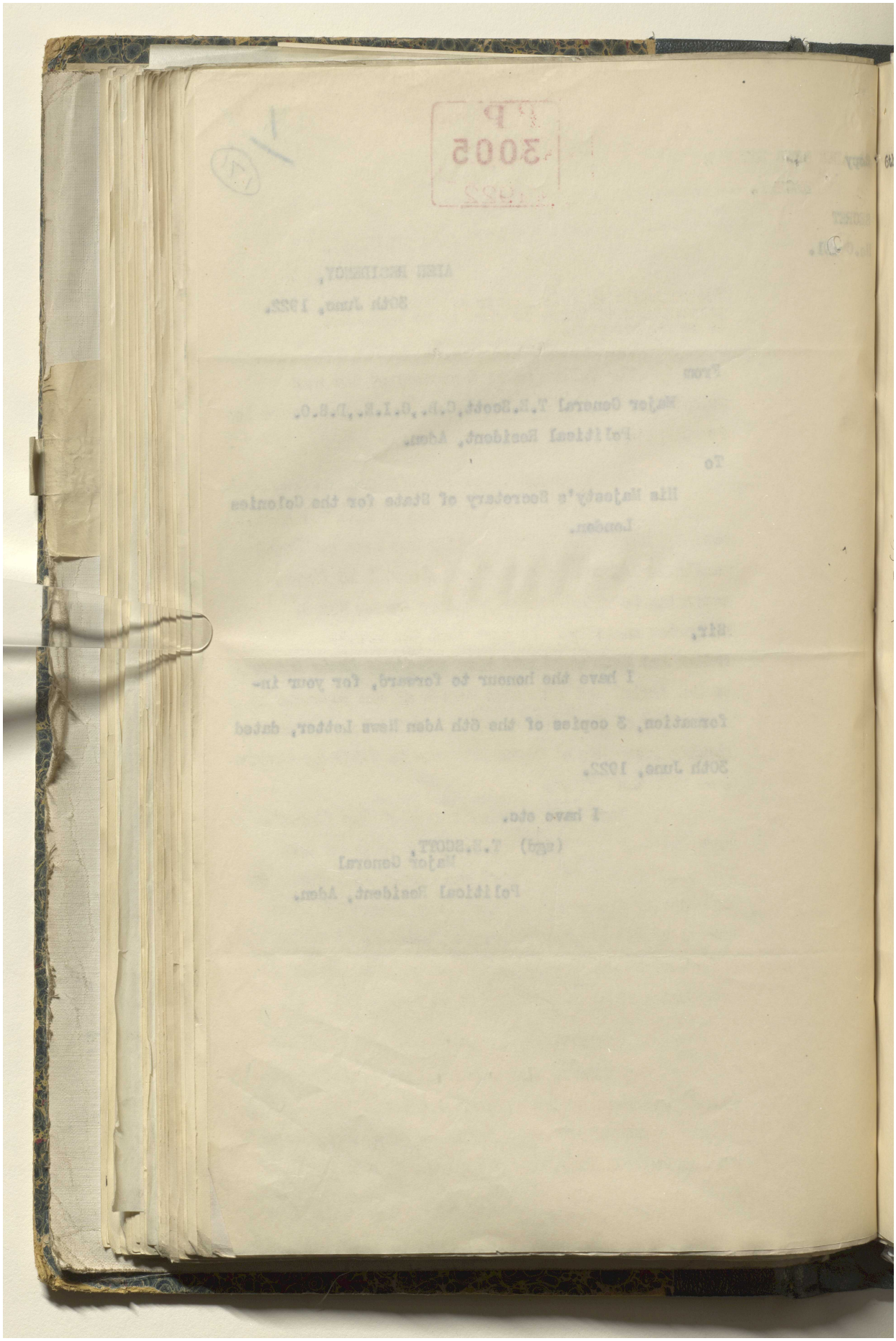

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6th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

30th June, 1922.

(The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 1st June, 1922.

TIHAMA.

Idrisi's taxation

Captain Fazluddin writing on 25th May states that the Idrissian Zakat question has been postponed until after the Id, when a definite scale will be fixed, according to which either Zakat or Income Tax will be levied annually. He says that the British Indian and Arab merchants have submitted their accounts to the Idrisi and have sent copies of the accounts to him. Two of the members of the Idrisi Tax collecting mission have gone with the accounts to Sabia to discuss them with the Idrisi.

I have now received a copy of the Idrisi's reply to Captain Fazluddin, referred to in my last letter. In this the Idrisi endeavours to justify his taxation on the ground of the heavy expenditure incurred by him for the defence of Hodeida. I am awaiting a further report from Captain Fazluddin as to the definite scale of Taxes referred to above.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

Ali Othman, the Kaimmakam of Mokha, is reported to have rebelled against the Imam.

200 Zeidis are reported to have left Mavia for Taiz on the 1st June, and 600 Zeidis with 1 gun, 1 machine-

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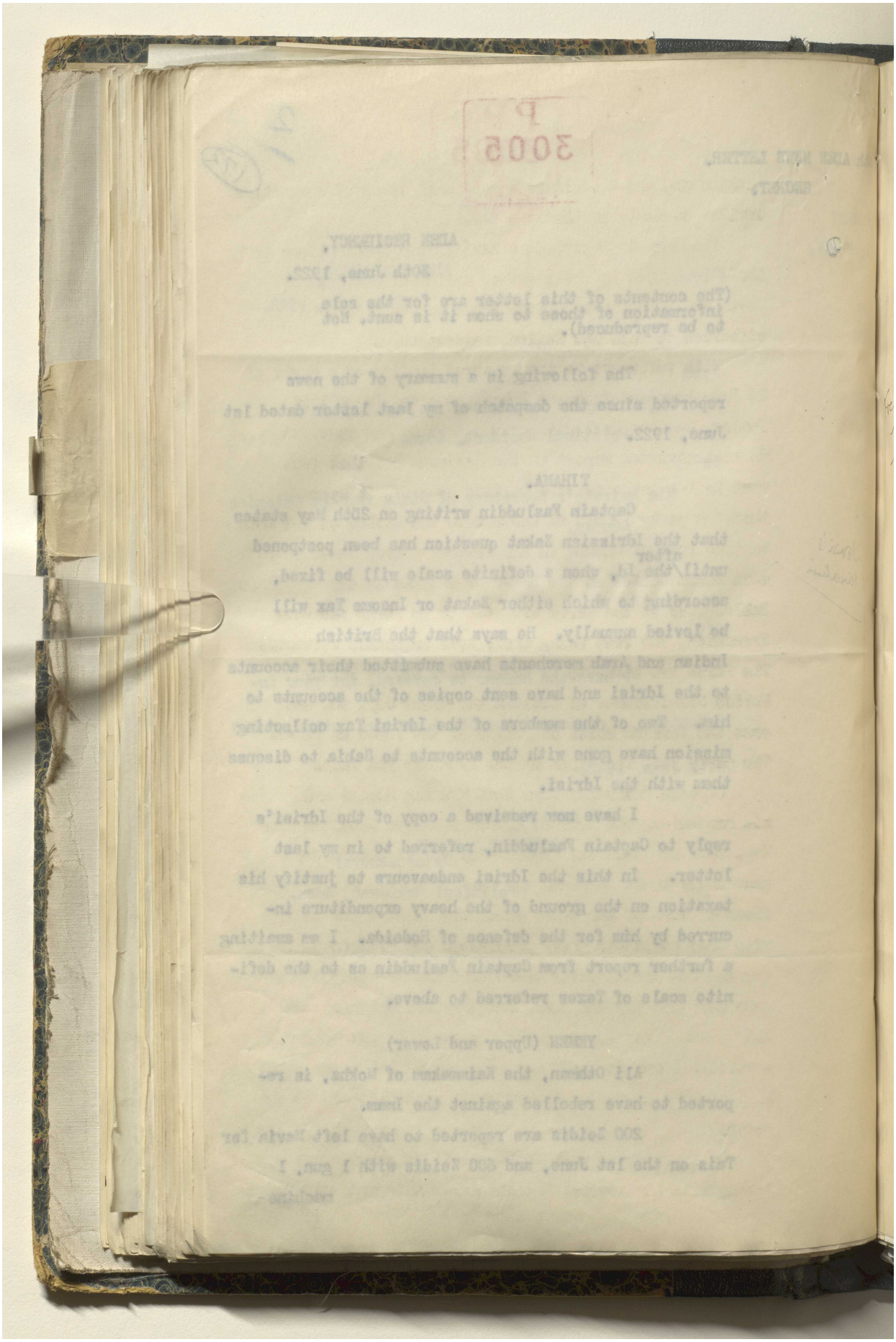

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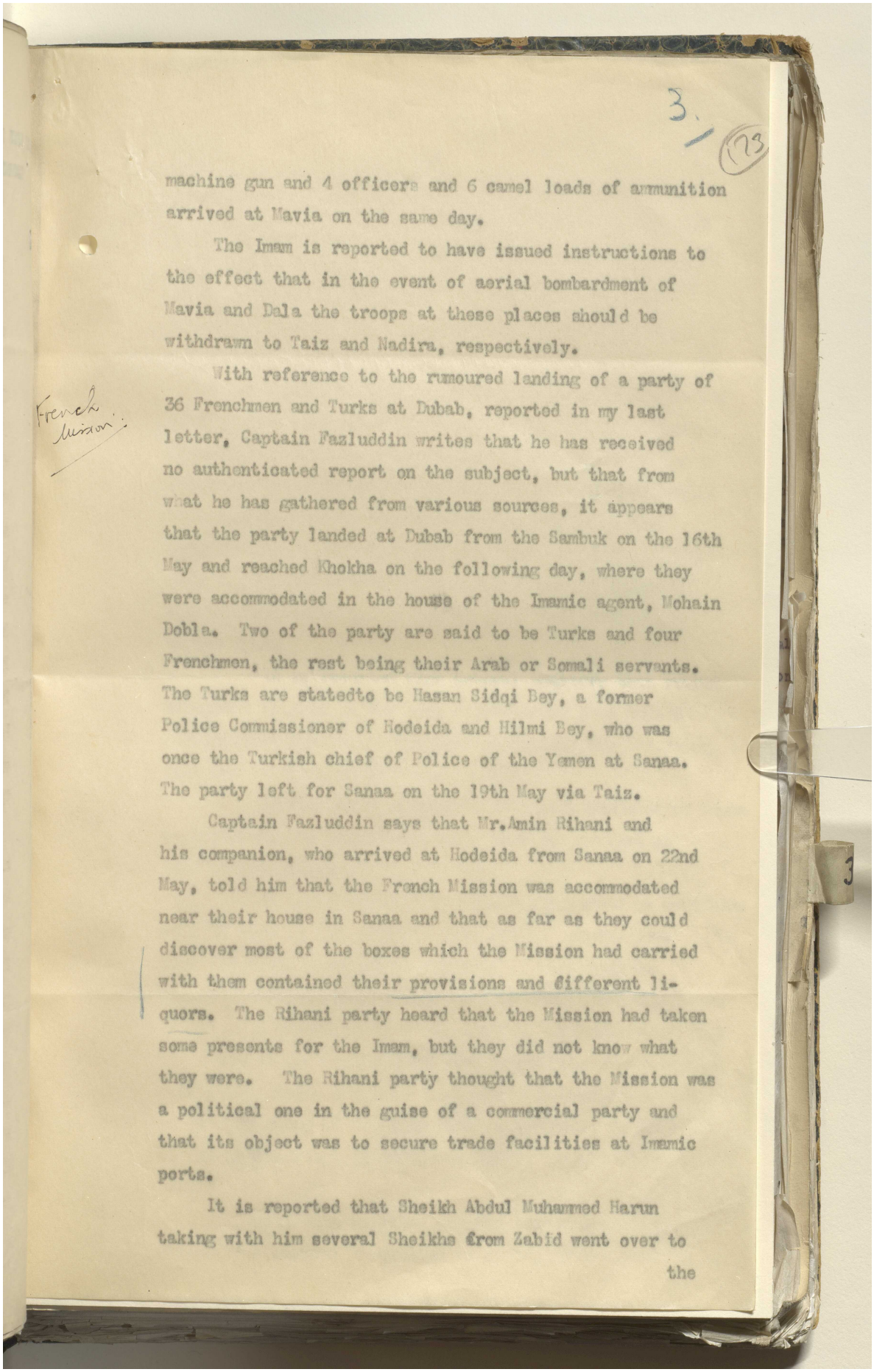

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machine gun and 4 officers and 6 camel loads of ammunition arrived at Mavia on the same day.

The Imam is reported to have issued instructions to the effect that in the event of aerial bombardment of Mavia and Dala the troops at these places should be withdrawn to Taiz and Nadira, respectively.

French Mission:

With reference to the rumoured landing of a party of 36 Frenchmen and Turks at Dubab, reported in my last letter, Captain Fazluddin writes that he has received no authenticated report on the subject, but that from what he has gathered from various sources, it appears that the party landed at Dubab from the Sambuk on the 16th May and reached Khokha on the following day, where they were accommodated in the house of the Imamic agent, Mohain Dobla. Two of the party are said to be Turks and four Frenchmen, the rest being their Arab or Somali servants. The Turks are statedto be Hasan Sidqi Bey, a former Police Commissioner of Hodeida and Hilmi Bey, who was once the Turkish chief of Police of the Yemen at Sanaa. The party left for Sanaa on the 19th May via Taiz.

Captain Fazluddin says that Mr.Amin Rihani and his companion, who arrived at Hodeida from Sanaa on 22nd May, told him that the French Mission was accommodated near their house in Sanaa and that as far as they could discover most of the boxes which the Mission had carried with them contained their provisions and different liquors. The Rihani party heard that the Mission had taken some presents for the Imam, but they did not know what they were. The Rihani party thought that the Mission was a political one in the guise of a commercial party and that its object was to secure trade facilities at Imamic ports.

It is reported that Sheikh Abdul Muhammed Harun taking with him several Sheikhs from Zabid went over to

the

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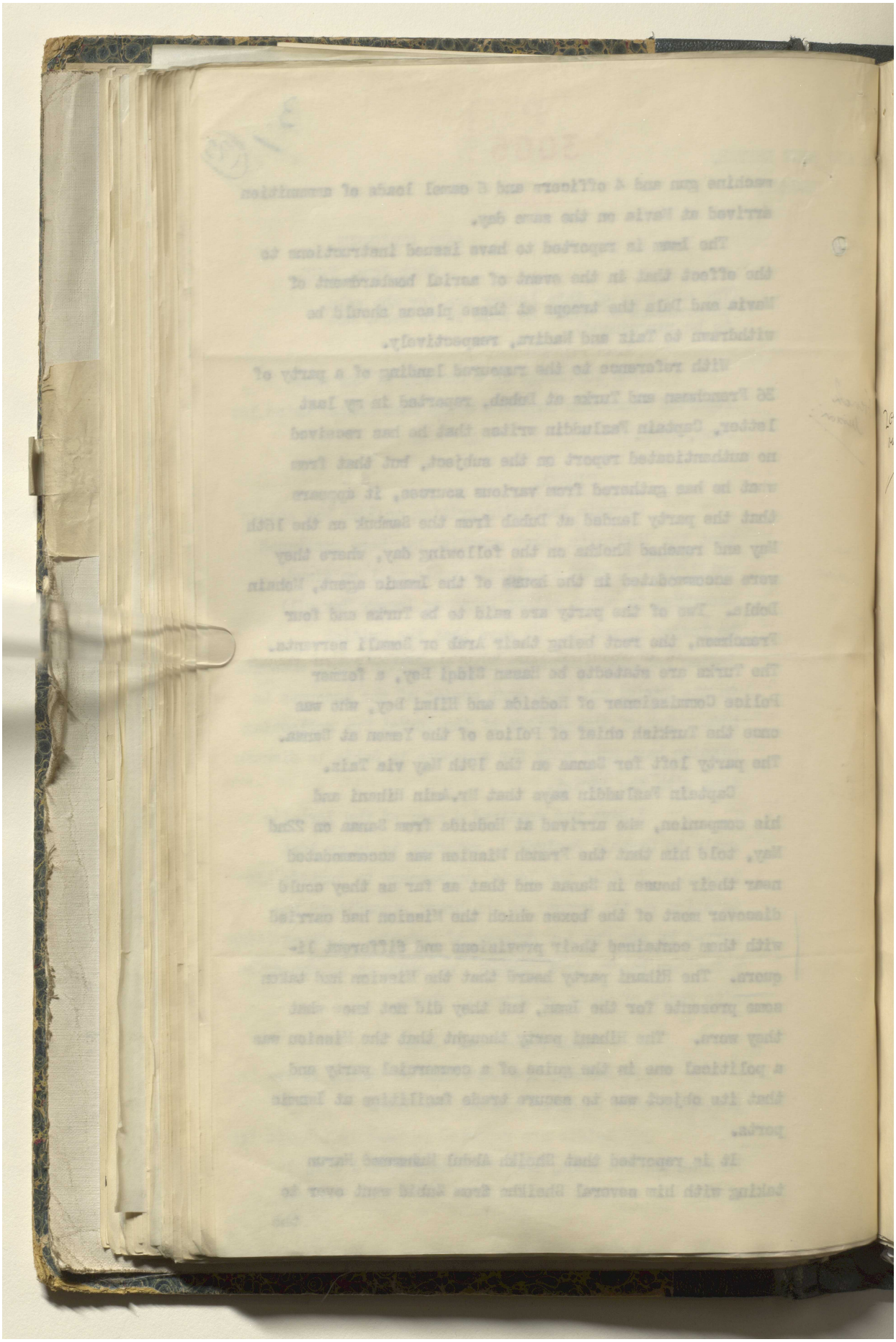

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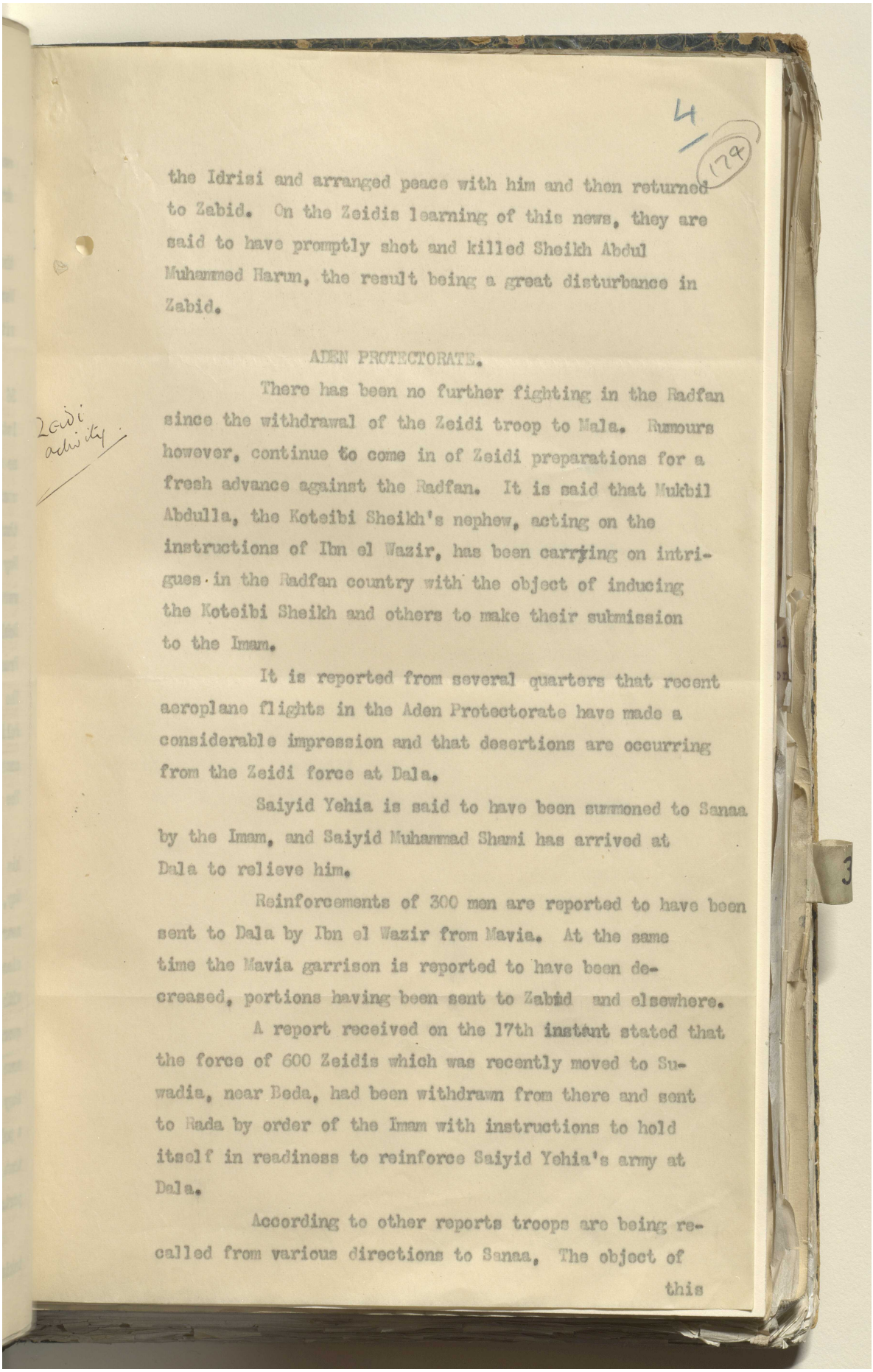

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the Idrisi and arranged peace with him and then returned to Zabid. On the Zeidis learning of this news, they are said to have promptly shot and killed Sheikh Abdul Muhammed Harun, the result being a great disturbance in Zabid.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Zeidi activity

There has been no further fighting in the Radfan since the withdrawal of the Zeidi troop to Mala. Rumours however, continue to come in of Zeidi preparations for a fresh advance against the Radfan. It is said that Mukbil Abdulla, the Koteibi Sheikh's nephew, acting on the instructions of Ibn el Wazir, has been carrying on intrigues in the Radfan country with the object of inducing the Koteibi Sheikh and others to make their submission to the Imam.

It is reported from several quarters that recent aeroplane flights in the Aden Protectorate have made a considerable impression and that desertions are occurring from the Zeidi force at Dala.

Saiyid Yehia is said to have been summoned to Sanaa by the Imam, and Saiyid Muhammad Shami has arrived at Dala to relieve him.

Reinforcements of 300 men are reported to have been sent to Dala by Ibn el Wazir from Mavia. At the same time the Mavia garrison is reported to have been decreased, portions having been sent to Zabid and elsewhere.

A report received on the 17th instant stated that the force of 600 Zeidis which was recently moved to Suwadia, near Beda, had been withdrawn from there and sent to Rada by order of the Imam with instructions to hold itself in readiness to reinforce Saiyid Yehia's army at Dala.

According to other reports troops are being recalled from various directions to Sanaa. The object of this

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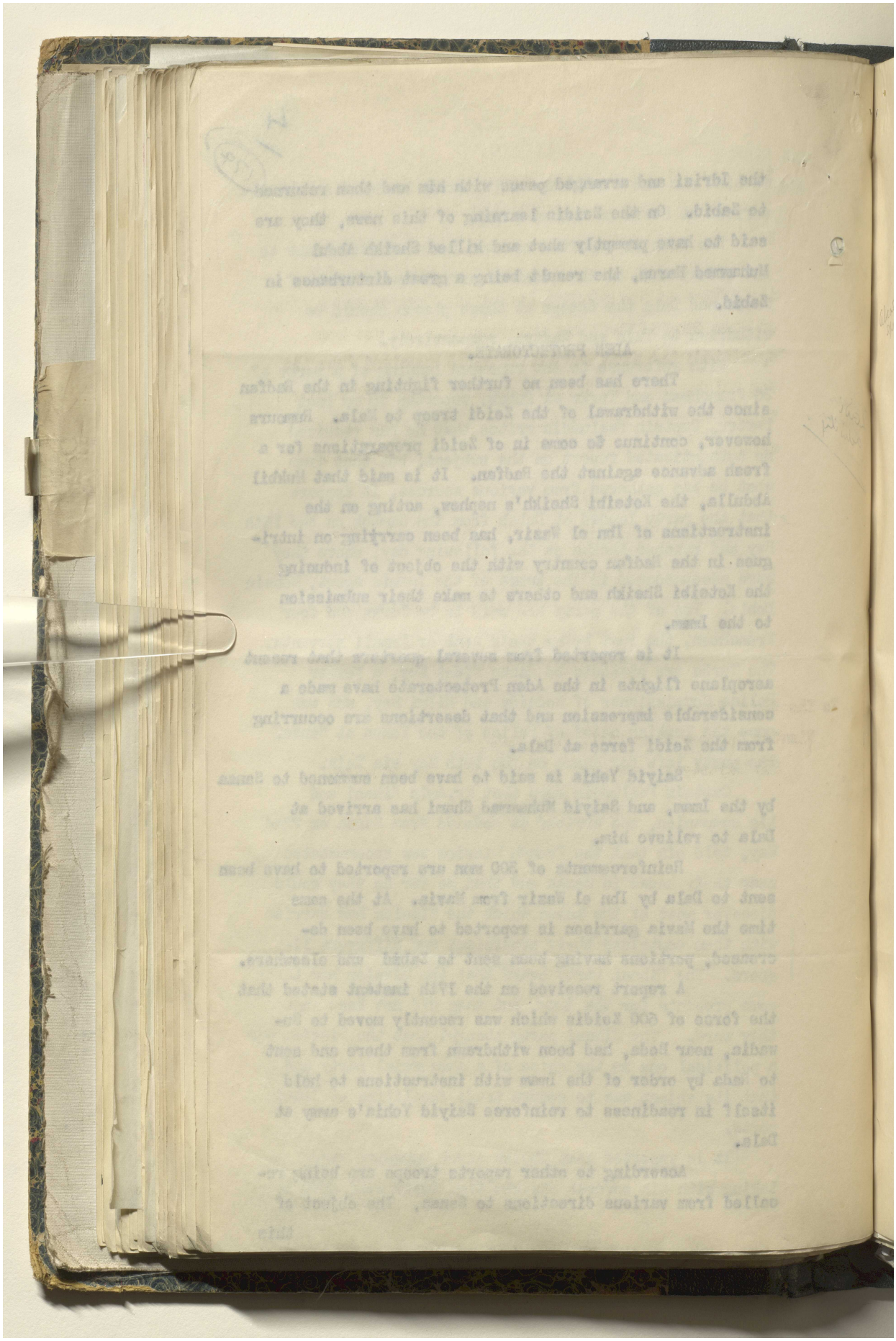

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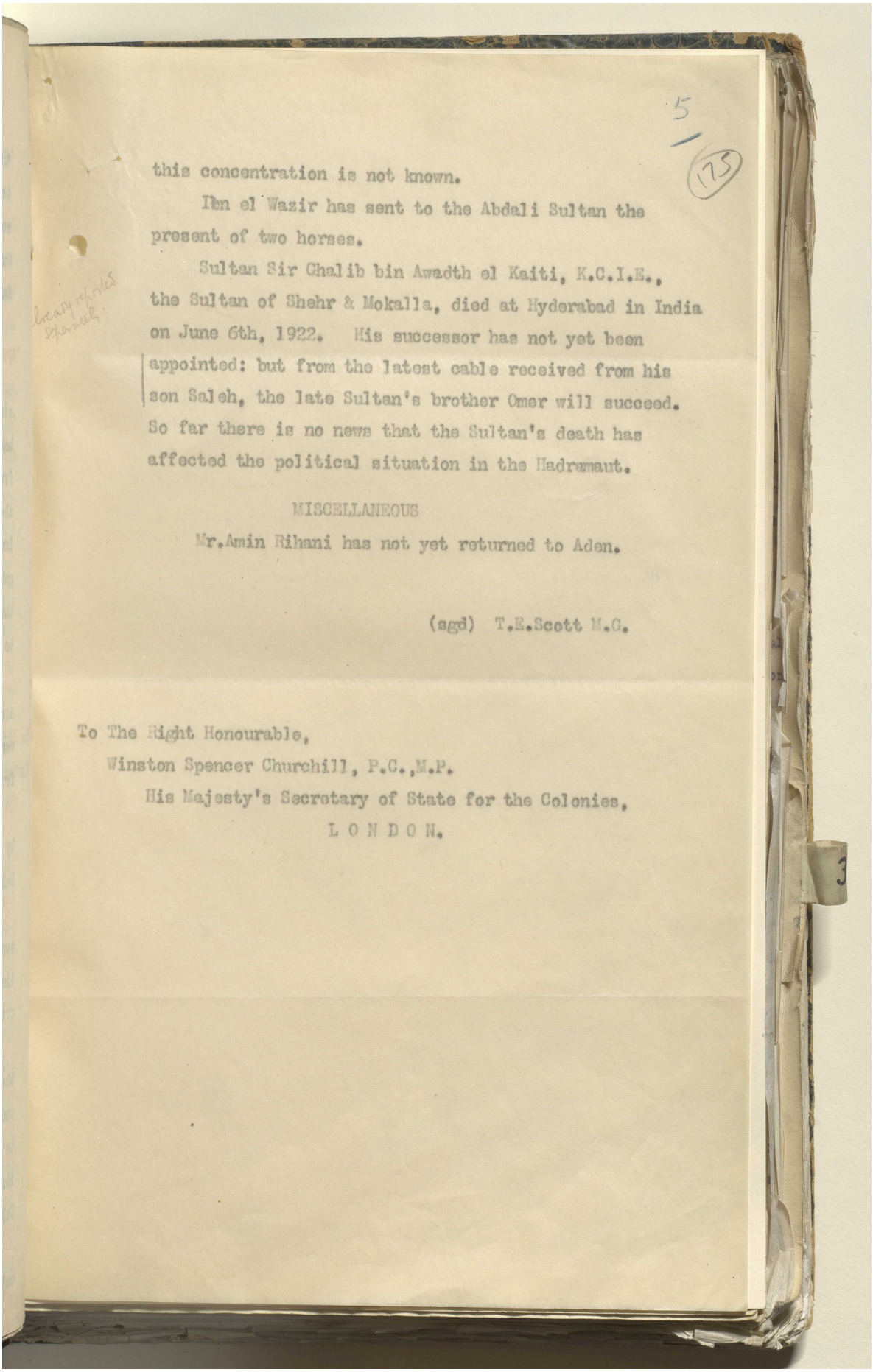

this concentration is not known.

Ibn el Wazir has sent to the Abdali Sultan the present of two horses.

Sultan Sir Chalib bin Awadth el Kaiti, K.C.I.E., the Sultan of Shehr & Mokalla, died at Hyderabad in India on June 6th, 1922. His successor has not yet been appointed: but from the latest cable received from his son Saleh, the late Sultan's brother Omer will succeed. So far there is no news that the Sultan's death has affected the political situation in the Hadramaut.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr.Amin Rihani has not yet returned to Aden.

(sgd) T.E.Scott M.C.

To The Right Honourable,
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C.,M.P.
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
L O N D O N.

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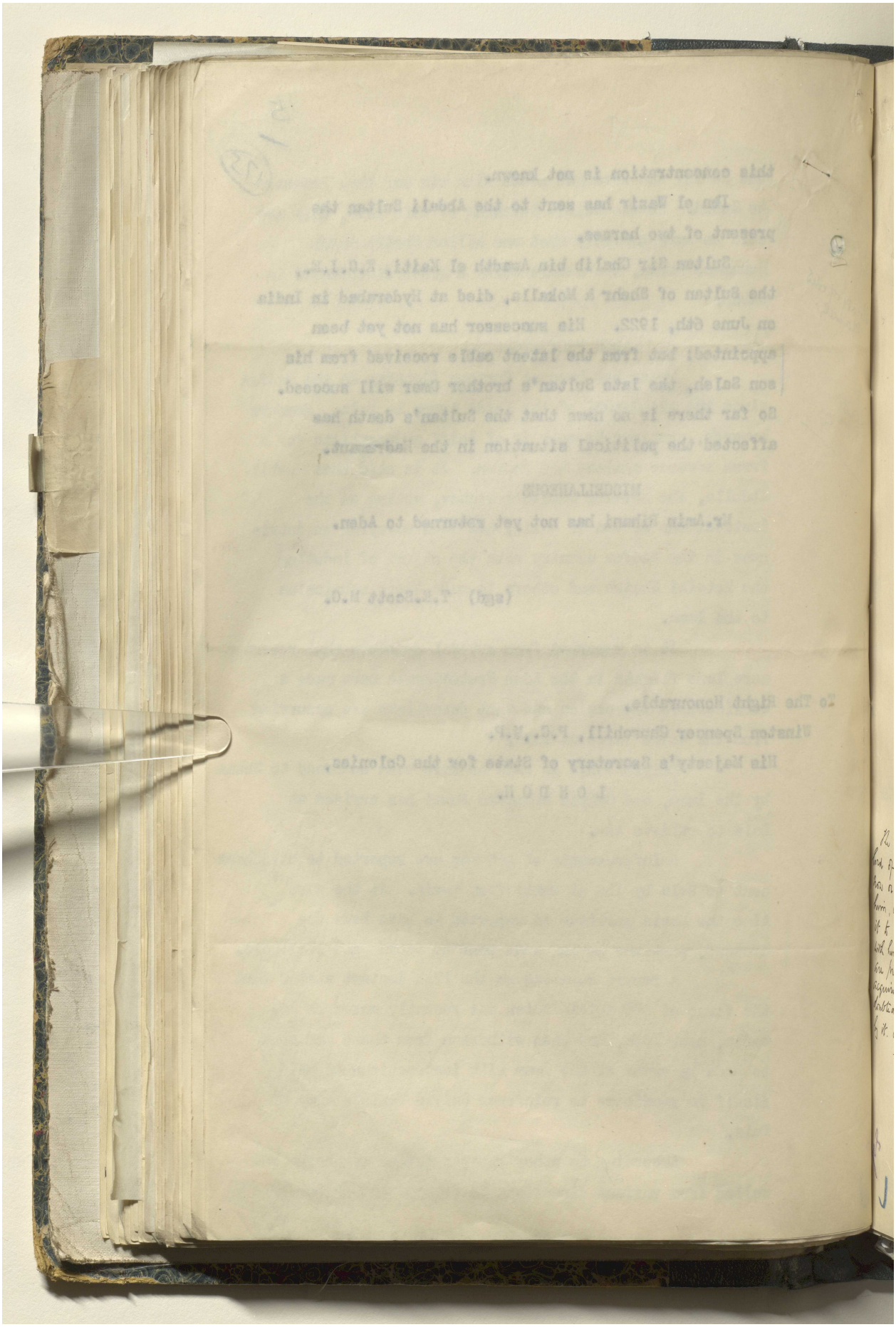

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 2590

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1922.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	26. vi		Aden.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	27		News Letter, No 5, of 30 May
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
5 JUL 1922

FOR INFORMATION.

P.2. French mission at Sanaa with presents for the Imam.

Report that (a) Imam has granted a concession to the French for construction of a railway from Mocha to Sanaa

(b) the French have promised to supply the Imam with arms and ammunition for the purpose of capturing Shaikh Said

(c) Franco-Kemalist party have proceeded to Sanaa.

P.3. The Resident at Aden has protested, with partial success, to the Sorisi in connection with his imposition of taxes in Hodeida.

Question of the repatriation to Constantinople of Mahmud Nadhmi, the anti-British ex-Vali of Yemen

P.T.O

The Imam will presumably be the occupant of Sheikh Said, whether he "captures" it or not: What we want is to prevent him, or any one else, from leasing or selling to the French. Until we make a treaty with him we are powerless, though the French are precluded by the Sykes-Picot agreement from acquiring territory in SW Arabia it may be asked whether they consider themselves bound by it. The position is therefore very insecure.

Previous Papers—

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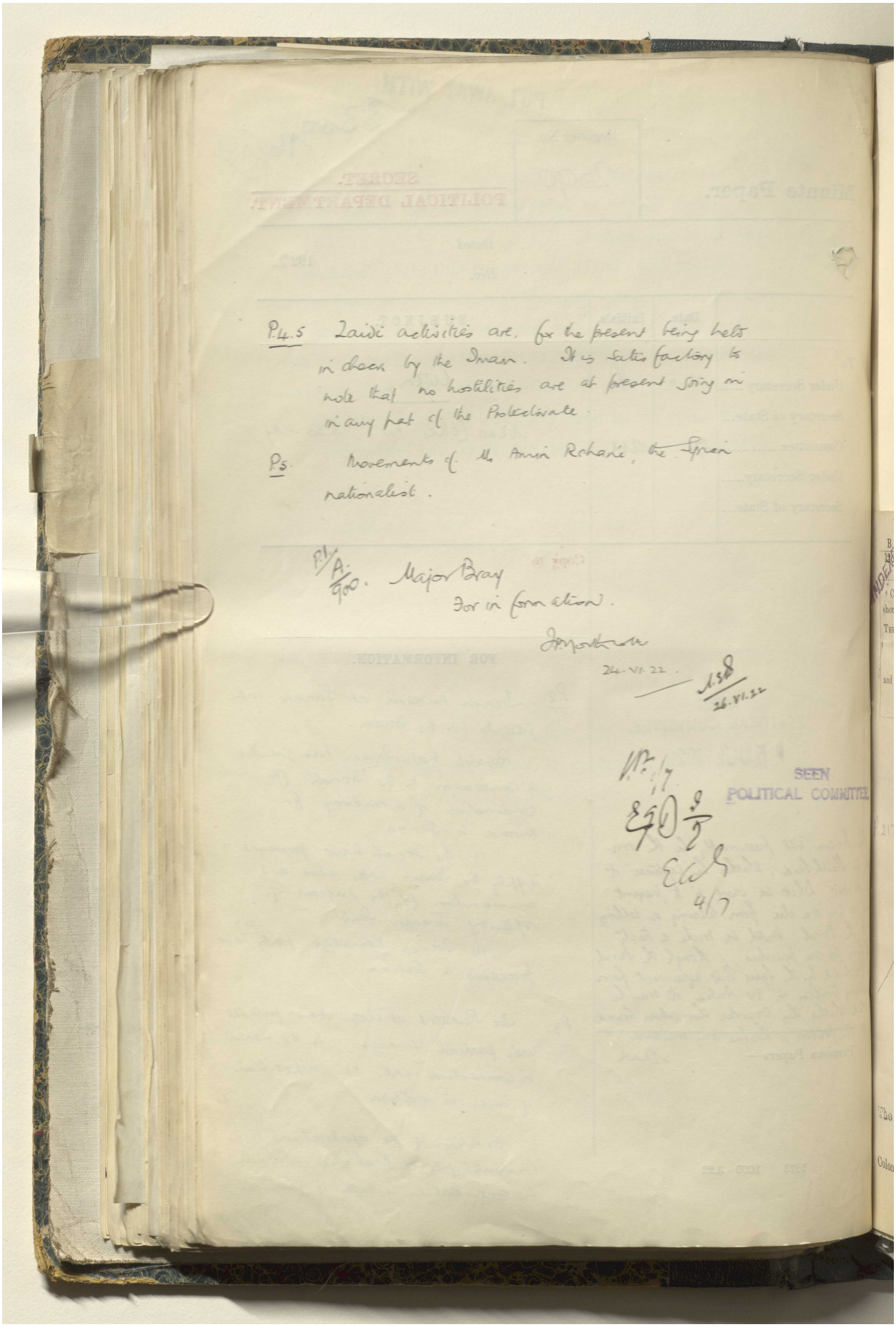

P.4.5 Zaidi activities are, for the present being held in check by the Imam. It is satisfactory to note that no hostilities are at present going on in any part of the Protectorate.

P.5 Movements of Mr Amin Rehani, the Syrian nationalist.

P.1/A/600. Major Bray
For information.
24.VI.22.

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26.VI.22

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POLITICAL COMMITTEE

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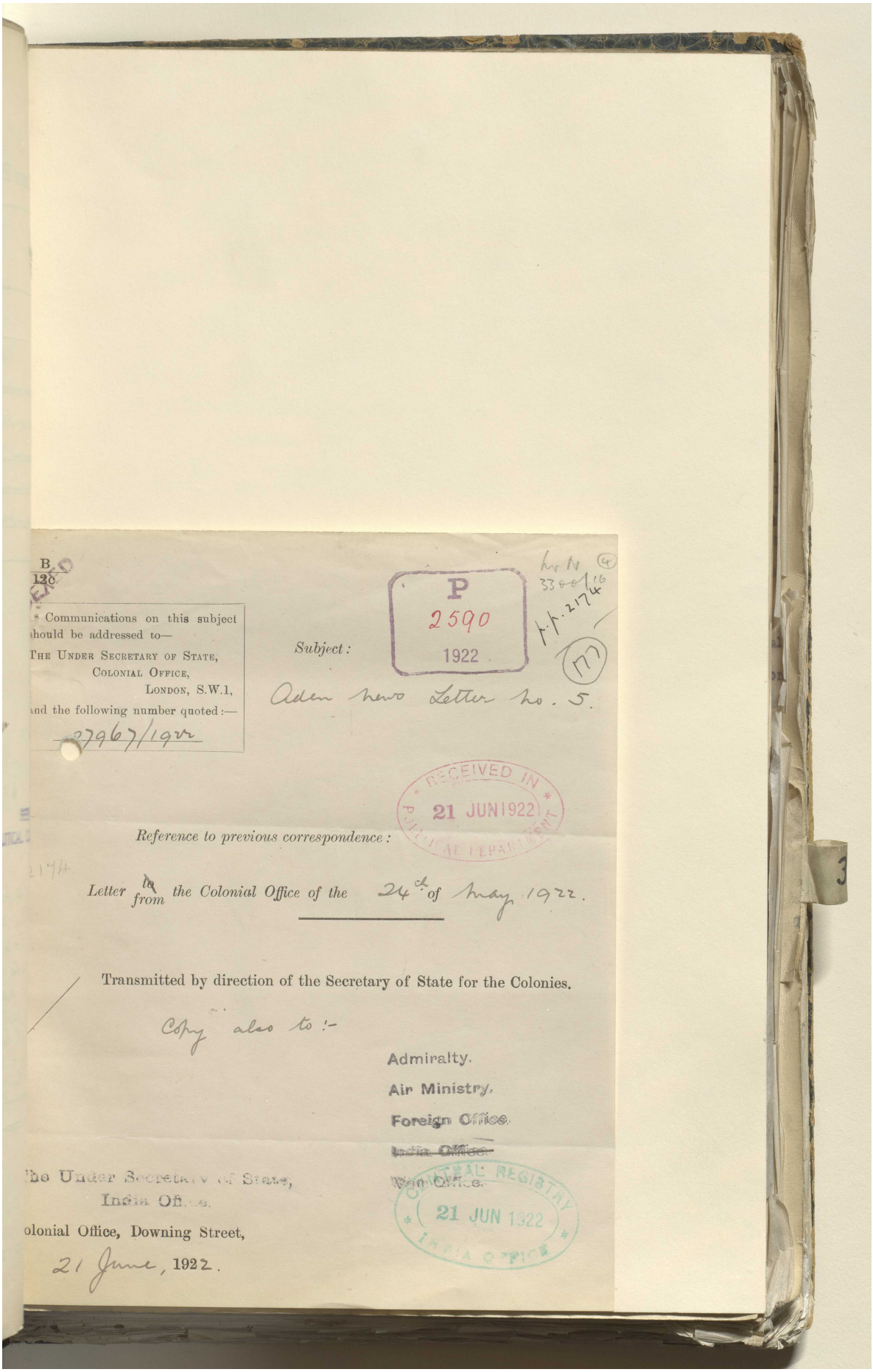

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* Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
27967/1922

P
2590
1922

Subject: Aden News Letter No. 5.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
21 JUN 1922

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to/from the Colonial Office of the 24th *of* May 1922.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
21 June, 1922.

GENERAL REGISTRY
21 JUN 1922
INDIA OFFICE

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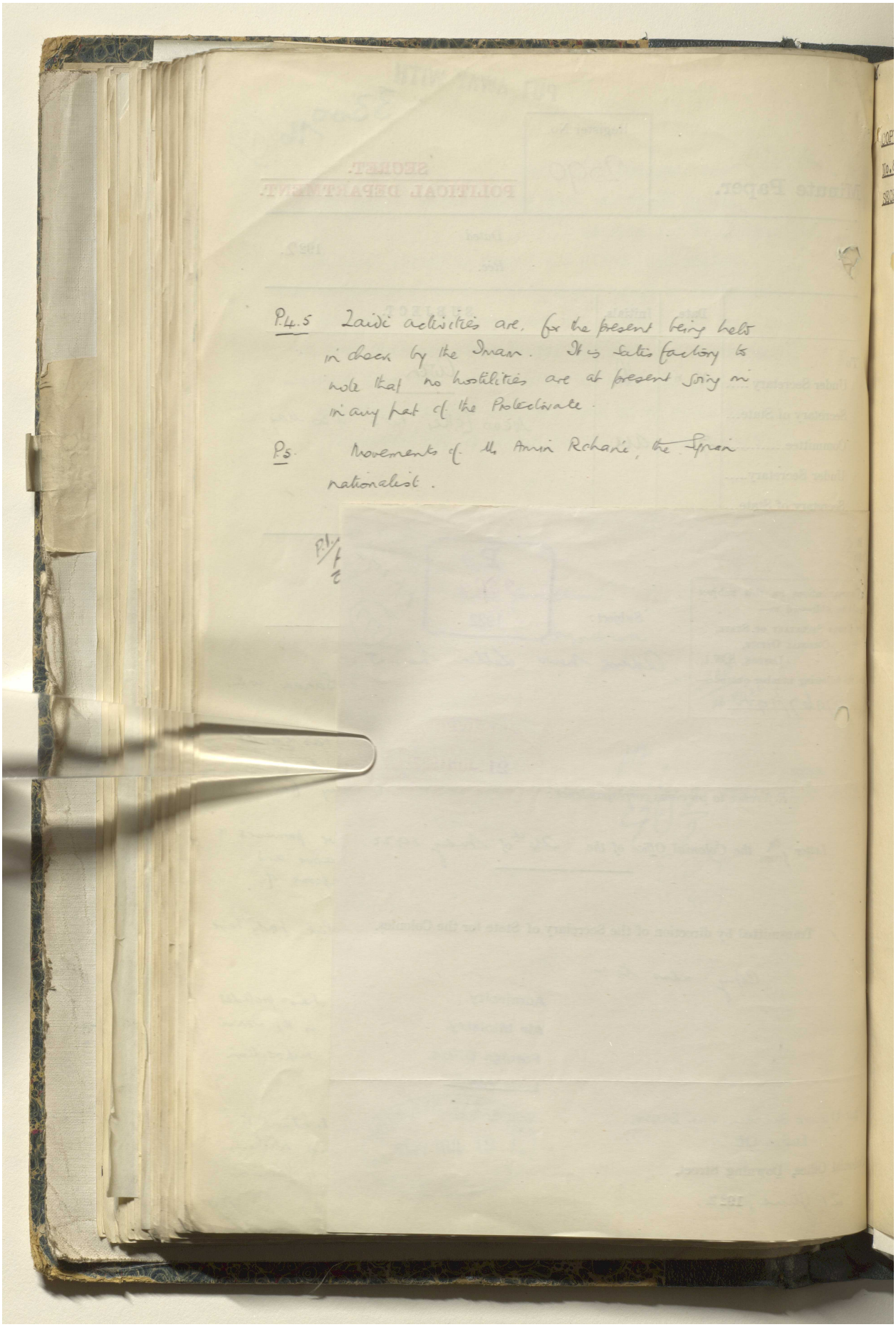

P.4.5 Zaidi activities are, for the present being held in check by the Imam. It is satisfactory to note that no hostilities are at present going on in any part of the Protectorate.

P.5 Movements of Mr Amin Rehani, the Syrian nationalist.

P.1/12

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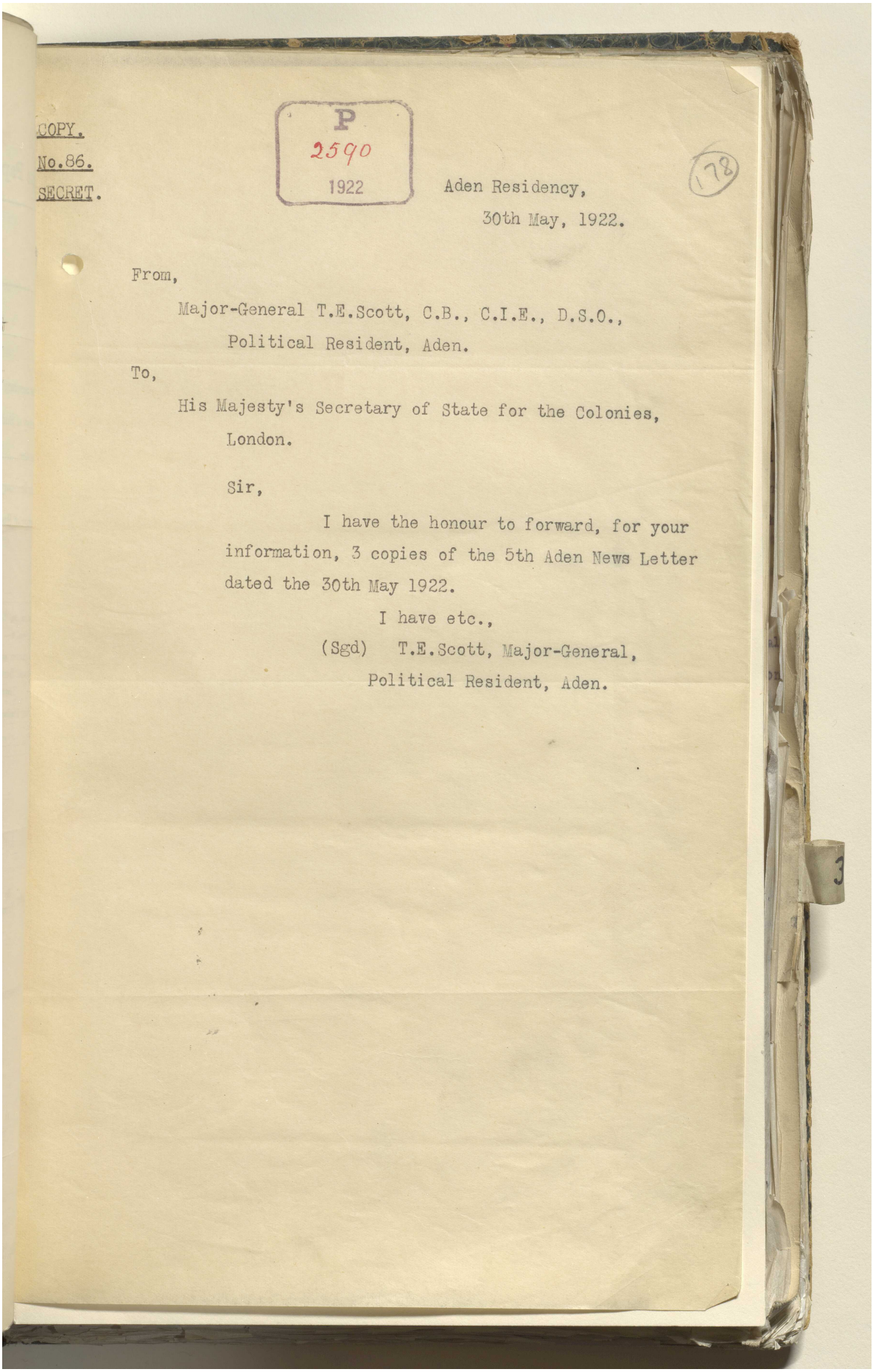

COPY.
No.86.
SECRET.

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Aden Residency,
30th May, 1922.

From,

Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, 3 copies of the 5th Aden News Letter dated the 30th May 1922.

I have etc.,
(Sgd) T.E.Scott, Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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5th Aden News Letter.

SECRET.

Aden Residency,
30th May, 1922.

(Contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced).

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 1st May, 1922.

ASIR.

Captain M. Fazluddin, I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that at the end of March 1922 the Beni Shihir tribe revolted against the Qadhi of Bin Saud and killed about 800 men of the Wahabi force. On hearing of the rising the King of the Hedjaz deputed one of his officials to the Beni Shihir country to act as Amil there but the tribesmen having declined to accept him, the King recalled his man to Mecca.

Captain Fazluddin says that subsequently the Beni Shihir tribesmen sent their representatives to the Idrisi at Sabia on the 16th April 1922 asking for his help against Bin Saud, but the Idrisi while holding out no promise of assistance told them that he would try to settle their differences with Bin Saud.

The rising is reported to be due to the extremely fanatical rule of the Qadhi in the Beni Shihir country and Bin Saud is said to have blamed him for the trouble.

TIHAMA.

The Zaranil Sheikhs, who were imprisoned, as reported in my last letter, by Sheikh Mahomed Tahir Ridwan, the Idrisi Commander at Bajil, for refusal to give hostages until the Idrisi troops had occupied

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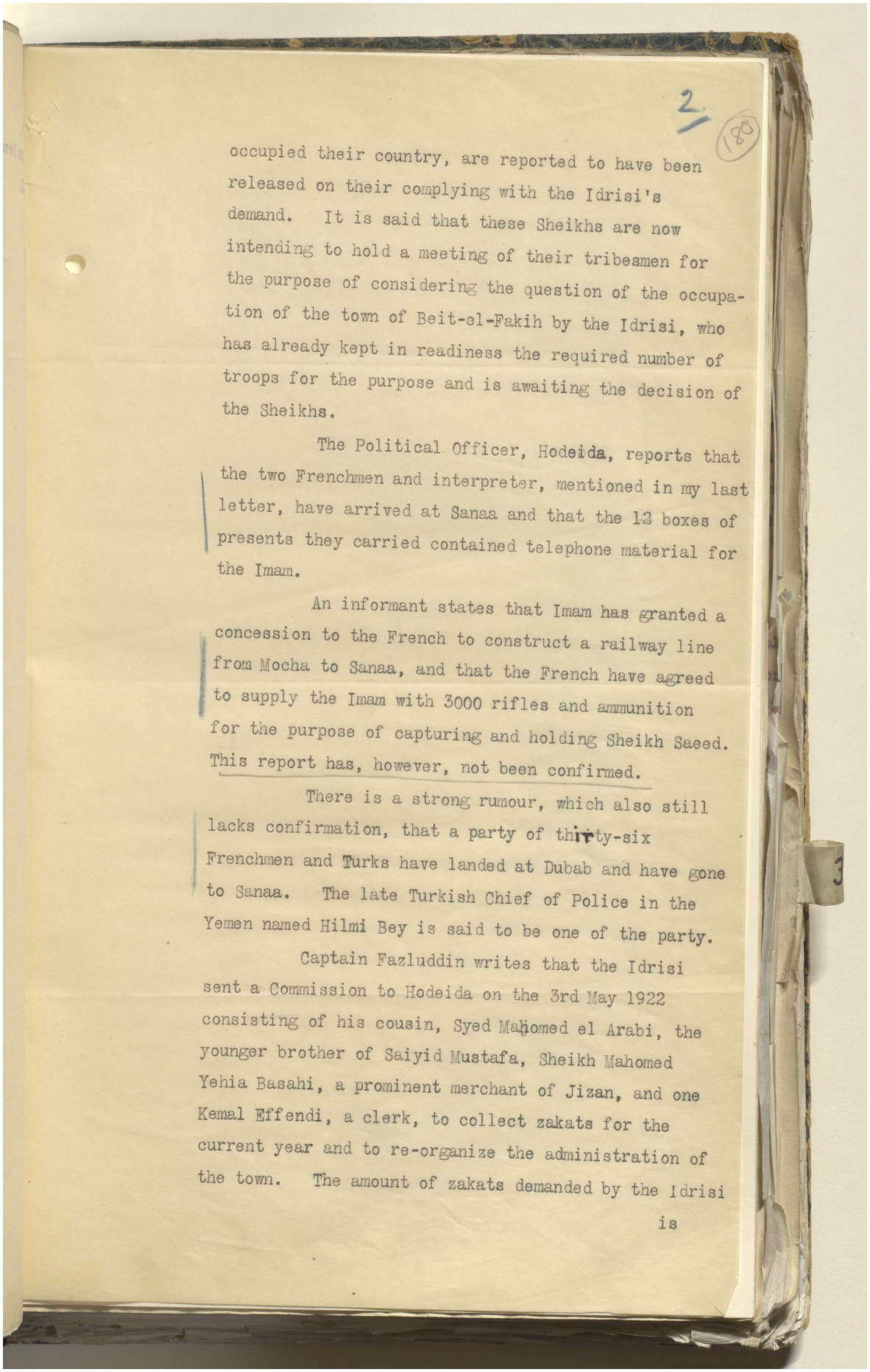

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occupied their country, are reported to have been released on their complying with the Idrisi's demand. It is said that these Sheikhs are now intending to hold a meeting of their tribesmen for the purpose of considering the question of the occupation of the town of Beit-el-Fakih by the Idrisi, who has already kept in readiness the required number of troops for the purpose and is awaiting the decision of the Sheikhs.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that the two Frenchmen and interpreter, mentioned in my last letter, have arrived at Sanaa and that the 12 boxes of presents they carried contained telephone material for the Imam.

An informant states that Imam has granted a concession to the French to construct a railway line from Mocha to Sanaa, and that the French have agreed to supply the Imam with 3000 rifles and ammunition for the purpose of capturing and holding Sheikh Saeed. This report has, however, not been confirmed.

There is a strong rumour, which also still lacks confirmation, that a party of thirty-six Frenchmen and Turks have landed at Dubab and have gone to Sanaa. The late Turkish Chief of Police in the Yemen named Hilmi Bey is said to be one of the party.

Captain Fazluddin writes that the Idrisi sent a Commission to Hodeida on the 3rd May 1922 consisting of his cousin, Syed Mahomed el Arabi, the younger brother of Saiyid Mustafa, Sheikh Mahomed Yehia Basahi, a prominent merchant of Jizan, and one Kemal Effendi, a clerk, to collect zakats for the current year and to re-organize the administration of the town. The amount of zakats demanded by the Idrisi

is

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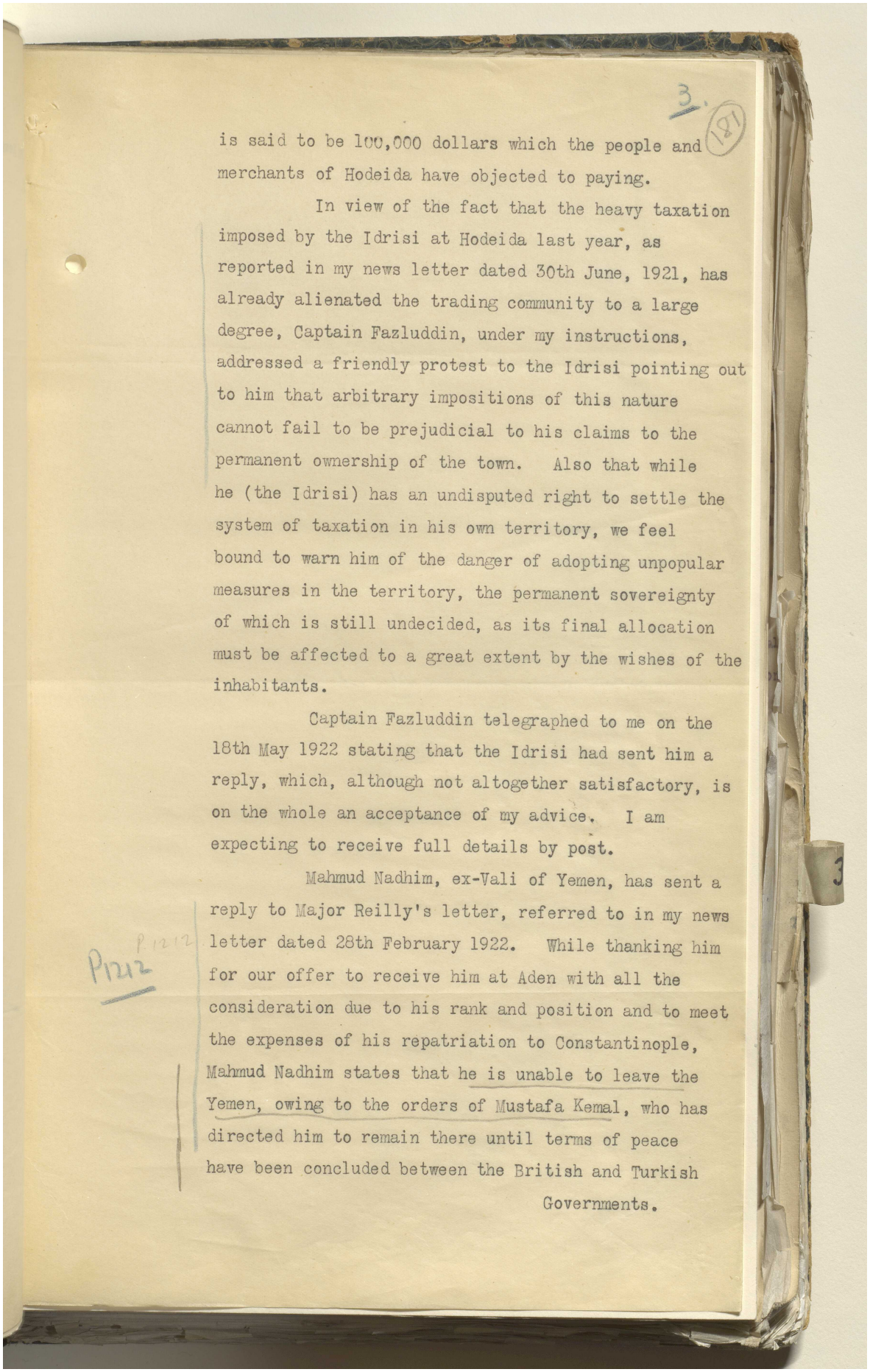

3.

is said to be 100,000 dollars which the people and merchants of Hodeida have objected to paying.

In view of the fact that the heavy taxation imposed by the Idrisi at Hodeida last year, as reported in my news letter dated 30th June, 1921, has already alienated the trading community to a large degree, Captain Fazluddin, under my instructions, addressed a friendly protest to the Idrisi pointing out to him that arbitrary impositions of this nature cannot fail to be prejudicial to his claims to the permanent ownership of the town. Also that while he (the Idrisi) has an undisputed right to settle the system of taxation in his own territory, we feel bound to warn him of the danger of adopting unpopular measures in the territory, the permanent sovereignty of which is still undecided, as its final allocation must be affected to a great extent by the wishes of the inhabitants.

Captain Fazluddin telegraphed to me on the 18th May 1922 stating that the Idrisi had sent him a reply, which, although not altogether satisfactory, is on the whole an acceptance of my advice. I am expecting to receive full details by post.

Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen, has sent a reply to Major Reilly's letter, referred to in my news letter dated 28th February 1922. While thanking him for our offer to receive him at Aden with all the consideration due to his rank and position and to meet the expenses of his repatriation to Constantinople, Mahmud Nadhim states that he is unable to leave the Yemen, owing to the orders of Mustafa Kemal, who has directed him to remain there until terms of peace have been concluded between the British and Turkish Governments.

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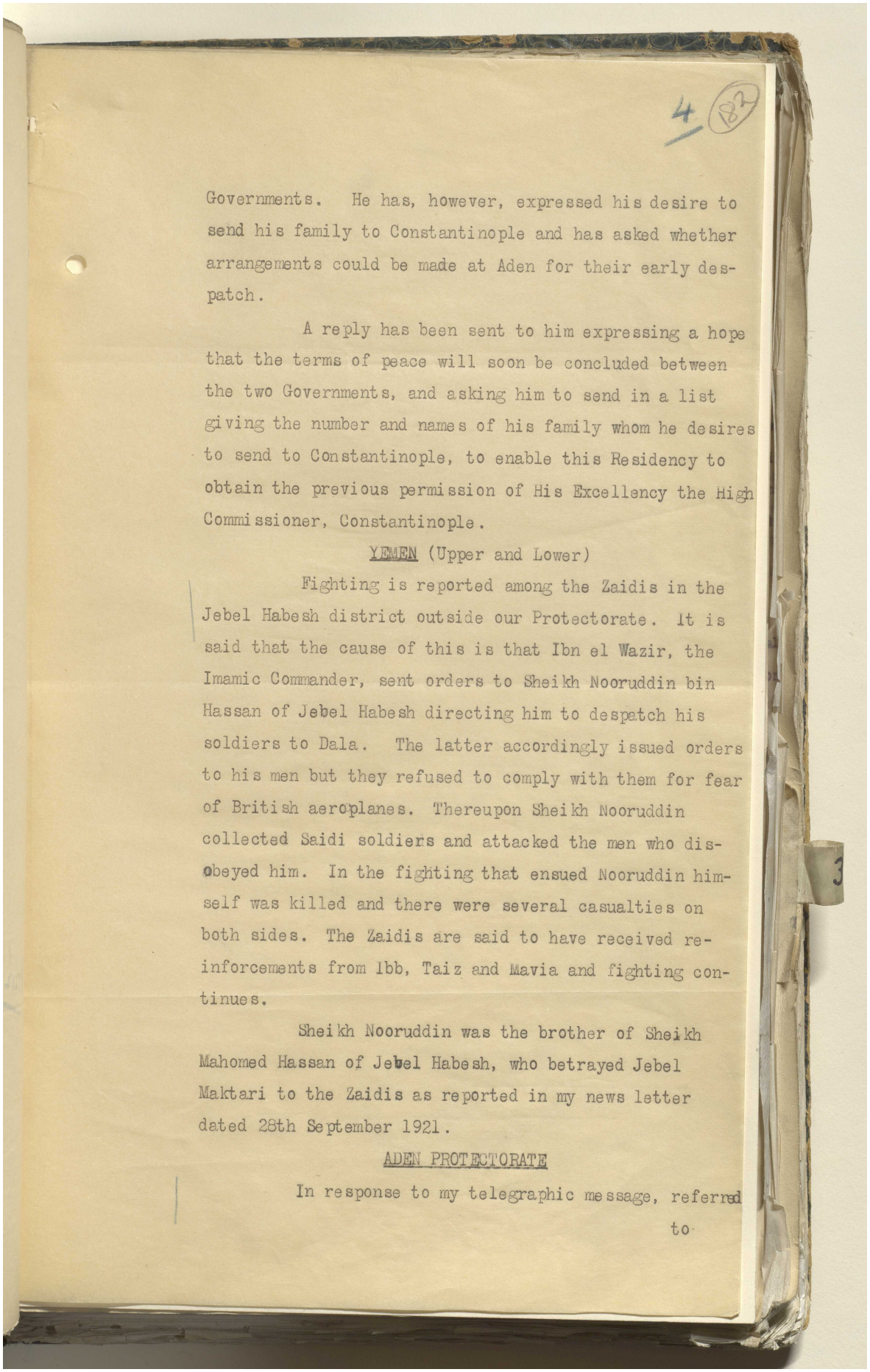

4 (82)

Governments. He has, however, expressed his desire to send his family to Constantinople and has asked whether arrangements could be made at Aden for their early despatch.

A reply has been sent to him expressing a hope that the terms of peace will soon be concluded between the two Governments, and asking him to send in a list giving the number and names of his family whom he desires to send to Constantinople, to enable this Residency to obtain the previous permission of His Excellency the High Commissioner, Constantinople.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

Fighting is reported among the Zaidis in the Jebel Habesh district outside our Protectorate. It is said that the cause of this is that Ibn el Wazir, the Imamic Commander, sent orders to Sheikh Nooruddin bin Hassan of Jebel Habesh directing him to despatch his soldiers to Dala. The latter accordingly issued orders to his men but they refused to comply with them for fear of British aeroplanes. Thereupon Sheikh Nooruddin collected Saidi soldiers and attacked the men who disobeyed him. In the fighting that ensued Nooruddin himself was killed and there were several casualties on both sides. The Zaidis are said to have received reinforcements from Ibb, Taiz and Mavia and fighting continues.

Sheikh Nooruddin was the brother of Sheikh Mahomed Hassan of Jebel Habesh, who betrayed Jebel Maktari to the Zaidis as reported in my news letter dated 28th September 1921.

ADEN PROTECTORATE

In response to my telegraphic message, referred

to

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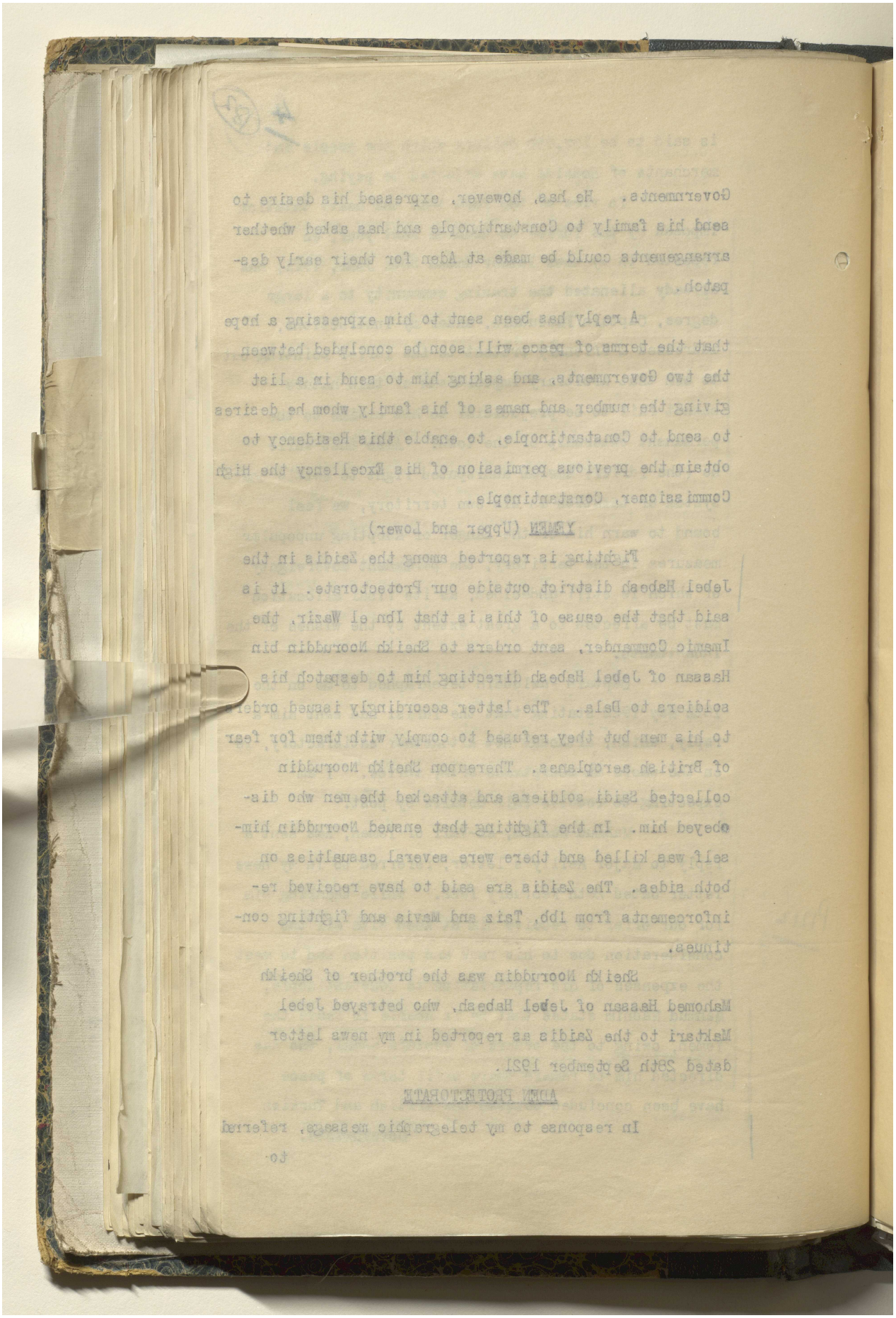

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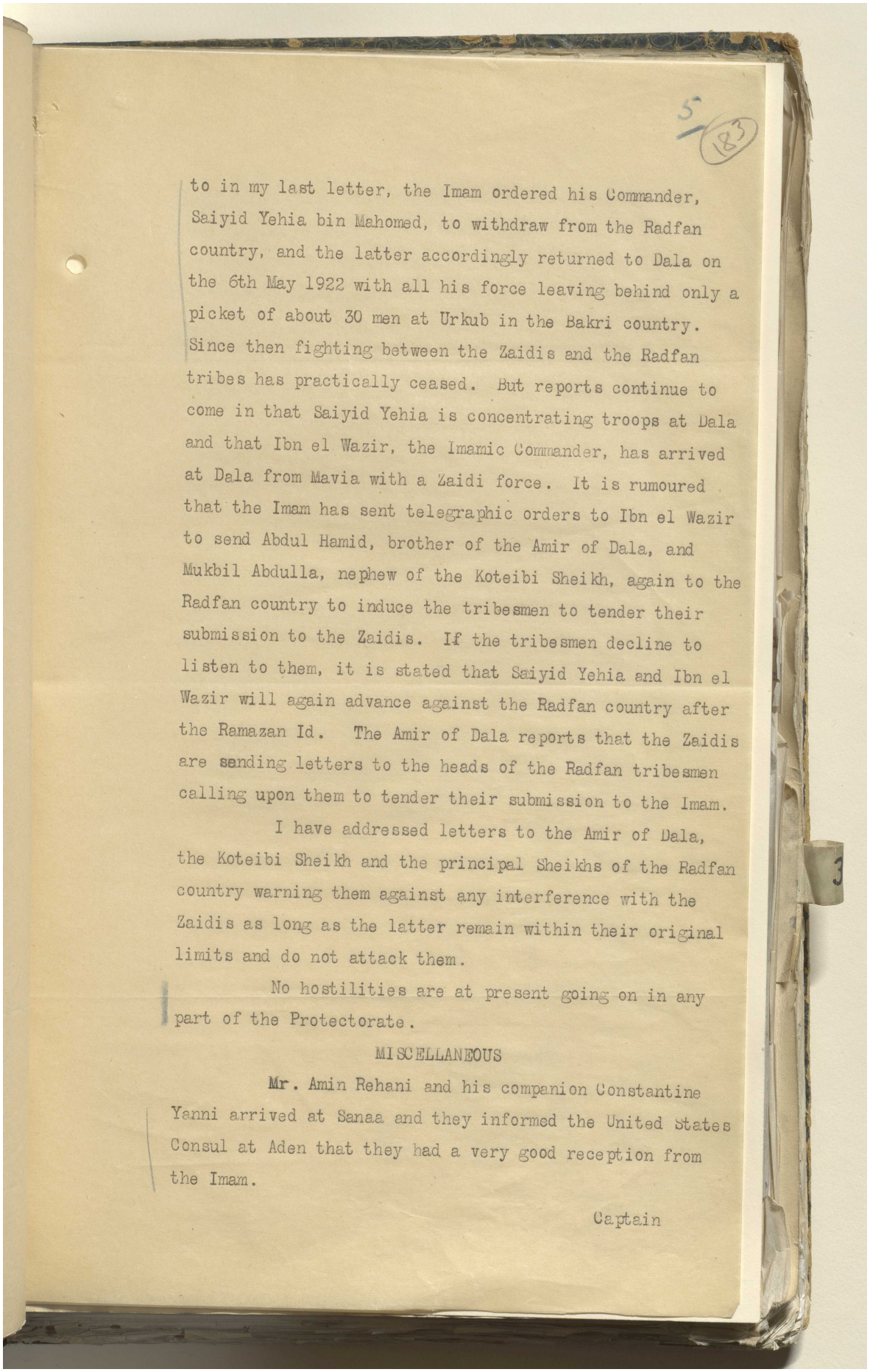

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183

to in my last letter, the Imam ordered his Commander, Saiyid Yehia bin Mahomed, to withdraw from the Radfan country, and the latter accordingly returned to Dala on the 6th May 1922 with all his force leaving behind only a picket of about 30 men at Urkub in the Bakri country. Since then fighting between the Zaidis and the Radfan tribes has practically ceased. But reports continue to come in that Saiyid Yehia is concentrating troops at Dala and that Ibn el Wazir, the Imamic Commander, has arrived at Dala from Mavia with a Zaidi force. It is rumoured that the Imam has sent telegraphic orders to Ibn el Wazir to send Abdul Hamid, brother of the Amir of Dala, and Mukbil Abdulla, nephew of the Koteibi Sheikh, again to the Radfan country to induce the tribesmen to tender their submission to the Zaidis. If the tribesmen decline to listen to them, it is stated that Saiyid Yehia and Ibn el Wazir will again advance against the Radfan country after the Ramazan Id. The Amir of Dala reports that the Zaidis are sending letters to the heads of the Radfan tribesmen calling upon them to tender their submission to the Imam.

I have addressed letters to the Amir of Dala, the Koteibi Sheikh and the principal Sheikhs of the Radfan country warning them against any interference with the Zaidis as long as the latter remain within their original limits and do not attack them.

No hostilities are at present going on in any part of the Protectorate.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Amin Rehani and his companion Constantine Yanni arrived at Sanaa and they informed the United States Consul at Aden that they had a very good reception from the Imam.

Captain

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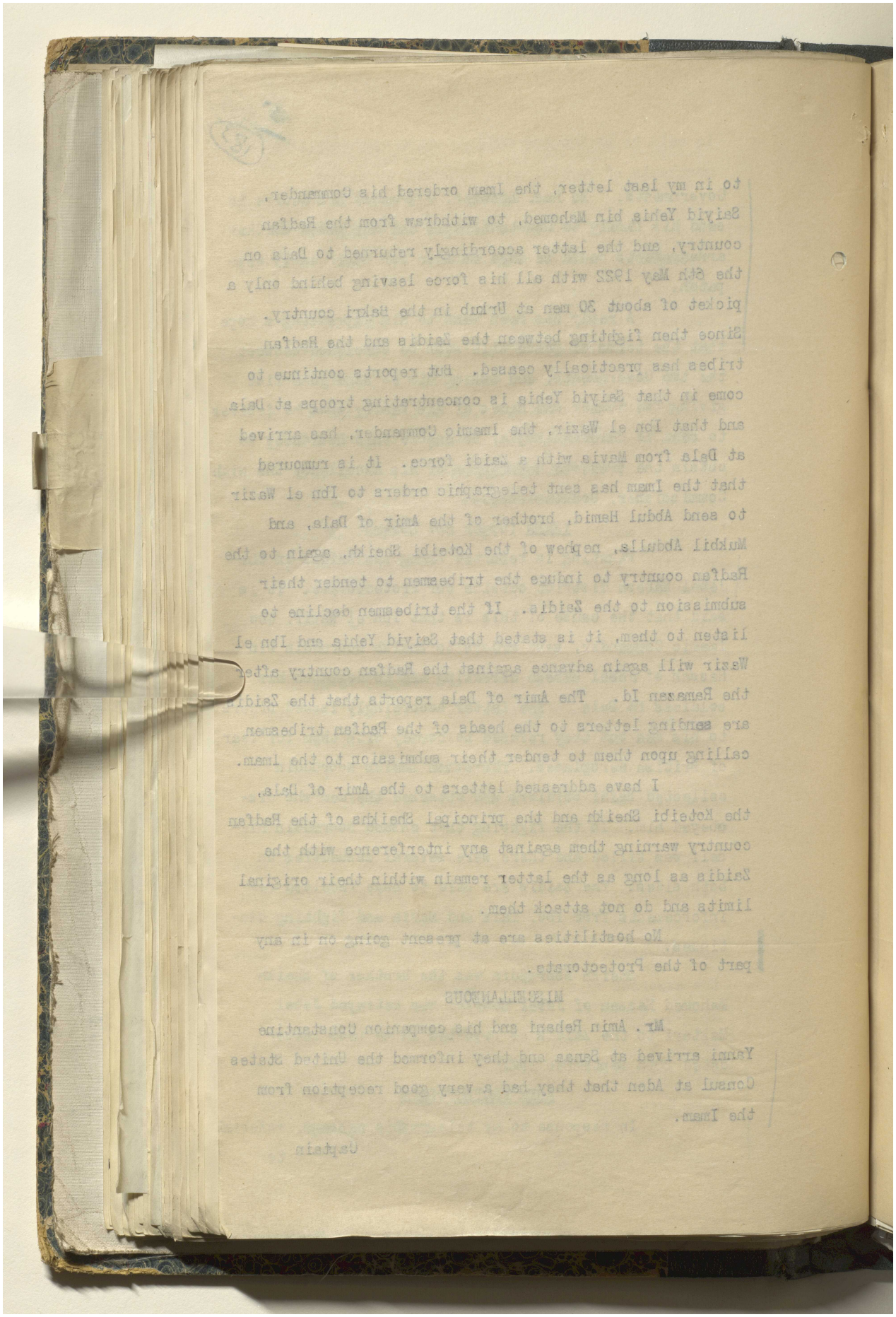

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Captain Fazluddin has since telegraphed to me that Mr. Amin Rehani and his companion arrived at Hodeida from Sanaa on the 22nd May 1922 and that they intend to go to see the Idrisi in a few days. Captain Fazluddin states that Mr. Amin Rehani is strongly biassed towards the Imam and that he and his companion desire to discuss political questions with me in Aden.

(Sgd.) T. E. SCOTT.
Maj.Gen.

To
The Right Honourable
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

Copies forwarded to:-

His Excellency the High Commissioner in Egypt, Cairo.
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia.
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Jerusalem.
His Excellency the Governor-General of the Sudan, Khartoum
His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera
The Secretary to the Government of India, Delhi
The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay
His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Beyrout
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi
The Chief British Representative, Aman
Headquarters, Aden Brigade
The Assistant Resident, Perim
The Military Administrator, Kamaran
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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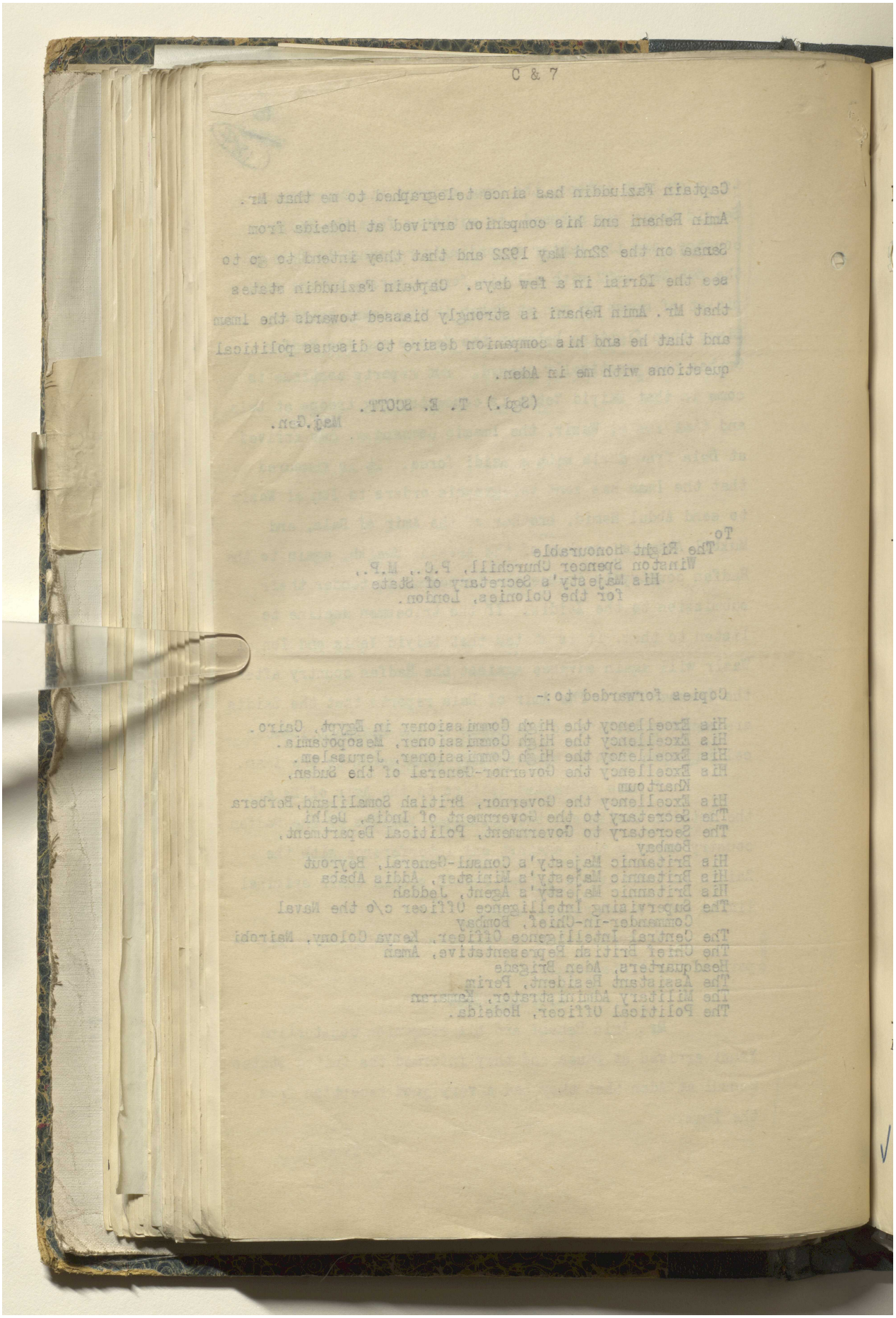

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 2174

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1922

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	5. 6		Aden.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	6		News Letter No. 4, dated 1st May.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION. ×(see previous diary) P.1648

p.3. Departure of ×Mr. Cheesman from Hodeida for Jeddah. Another party of Frenchmen is reported to be travelling to Sanaa.

p.4. Conflict between the Hashid tribe and the Imam.

p.5. Threat of further attacks by the Imam's forces on Protectorate tribes. Warning sent to the Imam by the Resident.

p.6. Movements of Mr Amin Rihani, an American citizen: projected visit to the Imam & the Idrisi.

Major Bray
For information
R.W. Jarrett
27.5

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
17 JUN 1922

W.14.6.22
W.14/6
W-EGB

Previous Papers—

5273 1000 3.22

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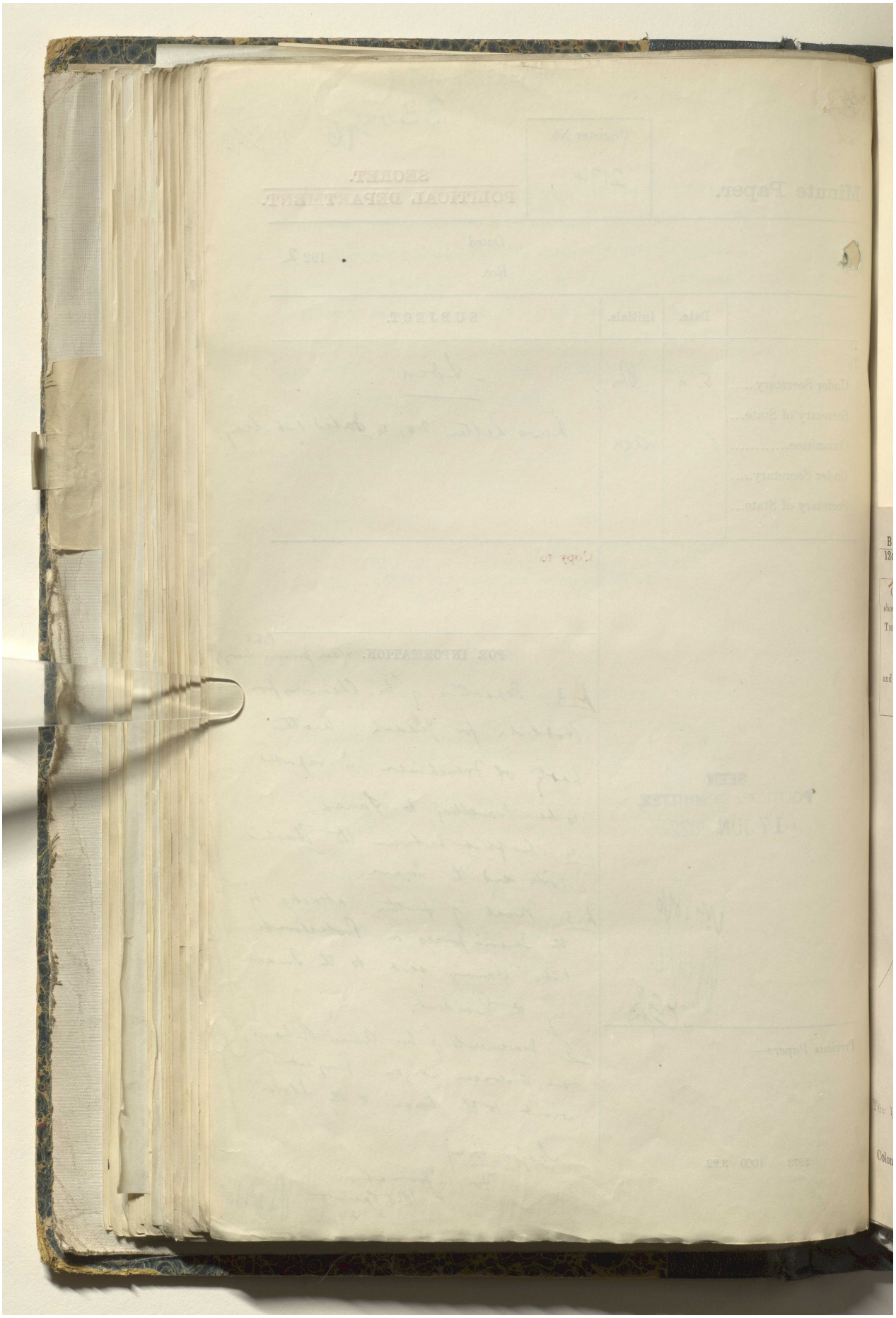

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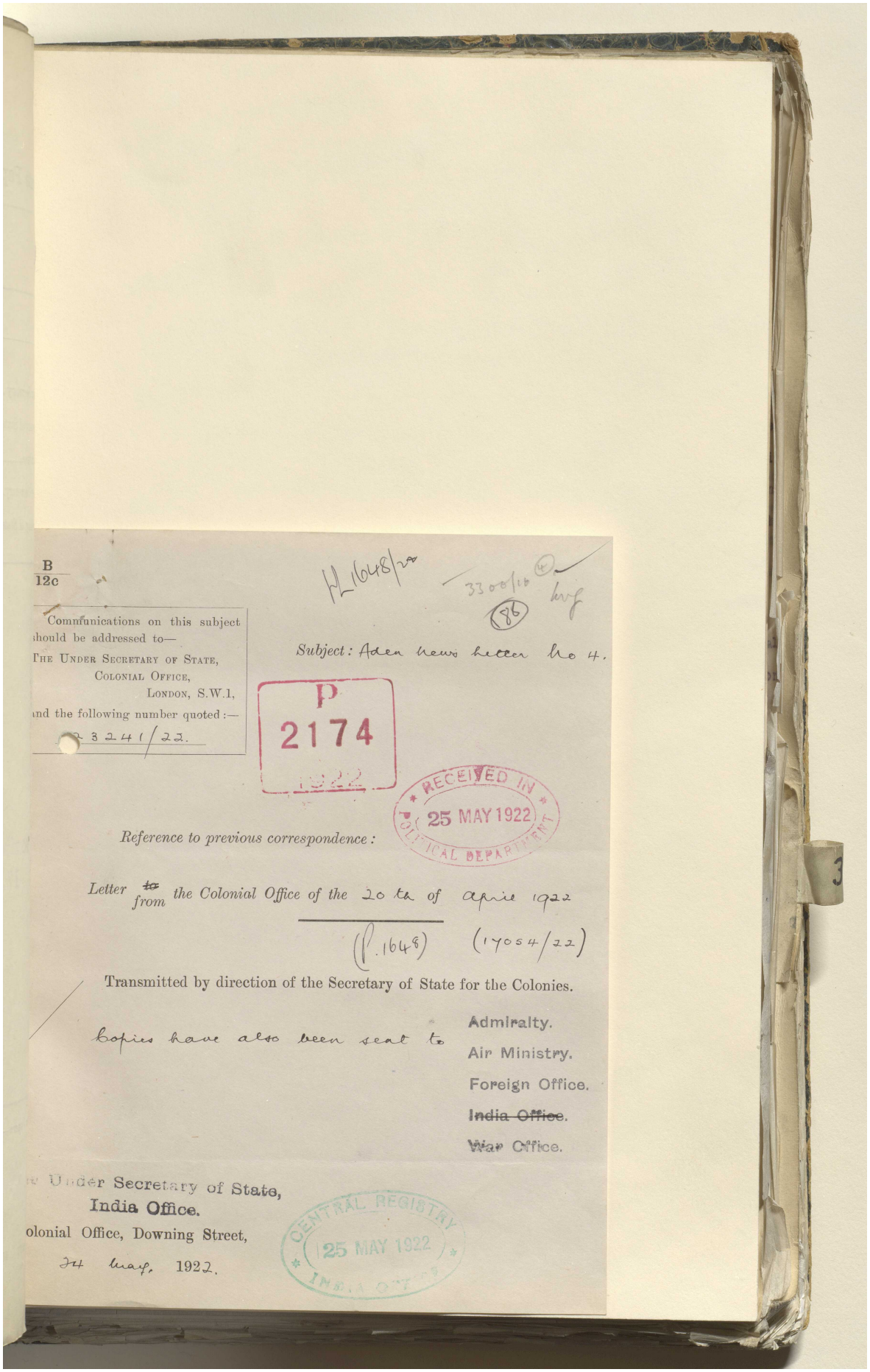

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
3241/22.

P 1648/22
3300/16
(86)
hvf

Subject: Aden news letter No 4.

P
2174
1922

RECEIVED IN
25 MAY 1922
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 20th of April 1922
(P.1648) (17054/22)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Copies have also been sent to

Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
24 May, 1922.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
25 MAY 1922
INDIA OFFICE

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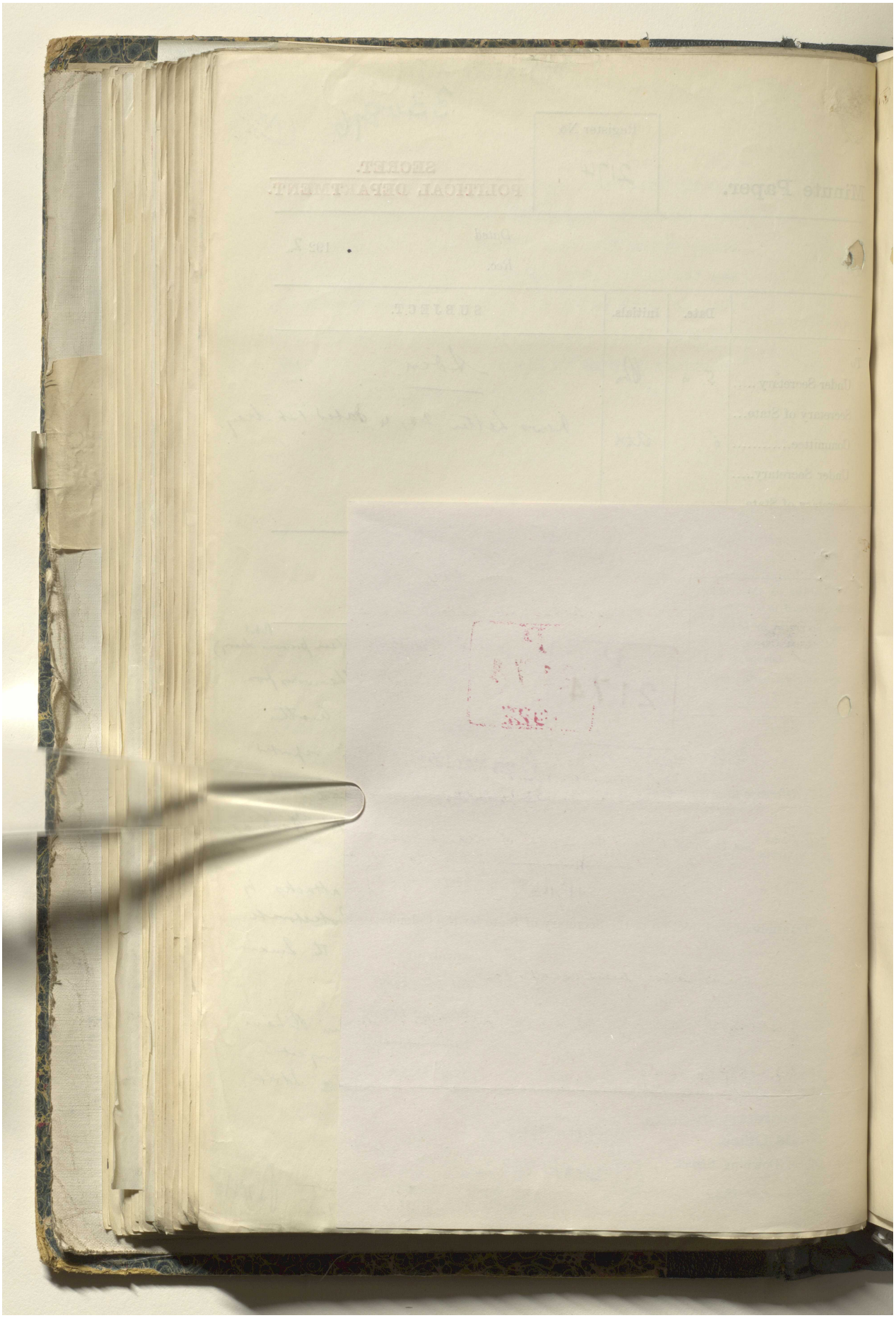

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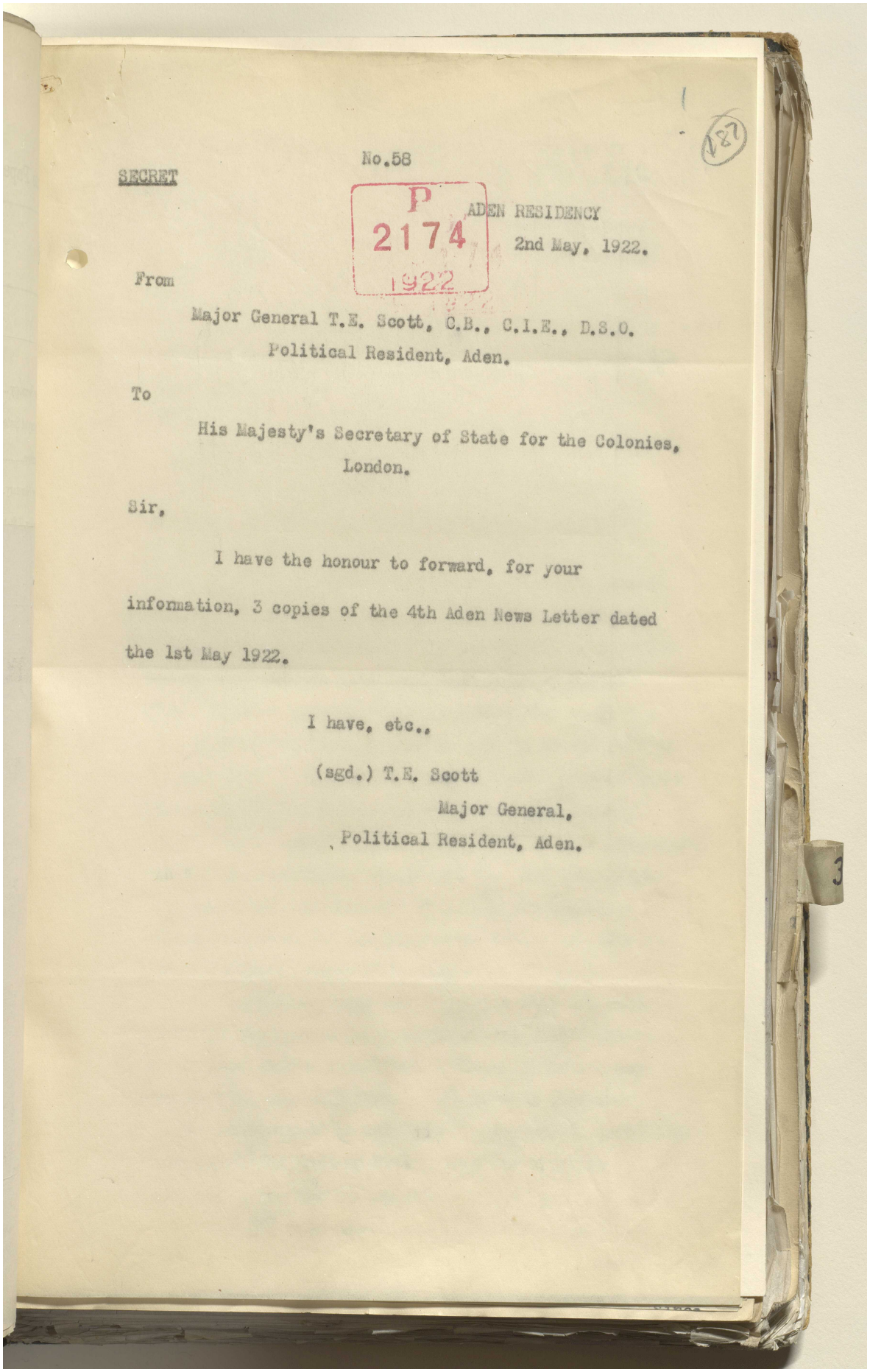

No.58

SECRET

P
2174
1922

ADEN RESIDENCY
2nd May, 1922.

From

Major General T.E. Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden.

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, 3 copies of the 4th Aden News Letter dated the 1st May 1922.

I have, etc.,

(sgd.) T.E. Scott
Major General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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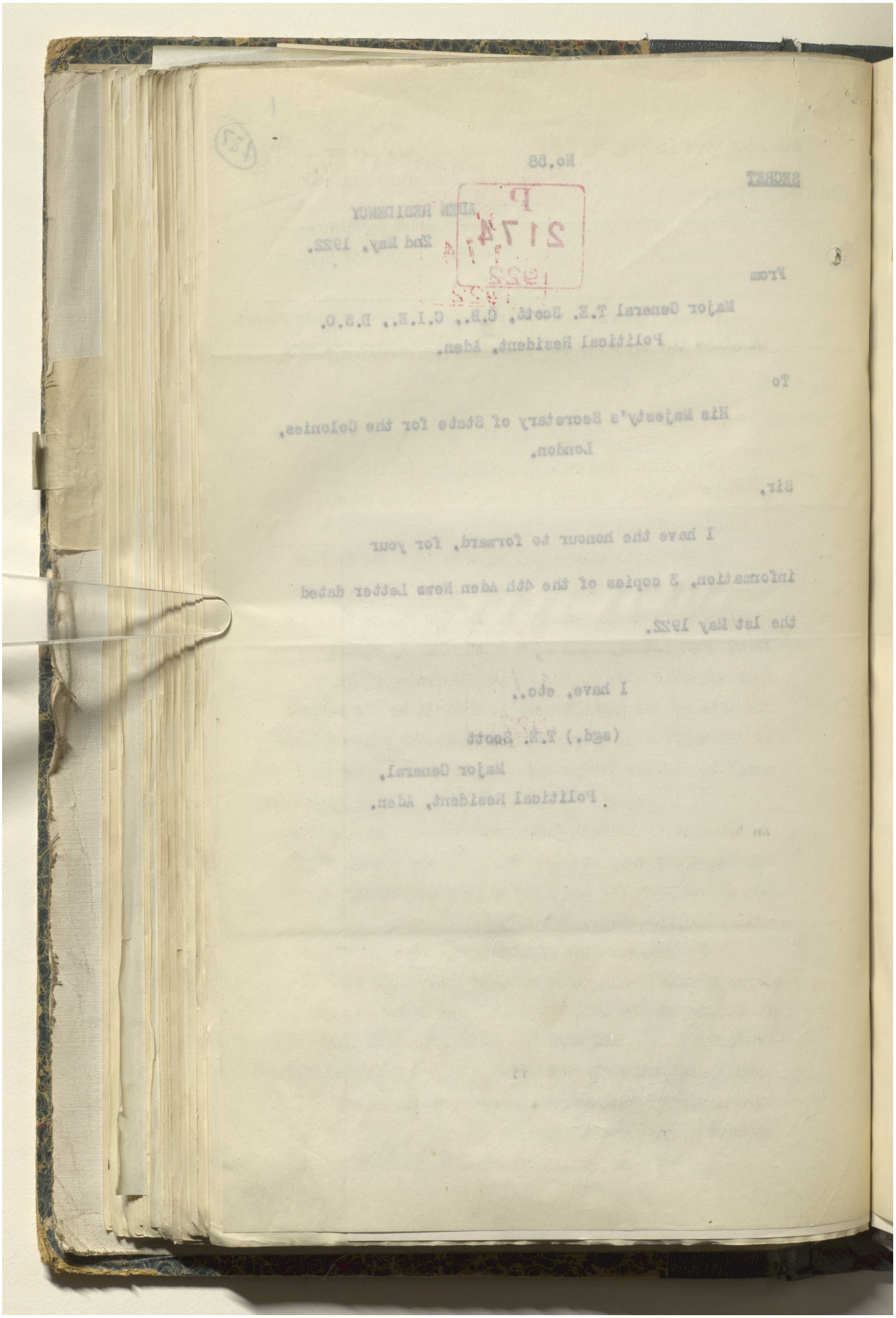

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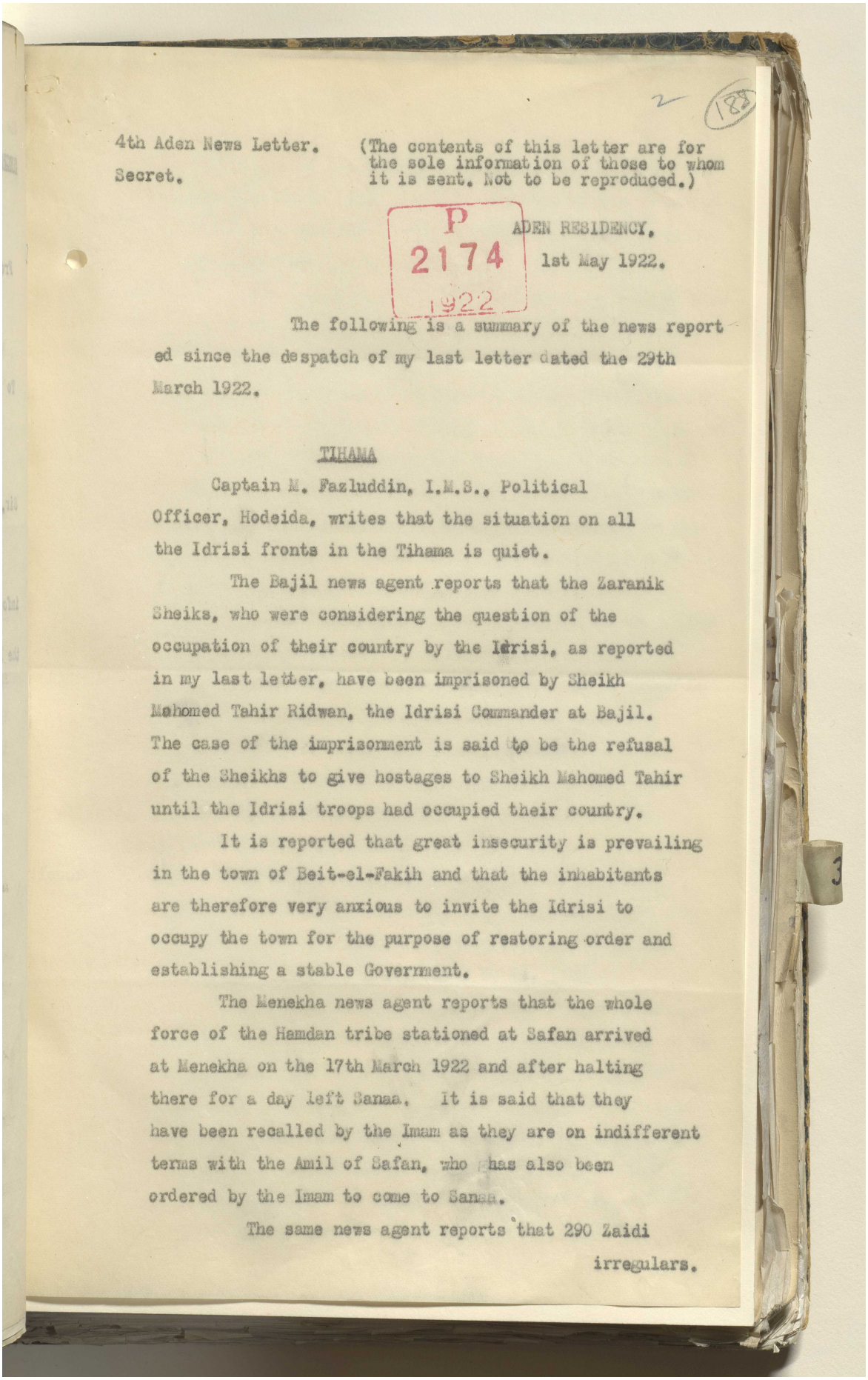

2 (188)

4th Aden News Letter. (The contents of this letter are for the sole information of those to whom it is sent. Not to be reproduced.)

Secret.

P
2174
1922

ADEN RESIDENCY,
1st May 1922.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated the 29th March 1922.

TIHAMA

Captain M. Fazluddin, I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeida, writes that the situation on all the Idrisi fronts in the Tihama is quiet.

The Bajil news agent reports that the Zaranik Sheiks, who were considering the question of the occupation of their country by the Idrisi, as reported in my last letter, have been imprisoned by Sheikh Mahomed Tahir Ridwan, the Idrisi Commander at Bajil. The case of the imprisonment is said to be the refusal of the Sheikhs to give hostages to Sheikh Mahomed Tahir until the Idrisi troops had occupied their country.

It is reported that great insecurity is prevailing in the town of Beit-el-Fakih and that the inhabitants are therefore very anxious to invite the Idrisi to occupy the town for the purpose of restoring order and establishing a stable Government.

The Menekha news agent reports that the whole force of the Hamdan tribe stationed at Safan arrived at Menekha on the 17th March 1922 and after halting there for a day left Sanaa. It is said that they have been recalled by the Imam as they are on indifferent terms with the Amil of Safan, who has also been ordered by the Imam to come to Sanaa.

The same news agent reports that 290 Zaidi

irregulars.

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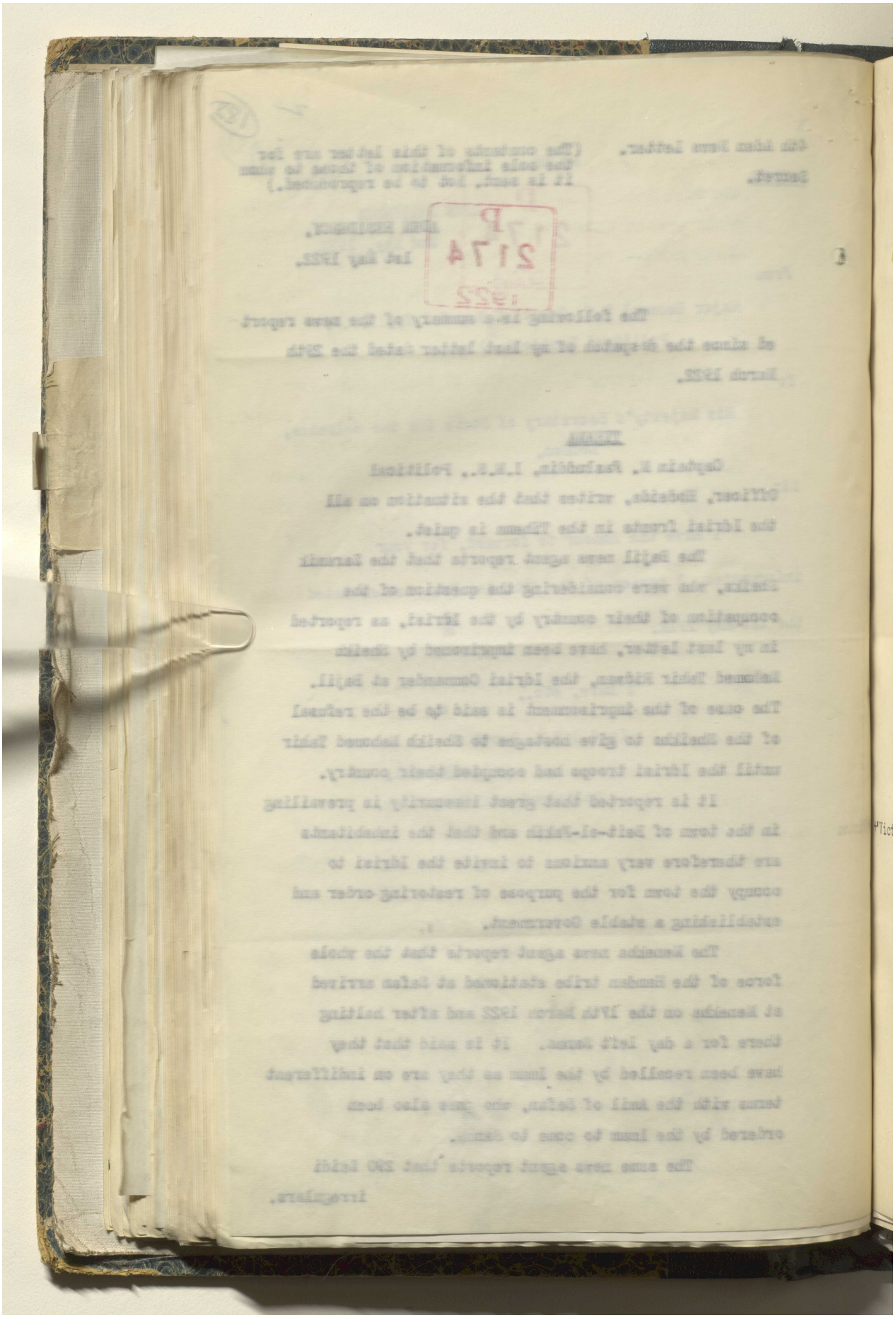

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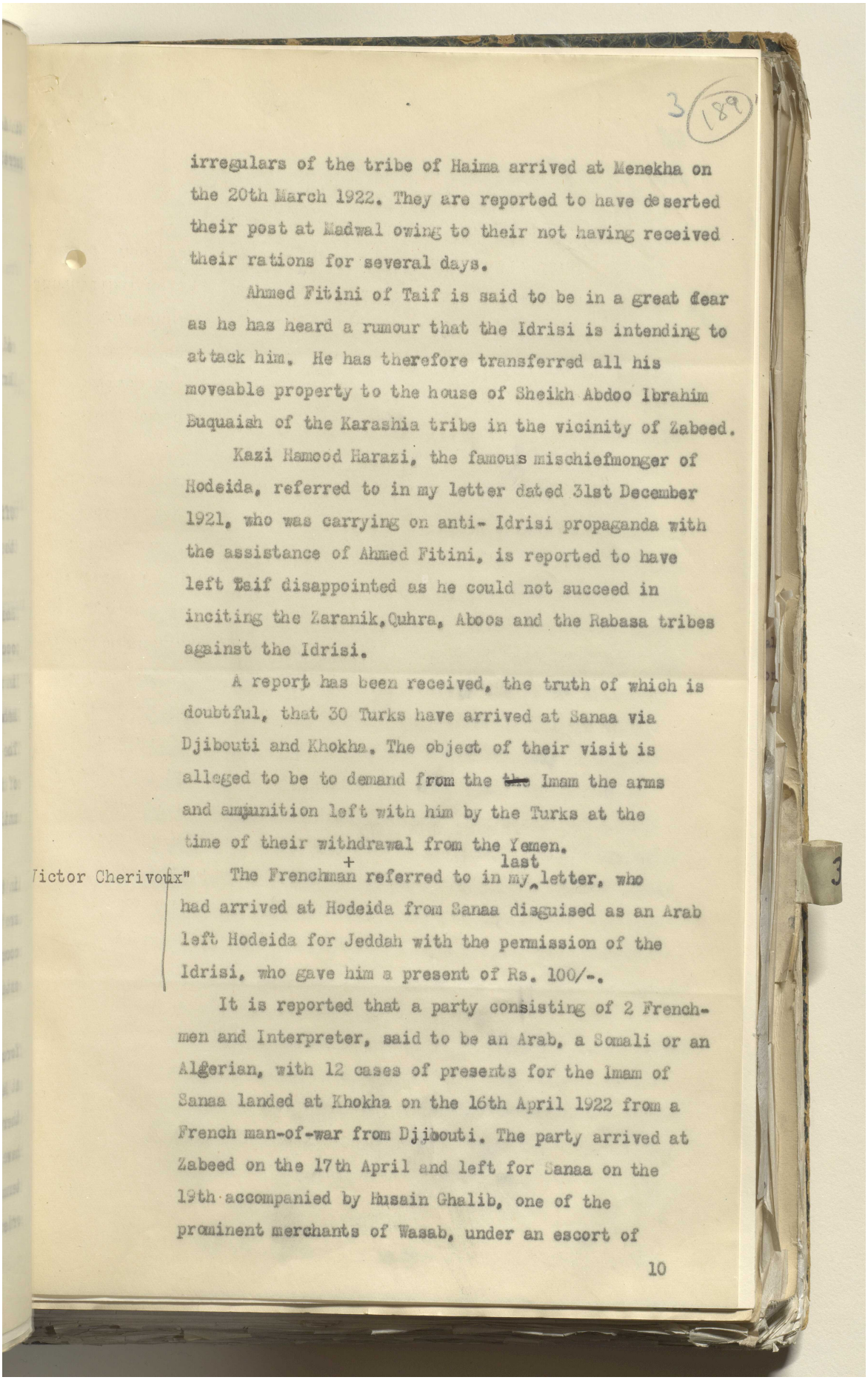

3/189

irregulars of the tribe of Haima arrived at Menekha on the 20th March 1922. They are reported to have deserted their post at Madwal owing to their not having received their rations for several days.

Ahmed Fitini of Taif is said to be in a great fear as he has heard a rumour that the Idrisi is intending to attack him. He has therefore transferred all his moveable property to the house of Sheikh Abdoo Ibrahim Buquaish of the Karashia tribe in the vicinity of Zabeed.

Kazi Hamood Harazi, the famous mischiefmonger of Hodeida, referred to in my letter dated 31st December 1921, who was carrying on anti- Idrisi propaganda with the assistance of Ahmed Fitini, is reported to have left Taif disappointed as he could not succeed in inciting the Zaranik, Quhra, Aboos and the Rabasa tribes against the Idrisi.

A report has been received, the truth of which is doubtful, that 30 Turks have arrived at Sanaa via Djibouti and Khokha. The object of their visit is alleged to be to demand from the ~~the~~ Imam the arms and ammunition left with him by the Turks at the time of their withdrawal from the Yemen.

Victor Cherivoux" The Frenchman + referred to in my last letter, who had arrived at Hodeida from Sanaa disguised as an Arab left Hodeida for Jeddah with the permission of the Idrisi, who gave him a present of Rs. 100/-.

It is reported that a party consisting of 2 Frenchmen and Interpreter, said to be an Arab, a Somali or an Algerian, with 12 cases of presents for the Imam of Sanaa landed at Khokha on the 16th April 1922 from a French man-of-war from Djibouti. The party arrived at Zabeed on the 17th April and left for Sanaa on the 19th accompanied by Husain Ghalib, one of the prominent merchants of Wasab, under an escort of

10

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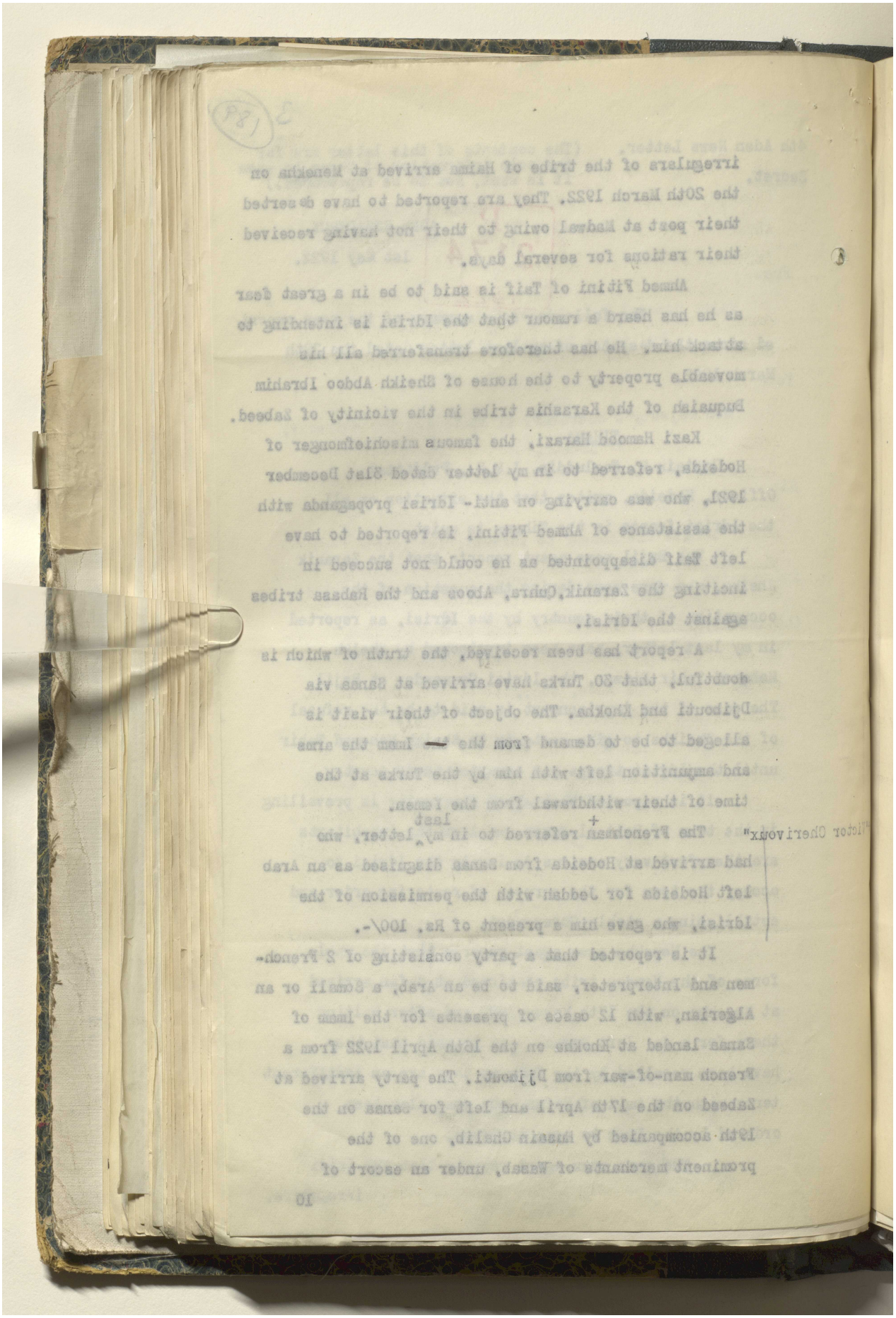

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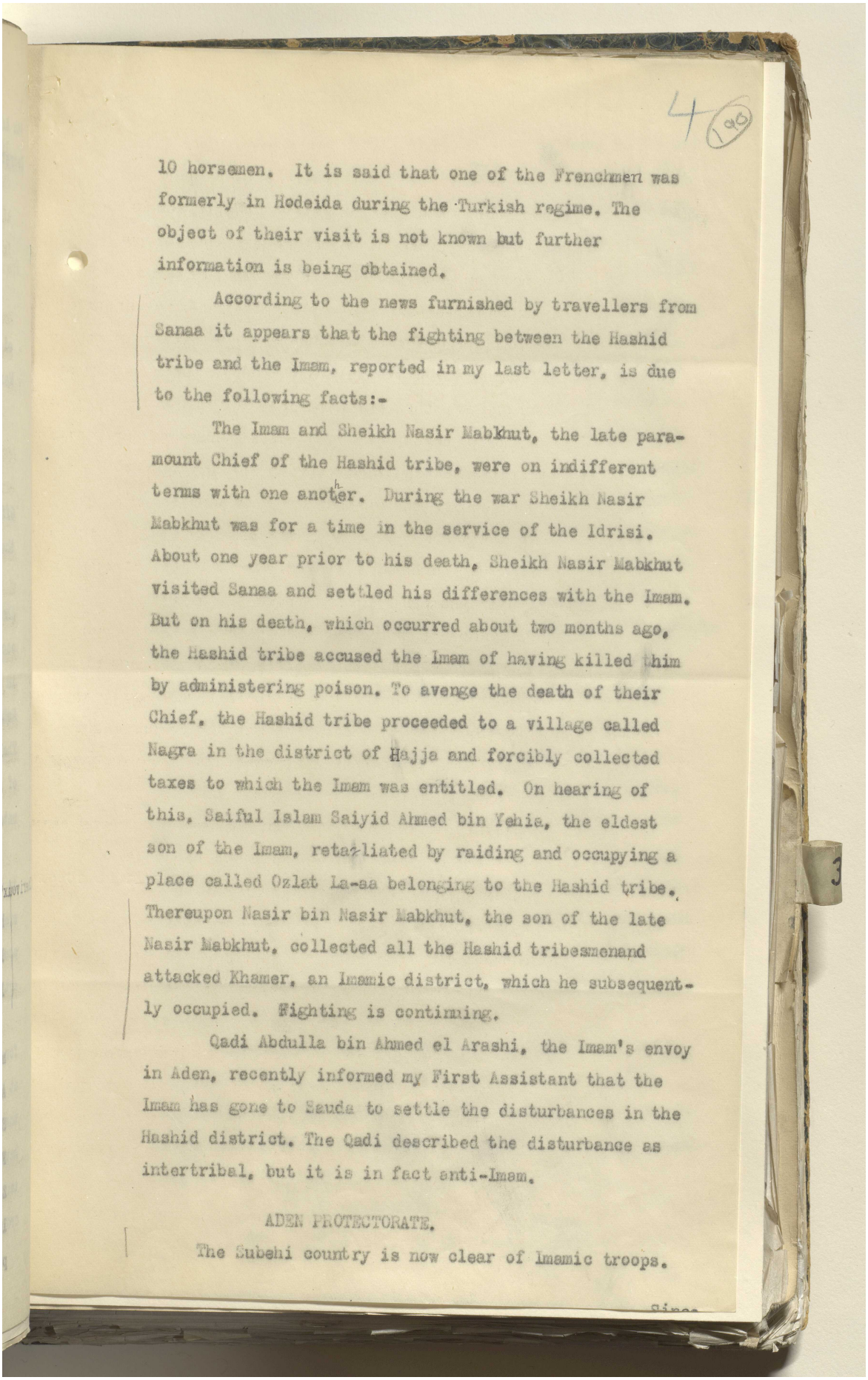

4 (190)

10 horsemen. It is said that one of the Frenchmen was formerly in Hodeida during the Turkish regime. The object of their visit is not known but further information is being obtained.

According to the news furnished by travellers from Sanaa it appears that the fighting between the Hashid tribe and the Imam, reported in my last letter, is due to the following facts:-

The Imam and Sheikh Nasir Mabkhut, the late paramount Chief of the Hashid tribe, were on indifferent terms with one another. During the war Sheikh Nasir Mabkhut was for a time in the service of the Idrisi. About one year prior to his death, Sheikh Nasir Mabkhut visited Sanaa and settled his differences with the Imam. But on his death, which occurred about two months ago, the Hashid tribe accused the Imam of having killed him by administering poison. To avenge the death of their Chief, the Hashid tribe proceeded to a village called Nagra in the district of Hajja and forcibly collected taxes to which the Imam was entitled. On hearing of this, Saiful Islam Saiyid Ahmed bin Yehia, the eldest son of the Imam, retaliated by raiding and occupying a place called Ozlat La-aa belonging to the Hashid tribe. Thereupon Nasir bin Nasir Mabkhut, the son of the late Nasir Mabkhut, collected all the Hashid tribesmenand attacked Khamer, an Imamic district, which he subsequently occupied. Fighting is continuing.

Qadi Abdulla bin Ahmed el Arashi, the Imam's envoy in Aden, recently informed my First Assistant that the Imam has gone to Sauda to settle the disturbances in the Hashid district. The Qadi described the disturbance as intertribal, but it is in fact anti-Imam.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Subehi country is now clear of Imamic troops.

Since

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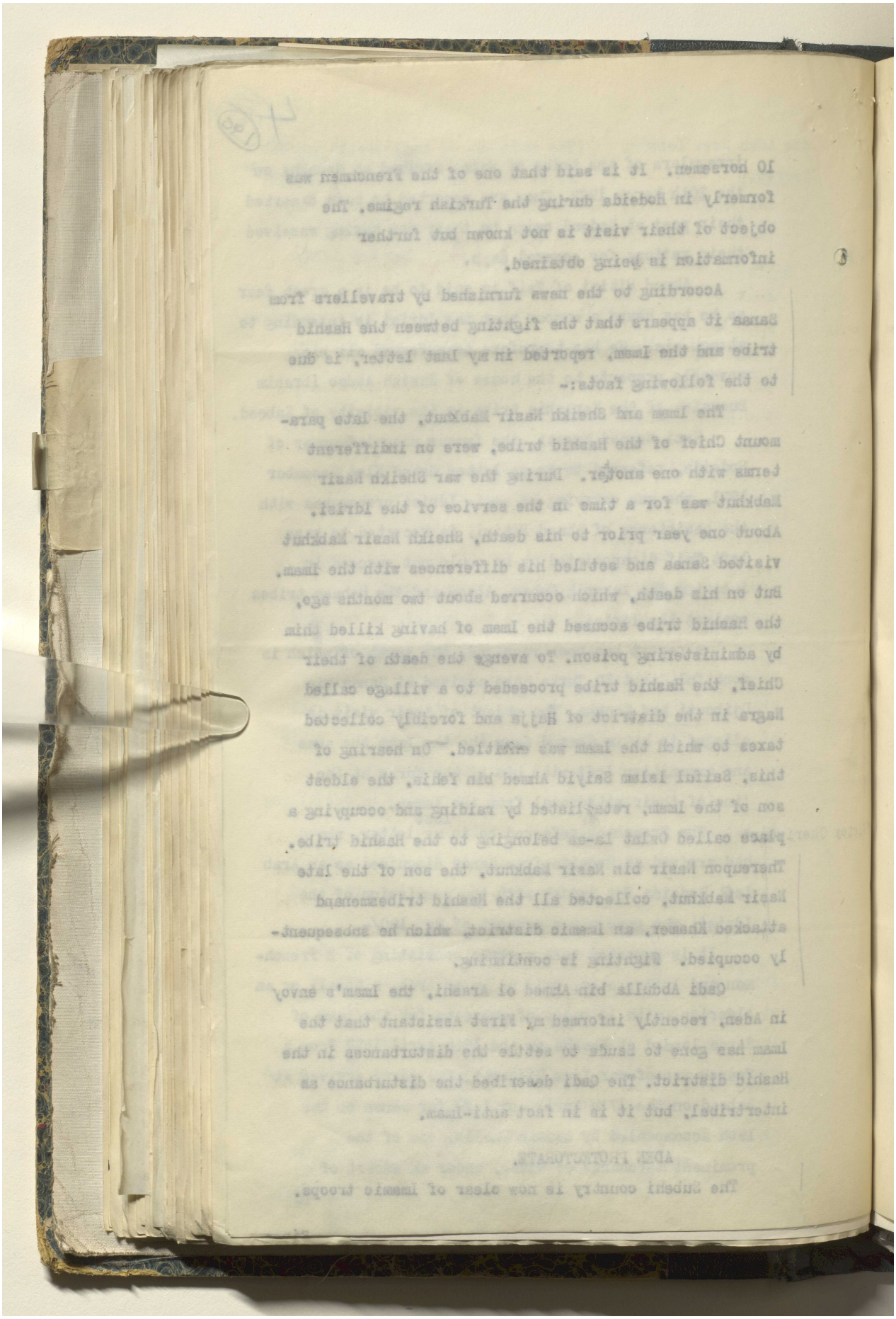

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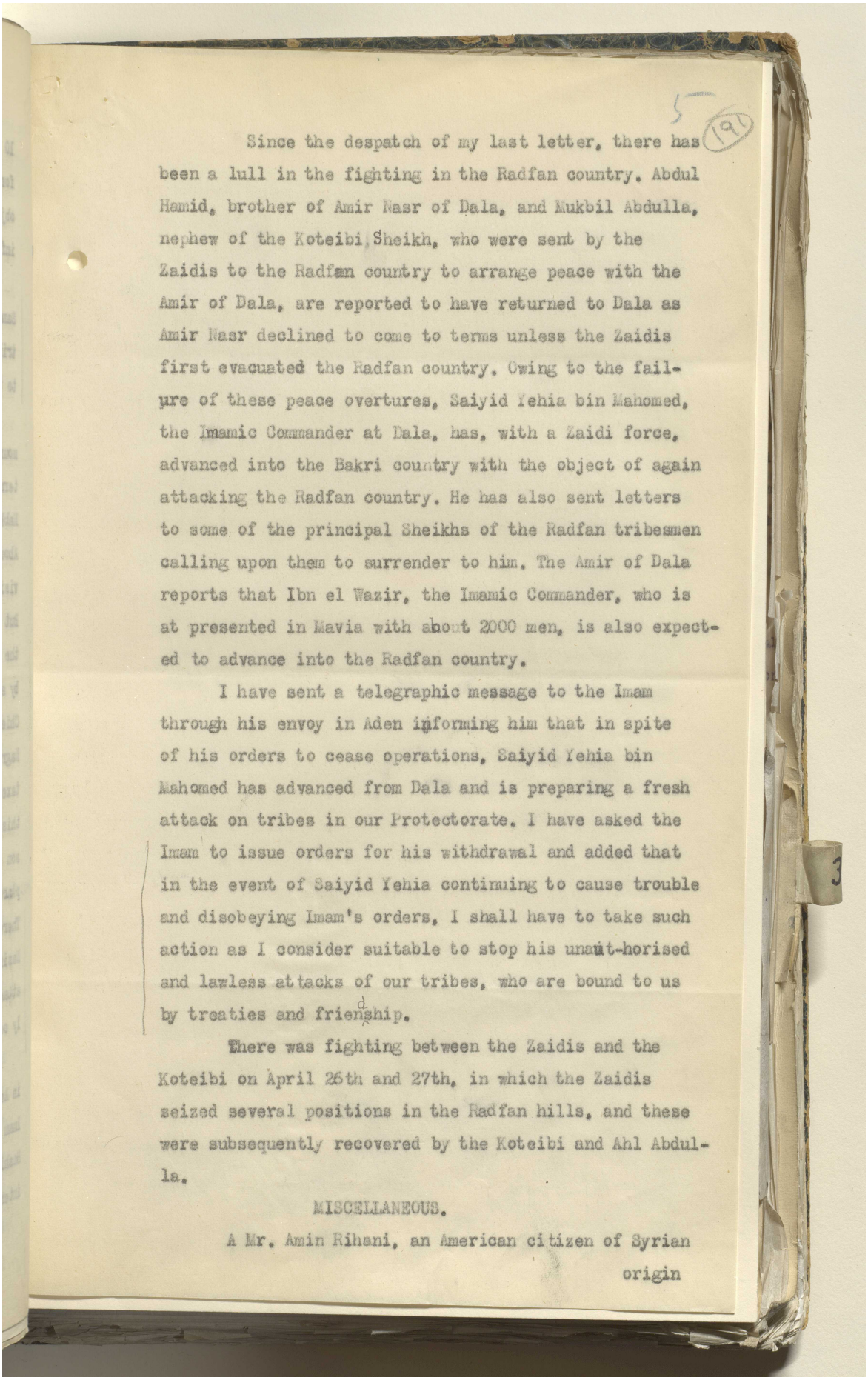

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Since the despatch of my last letter, there has been a lull in the fighting in the Radfan country. Abdul Hamid, brother of Amir Nasr of Dala, and Mukbil Abdulla, nephew of the Koteibi Sheikh, who were sent by the Zaidis to the Radfan country to arrange peace with the Amir of Dala, are reported to have returned to Dala as Amir Nasr declined to come to terms unless the Zaidis first evacuated the Radfan country. Owing to the failure of these peace overtures, Saiyid Yehia bin Mahomed, the Imamic Commander at Dala, has, with a Zaidi force, advanced into the Bakri country with the object of again attacking the Radfan country. He has also sent letters to some of the principal Sheikhs of the Radfan tribesmen calling upon them to surrender to him. The Amir of Dala reports that Ibn el Wazir, the Imamic Commander, who is at presented in Mavia with about 2000 men, is also expected to advance into the Radfan country.

I have sent a telegraphic message to the Imam through his envoy in Aden informing him that in spite of his orders to cease operations, Saiyid Yehia bin Mahomed has advanced from Dala and is preparing a fresh attack on tribes in our Protectorate. I have asked the Imam to issue orders for his withdrawal and added that in the event of Saiyid Yehia continuing to cause trouble and disobeying Imam's orders, I shall have to take such action as I consider suitable to stop his unauthorised and lawless attacks of our tribes, who are bound to us by treaties and friendship.

There was fighting between the Zaidis and the Koteibi on April 26th and 27th, in which the Zaidis seized several positions in the Radfan hills, and these were subsequently recovered by the Koteibi and Ahl Abdulla.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Mr. Amin Rihani, an American citizen of Syrian origin

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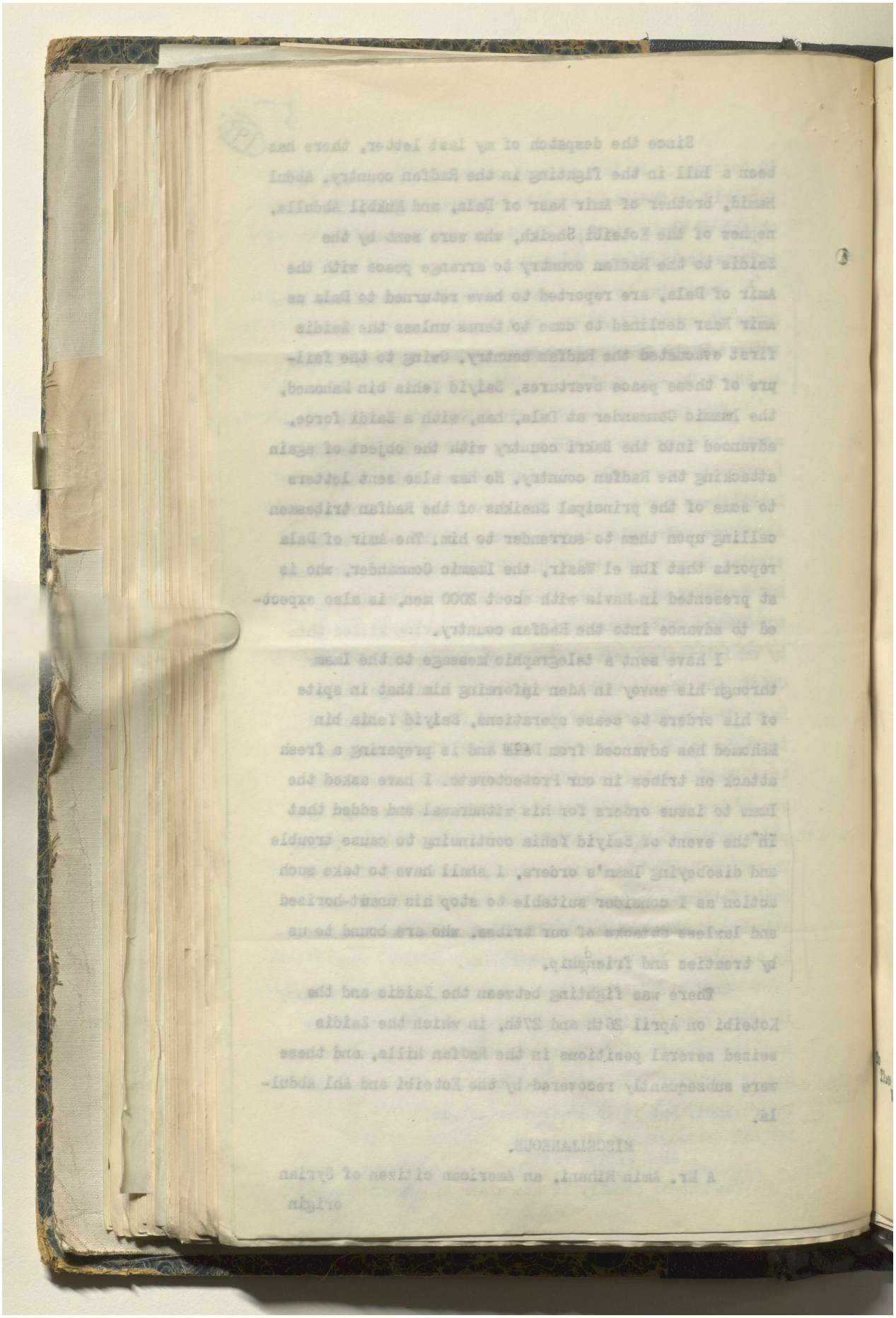

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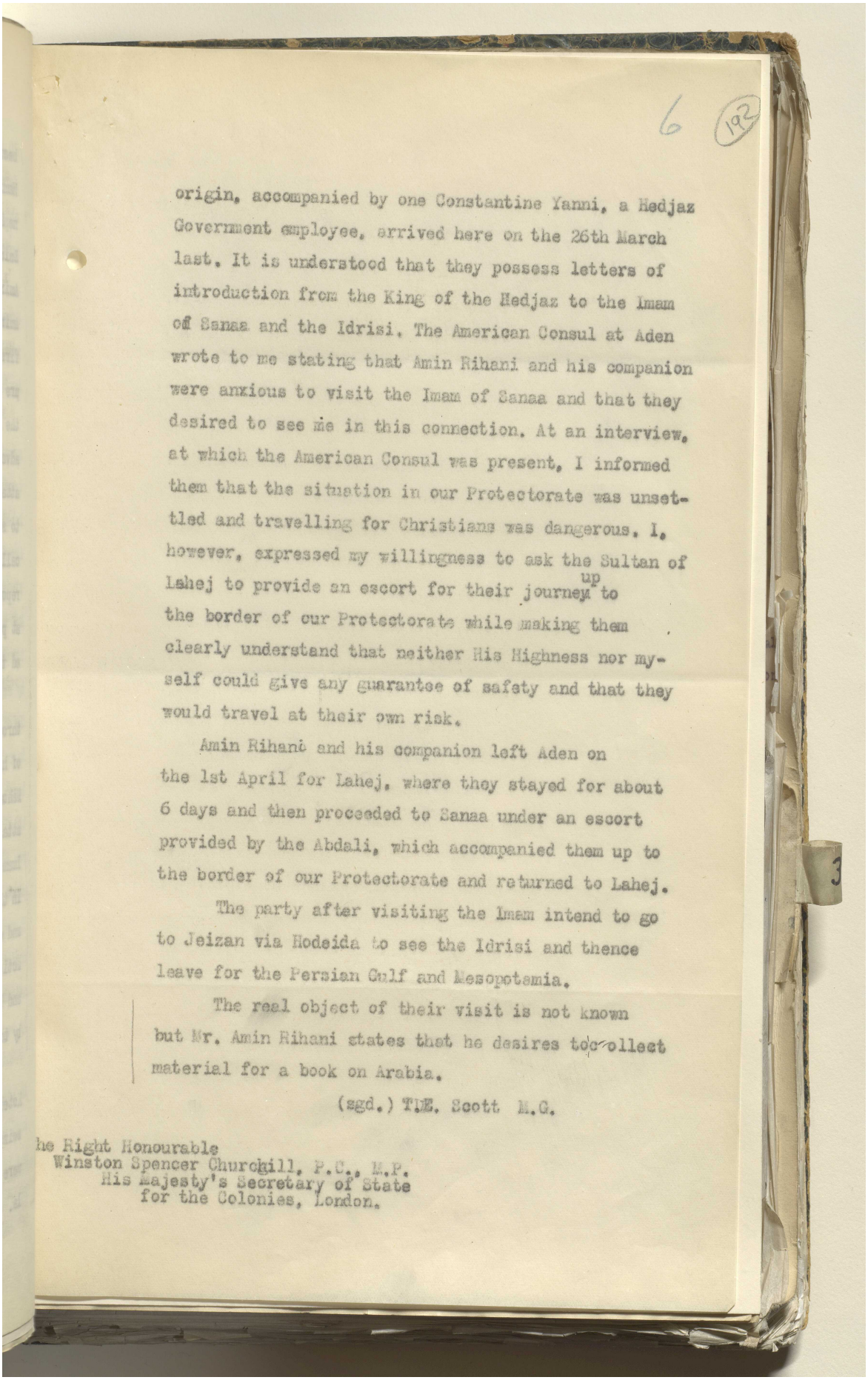

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origin, accompanied by one Constantine Yanni, a Hedjaz Government employee, arrived here on the 26th March last. It is understood that they possess letters of introduction from the King of the Hedjaz to the Imam of Sanaa and the Idrisi. The American Consul at Aden wrote to me stating that Amin Rihani and his companion were anxious to visit the Imam of Sanaa and that they desired to see me in this connection. At an interview, at which the American Consul was present, I informed them that the situation in our Protectorate was unsettled and travelling for Christians was dangerous. I, however, expressed my willingness to ask the Sultan of Lahej to provide an escort for their journey up to the border of our Protectorate while making them clearly understand that neither His Highness nor myself could give any guarantee of safety and that they would travel at their own risk.

Amin Rihani and his companion left Aden on the 1st April for Lahej, where they stayed for about 6 days and then proceeded to Sanaa under an escort provided by the Abdali, which accompanied them up to the border of our Protectorate and returned to Lahej.

The party after visiting the Imam intend to go to Jeizan via Hodeida to see the Idrisi and thence leave for the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia.

The real object of their visit is not known but Mr. Amin Rihani states that he desires to collect material for a book on Arabia.

(sgd.) T.E. Scott M.G.

The Right Honourable
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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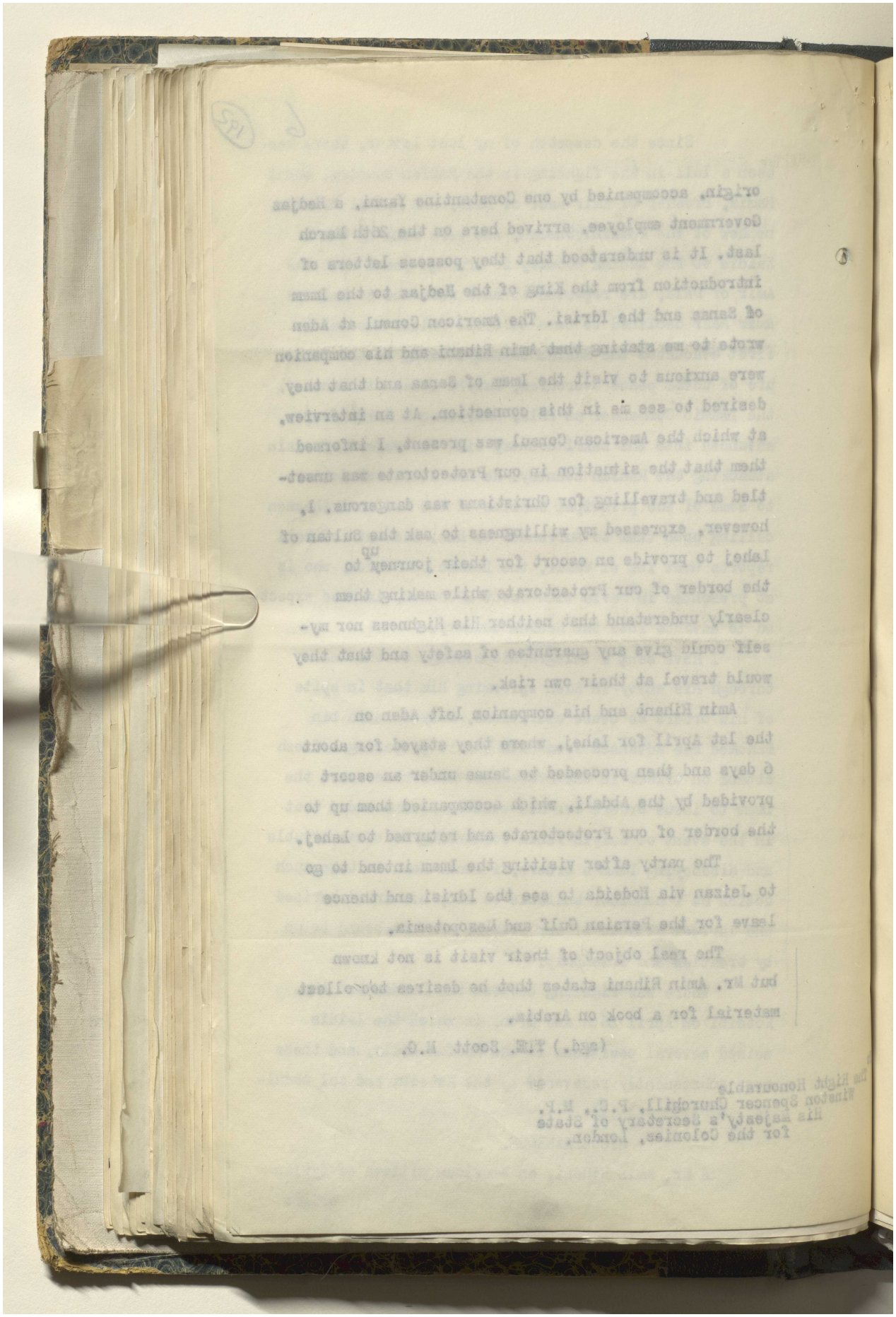

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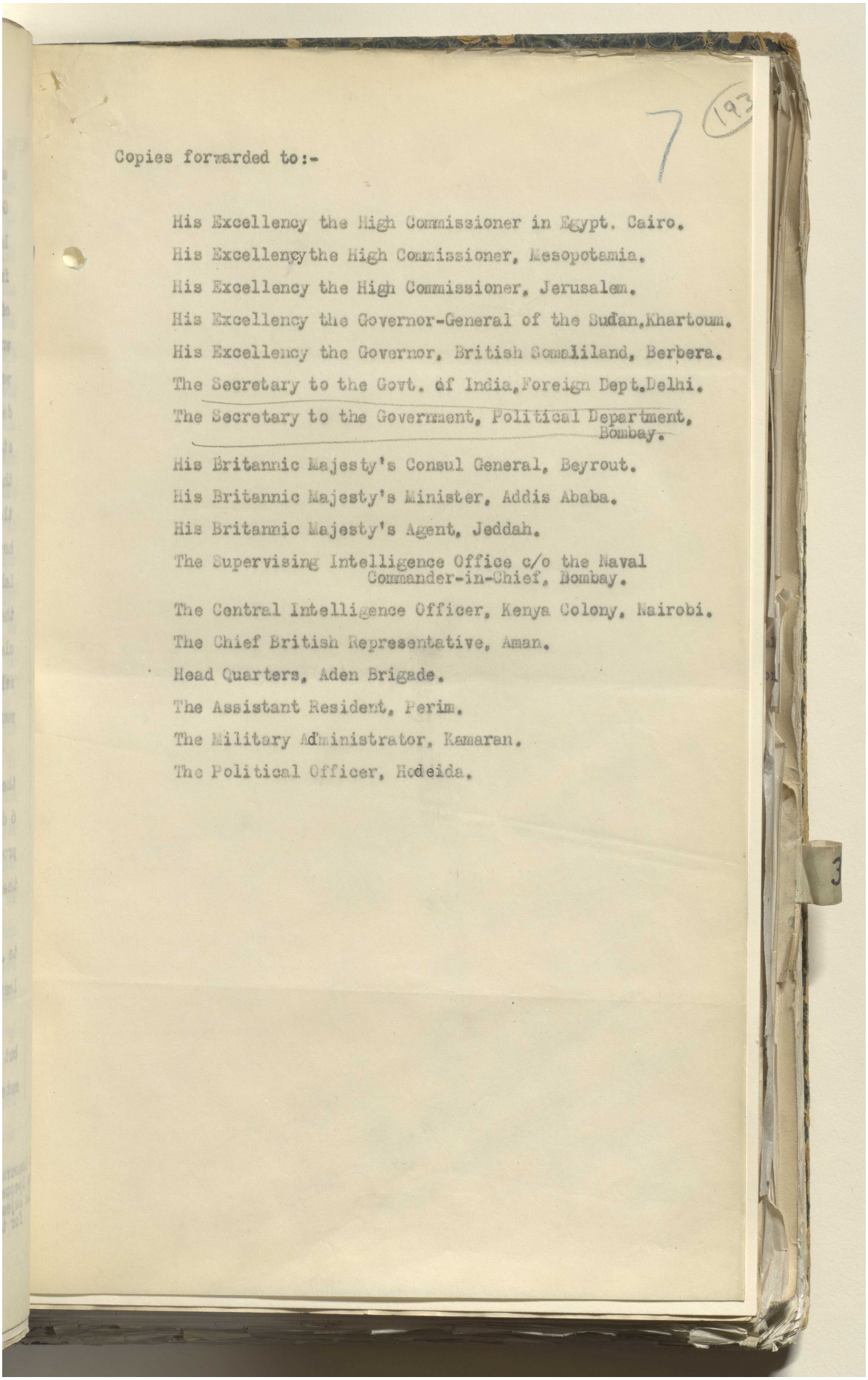

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His Excellency the High Commissioner, Jerusalem.
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His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Govt. of India,Foreign Dept.Delhi.
The Secretary to the Government, Political Department, Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa.
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Office c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative, Aman.
Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamaran.
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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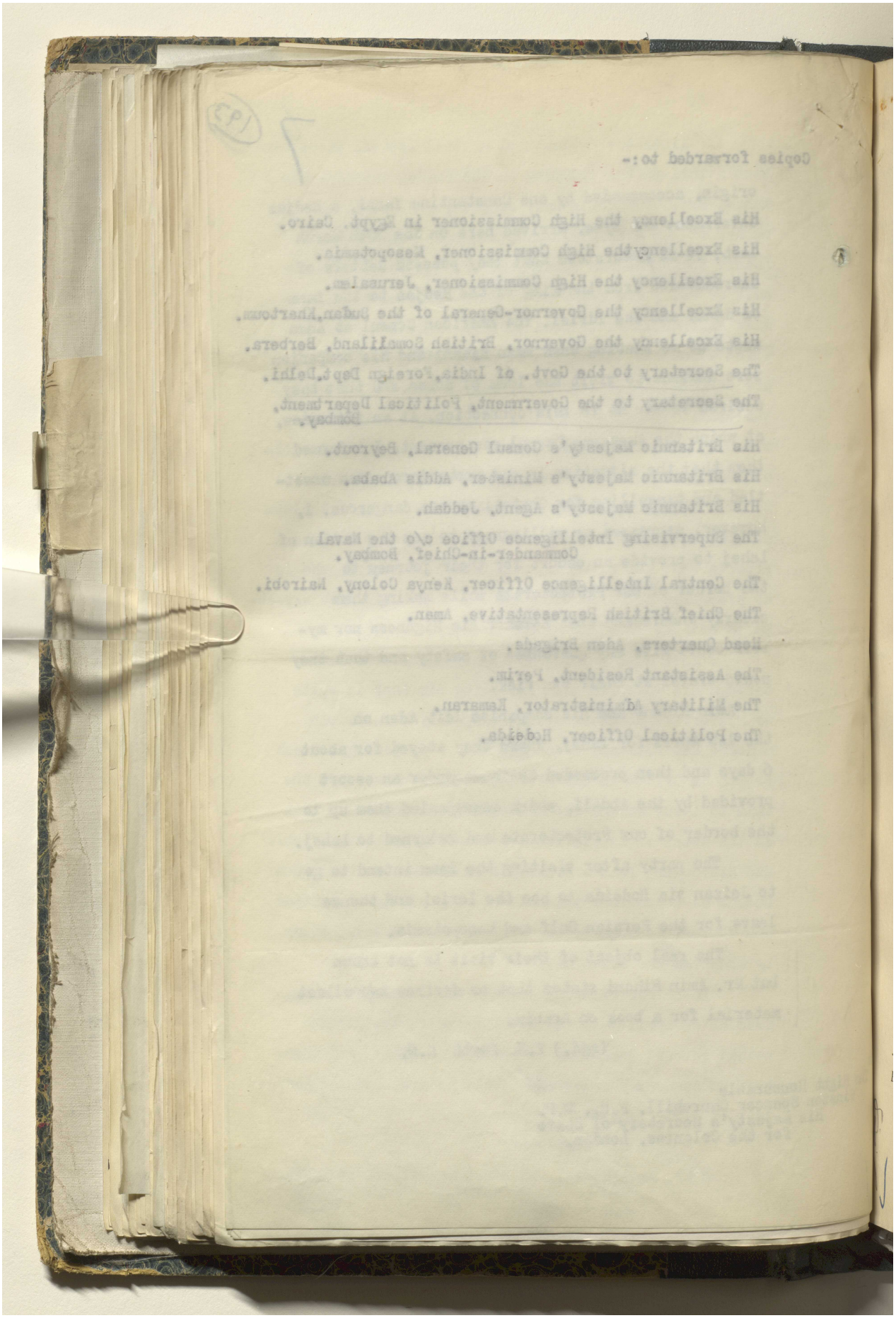

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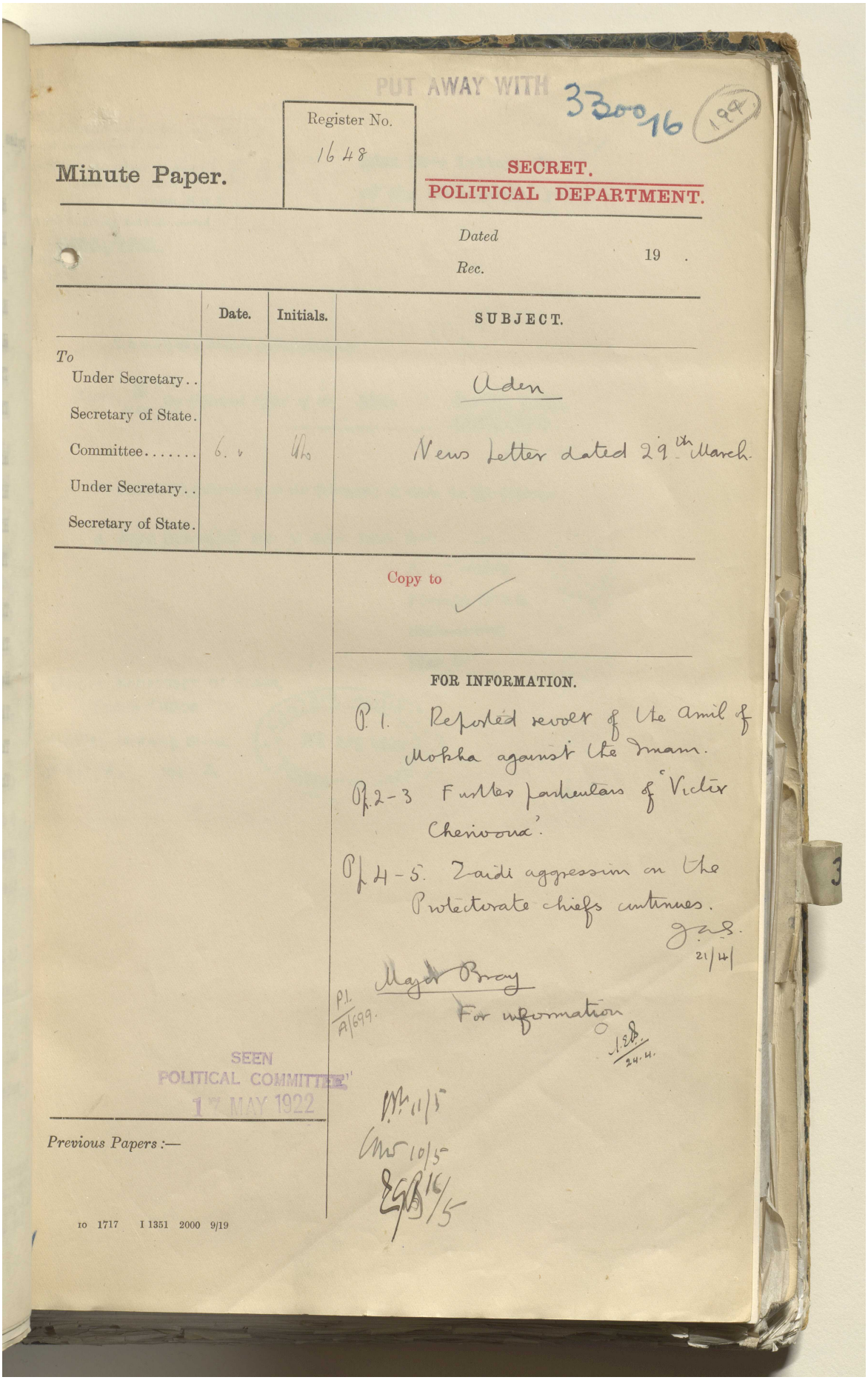

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 1648

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..			Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	6.5	Hs	News Letter dated 29th March.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to ✓

FOR INFORMATION.

P. 1. Reported revolt of the Amil of Mokha against the Imam.

Pp. 2-3 Further particulars of 'Victor Cherivona'.

Pp. 4-5. Zaidi aggression on the Protectorate chiefs continues.

J.A.S. 21/4/

P.I. A/699. Major Bray For information J.E.B. 24.4.

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE 1ST MAY 1922

W.Ms 1/5 Crs 10/5 E.G.B. 16/5

Previous Papers :—

10 1717 I 1351 2000 9/19

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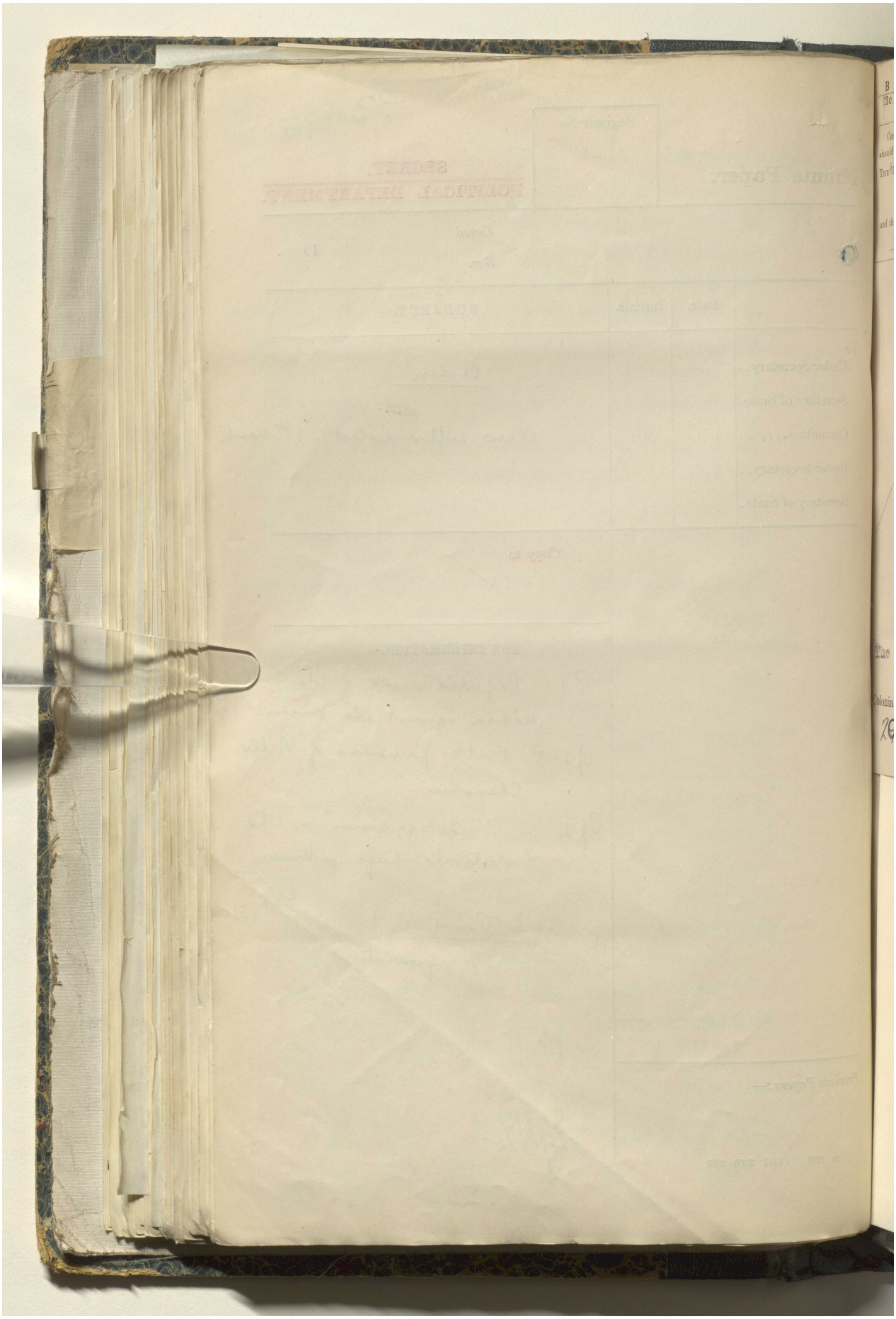

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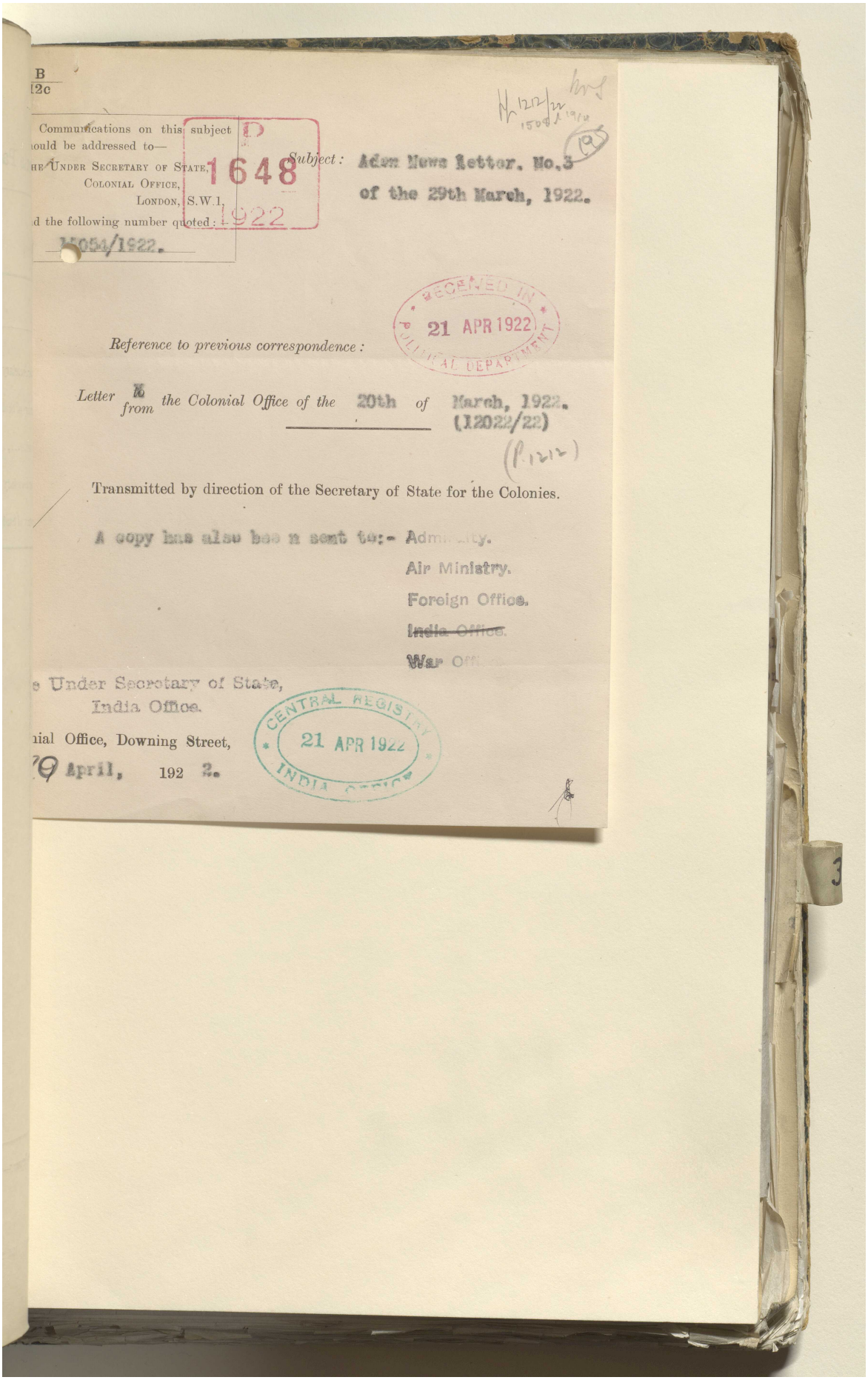

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12c

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:
15054/1922.

1648
1922

Subject: Aden News Letter. No.3 of the 29th March, 1922.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
21 APR 1922

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 20th of March, 1922. (12022/22)

(P.1212)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to:- Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office.~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
19 April, 1922.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
21 APR 1922
INDIA OFFICE

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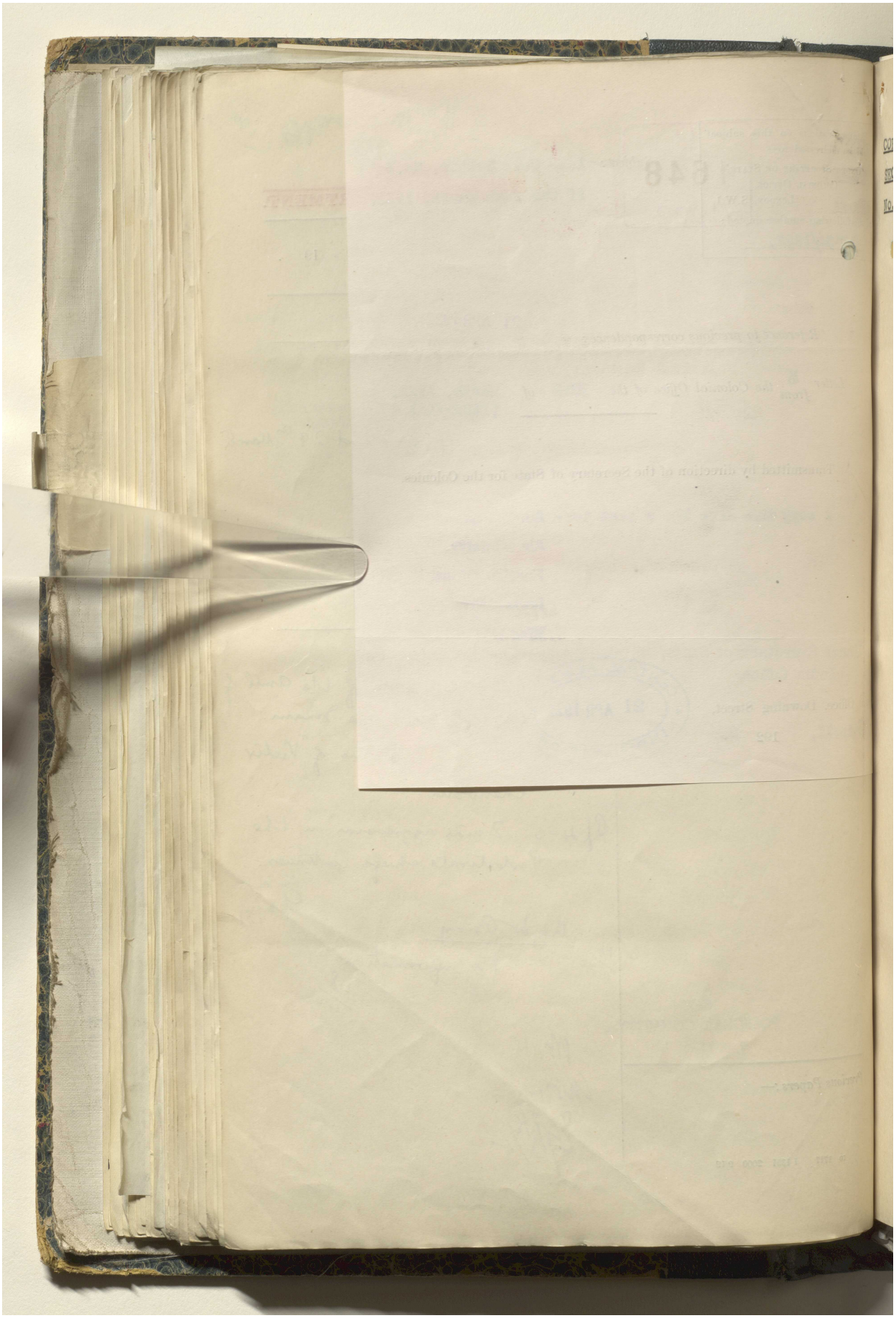

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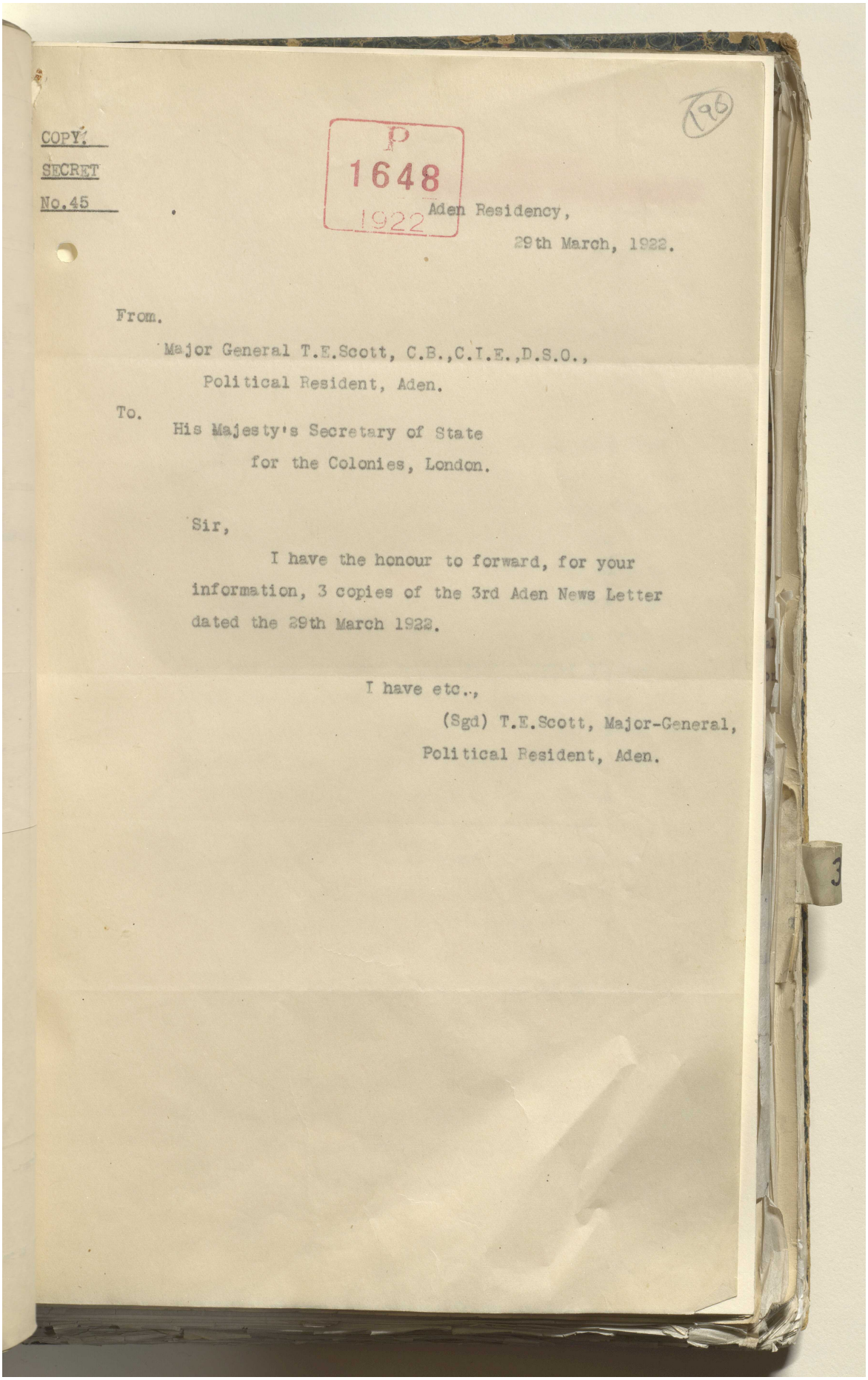

COPY.
SECRET
No.45

P
1648
1922

Aden Residency,
29th March, 1922.

From.
Major General T.E.Scott, C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To.
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, 3 copies of the 3rd Aden News Letter dated the 29th March 1922.

I have etc.,
(Sgd) T.E.Scott, Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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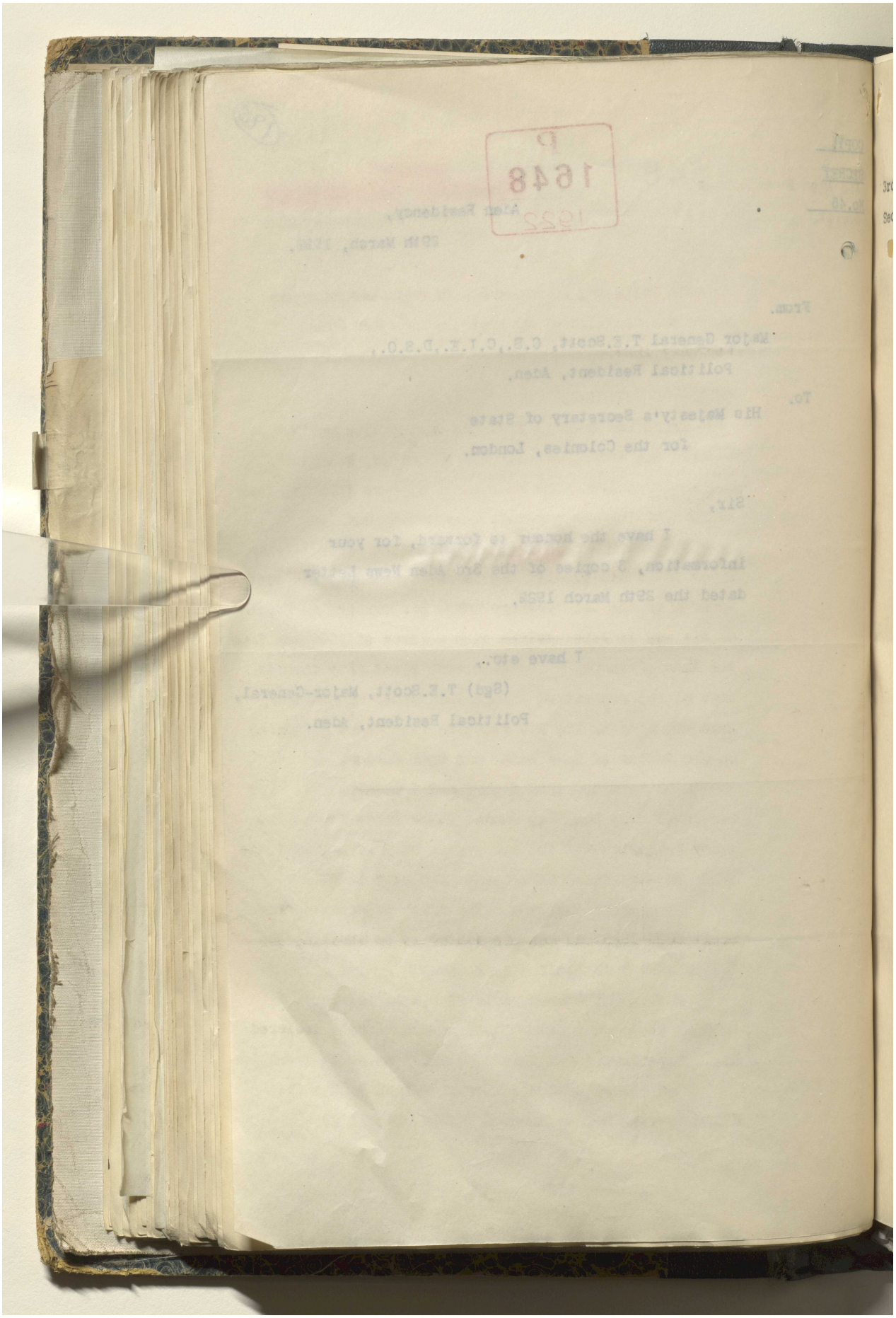

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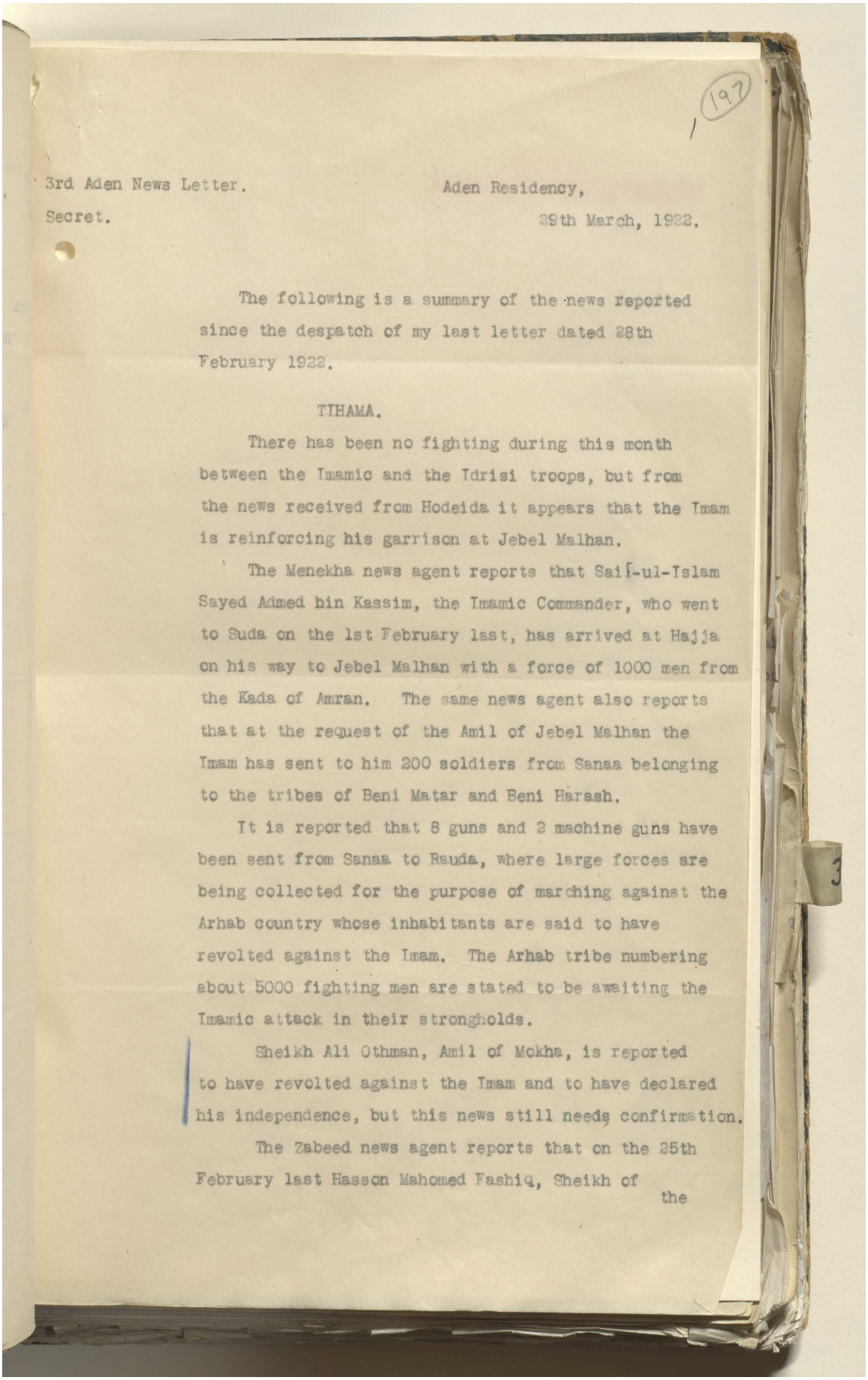

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3rd Aden News Letter.
Secret.

Aden Residency,
29th March, 1922.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 28th February 1922.

TIHAMA.

There has been no fighting during this month between the Imamic and the Idrisi troops, but from the news received from Hodeida it appears that the Imam is reinforcing his garrison at Jebel Malhan.

The Menekha news agent reports that Saif-ul-Islam Sayed Admed bin Kassim, the Imamic Commander, who went to Suda on the 1st February last, has arrived at Hajja on his way to Jebel Malhan with a force of 1000 men from the Kada of Amran. The same news agent also reports that at the request of the Amil of Jebel Malhan the Imam has sent to him 200 soldiers from Sanaa belonging to the tribes of Beni Matar and Beni Harash.

It is reported that 8 guns and 2 machine guns have been sent from Sanaa to Rauda, where large forces are being collected for the purpose of marching against the Arhab country whose inhabitants are said to have revolted against the Imam. The Arhab tribe numbering about 5000 fighting men are stated to be awaiting the Imamic attack in their strongholds.

Sheikh Ali Othman, Amil of Mokha, is reported to have revolted against the Imam and to have declared his independence, but this news still needs confirmation.

The Zabeed news agent reports that on the 25th February last Hasson Mahomed Fashiq, Sheikh of the

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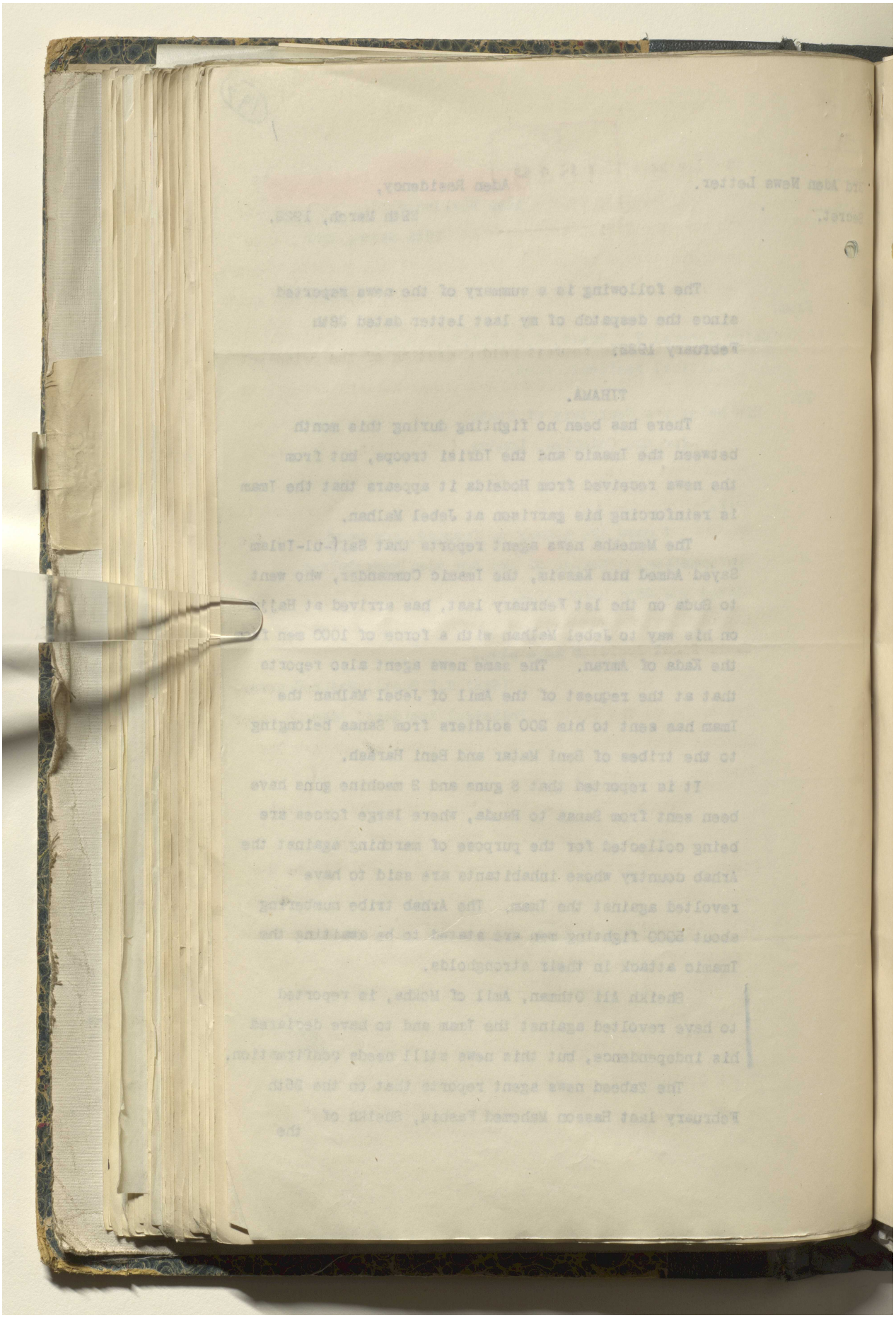

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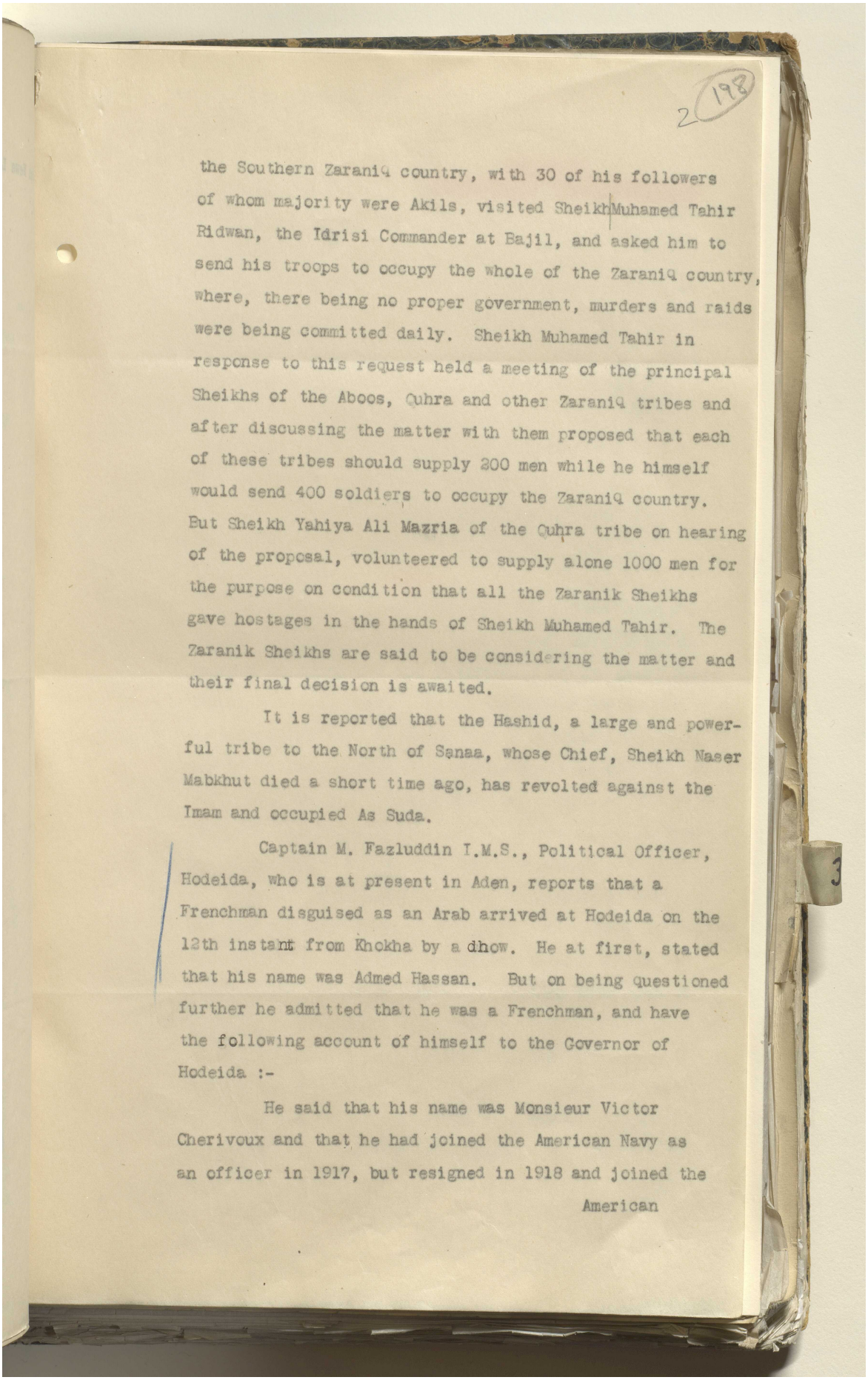

2 198

the Southern Zaraniq country, with 30 of his followers of whom majority were Akils, visited Sheikh Muhamed Tahir Ridwan, the Idrisi Commander at Bajil, and asked him to send his troops to occupy the whole of the Zaraniq country, where, there being no proper government, murders and raids were being committed daily. Sheikh Muhamed Tahir in response to this request held a meeting of the principal Sheikhs of the Aboos, Quhra and other Zaraniq tribes and after discussing the matter with them proposed that each of these tribes should supply 200 men while he himself would send 400 soldiers to occupy the Zaraniq country. But Sheikh Yahiya Ali Mazria of the Quhra tribe on hearing of the proposal, volunteered to supply alone 1000 men for the purpose on condition that all the Zaranik Sheikhs gave hostages in the hands of Sheikh Muhamed Tahir. The Zaranik Sheikhs are said to be considering the matter and their final decision is awaited.

It is reported that the Hashid, a large and powerful tribe to the North of Sanaa, whose Chief, Sheikh Naser Mabkhut died a short time ago, has revolted against the Imam and occupied As Suda.

Captain M. Fazluddin I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeida, who is at present in Aden, reports that a Frenchman disguised as an Arab arrived at Hodeida on the 12th instant from Khokha by a dhow. He at first, stated that his name was Admed Hassan. But on being questioned further he admitted that he was a Frenchman, and have the following account of himself to the Governor of Hodeida :-

He said that his name was Monsieur Victor Cherivoux and that he had joined the American Navy as an officer in 1917, but resigned in 1918 and joined the

American

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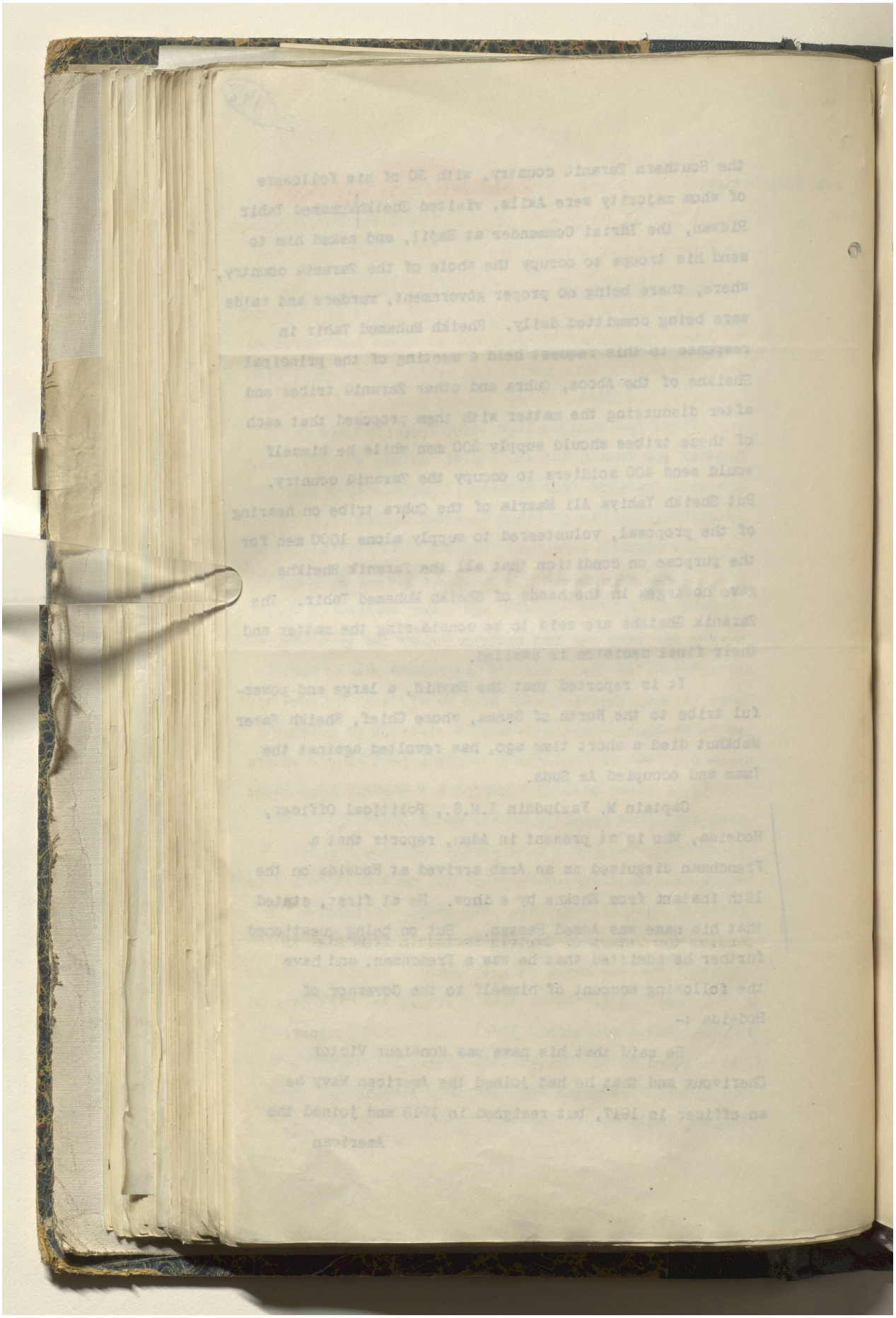

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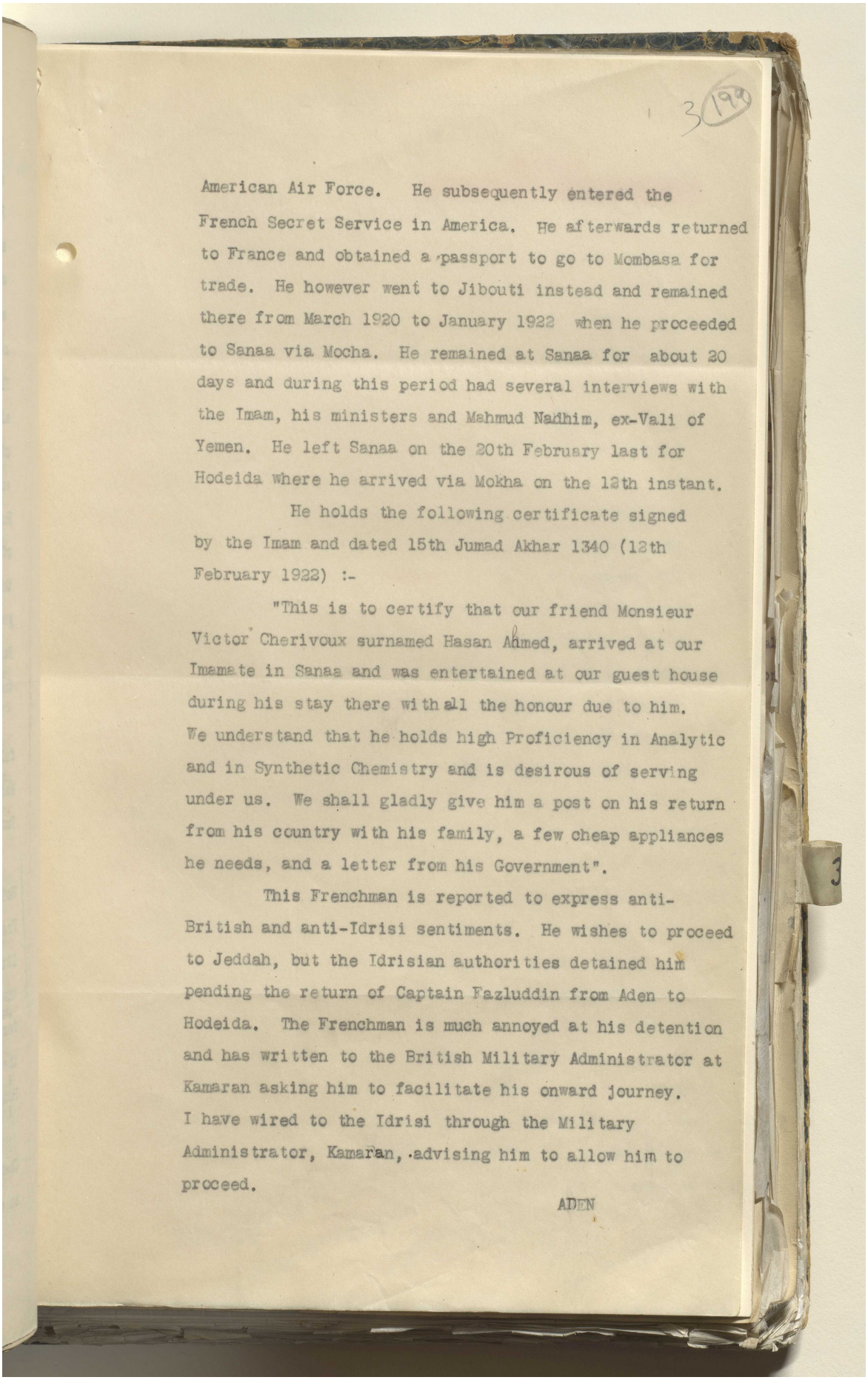

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American Air Force. He subsequently entered the French Secret Service in America. He afterwards returned to France and obtained a passport to go to Mombasa for trade. He however went to Jibouti instead and remained there from March 1920 to January 1922 when he proceeded to Sanaa via Mocha. He remained at Sanaa for about 20 days and during this period had several interviews with the Imam, his ministers and Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen. He left Sanaa on the 20th February last for Hodeida where he arrived via Mokha on the 12th instant.

He holds the following certificate signed by the Imam and dated 15th Jumad Akhar 1340 (12th February 1922) :-

"This is to certify that our friend Monsieur Victor Cherivoux surnamed Hasan Ahmed, arrived at our Imamate in Sanaa and was entertained at our guest house during his stay there with all the honour due to him. We understand that he holds high Proficiency in Analytic and in Synthetic Chemistry and is desirous of serving under us. We shall gladly give him a post on his return from his country with his family, a few cheap appliances he needs, and a letter from his Government".

This Frenchman is reported to express anti-British and anti-Idrisi sentiments. He wishes to proceed to Jeddah, but the Idrisian authorities detained him pending the return of Captain Fazluddin from Aden to Hodeida. The Frenchman is much annoyed at his detention and has written to the British Military Administrator at Kamaran asking him to facilitate his onward journey. I have wired to the Idrisi through the Military Administrator, Kamaran, advising him to allow him to proceed.

ADEN

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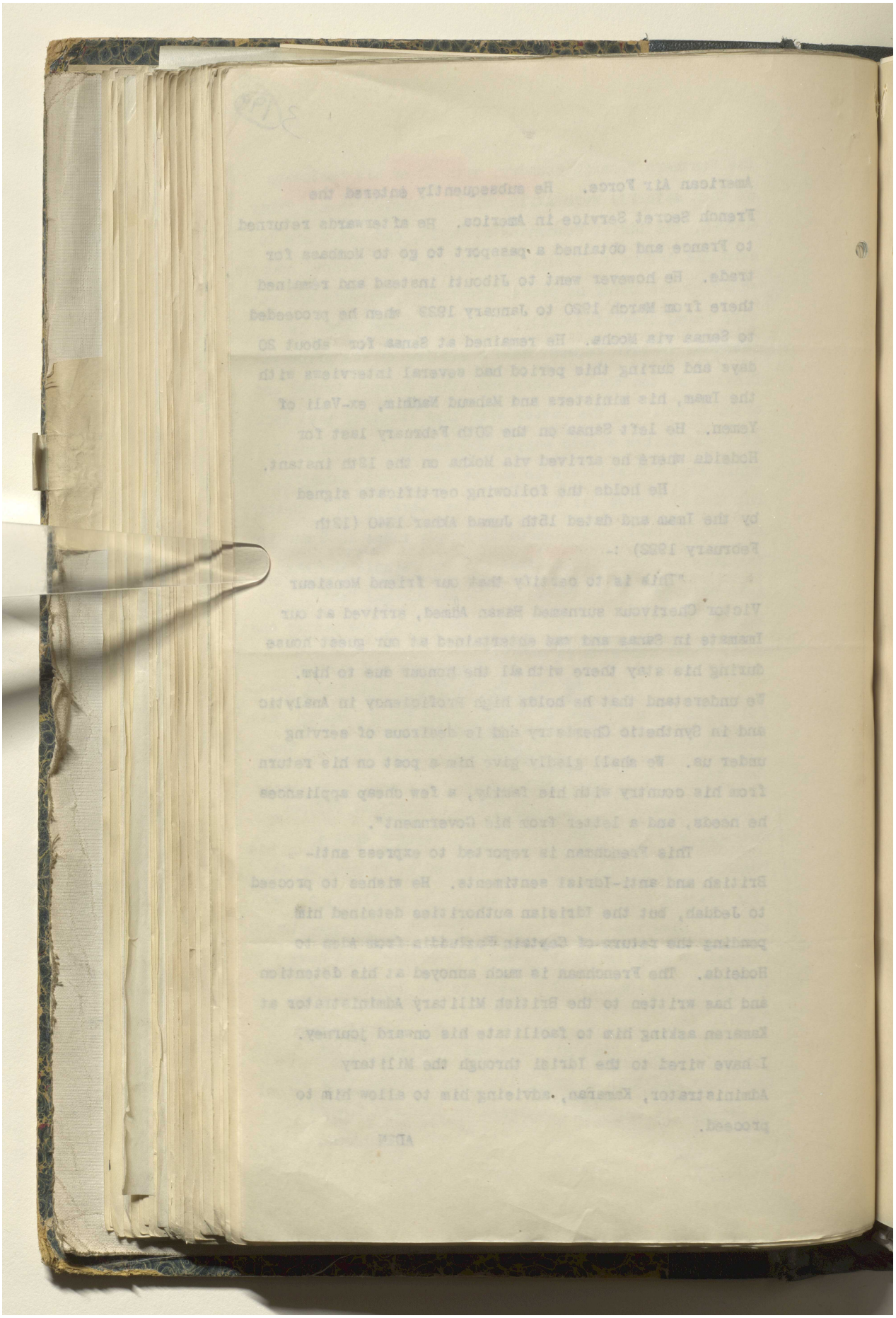

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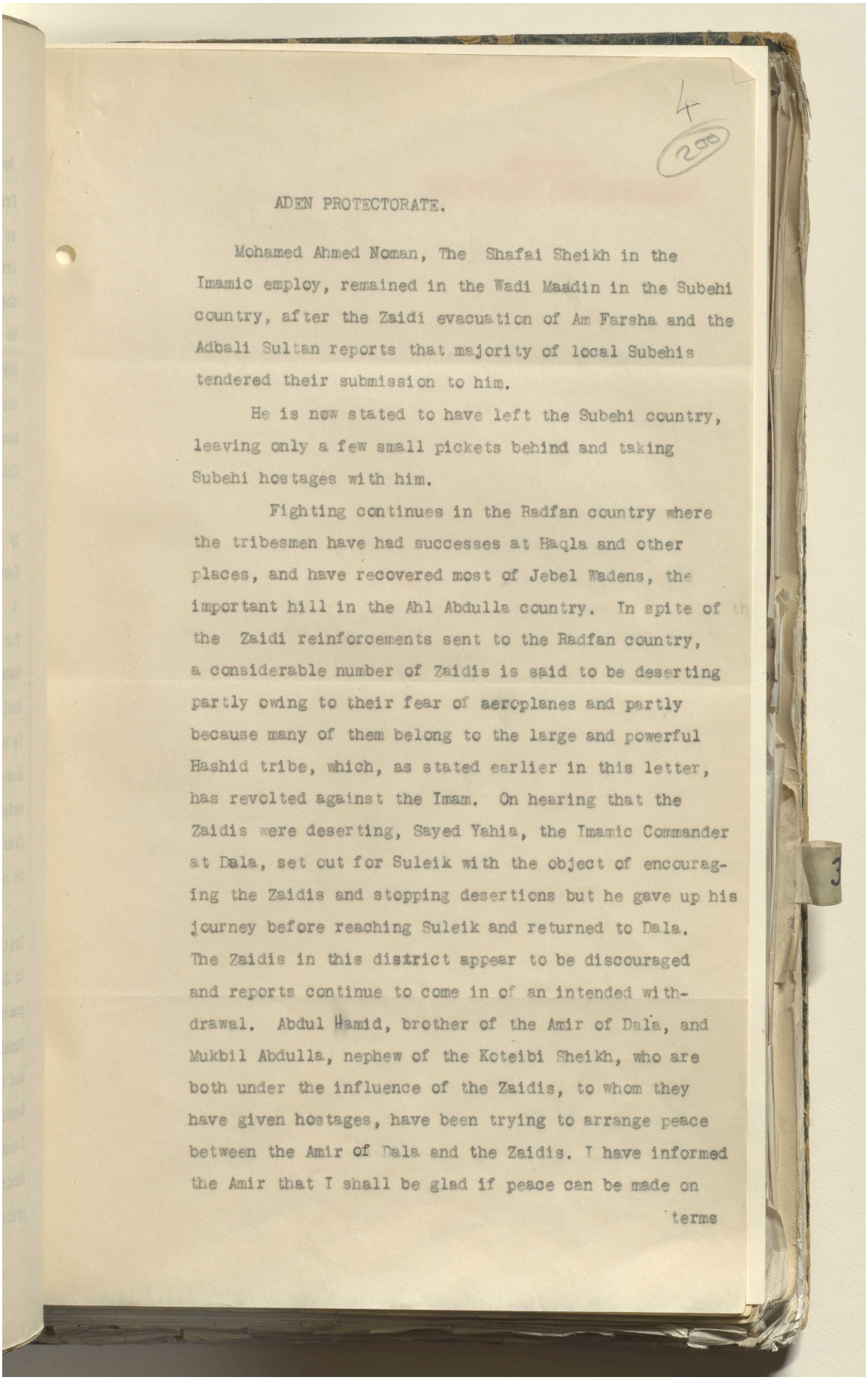

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ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Mohamed Ahmed Noman, The Shafai Sheikh in the Imamic employ, remained in the Wadi Maadin in the Subehi country, after the Zaidi evacuation of Am Farsha and the Adbali Sultan reports that majority of local Subehis tendered their submission to him.

He is now stated to have left the Subehi country, leaving only a few small pickets behind and taking Subehi hostages with him.

Fighting continues in the Radfan country where the tribesmen have had successes at Haqla and other places, and have recovered most of Jebel Wadens, the important hill in the Ahl Abdulla country. In spite of th the Zaidi reinforcements sent to the Radfan country, a considerable number of Zaidis is said to be deserting partly owing to their fear of aeroplanes and partly because many of them belong to the large and powerful Hashid tribe, which, as stated earlier in this letter, has revolted against the Imam. On hearing that the Zaidis were deserting, Sayed Yahia, the Imamic Commander at Dala, set out for Suleik with the object of encouraging the Zaidis and stopping desertions but he gave up his journey before reaching Suleik and returned to Dala. The Zaidis in this district appear to be discouraged and reports continue to come in of an intended withdrawal. Abdul Hamid, brother of the Amir of Dala, and Mukbil Abdulla, nephew of the Koteibi Sheikh, who are both under the influence of the Zaidis, to whom they have given hostages, have been trying to arrange peace between the Amir of Dala and the Zaidis. I have informed the Amir that I shall be glad if peace can be made on

terms

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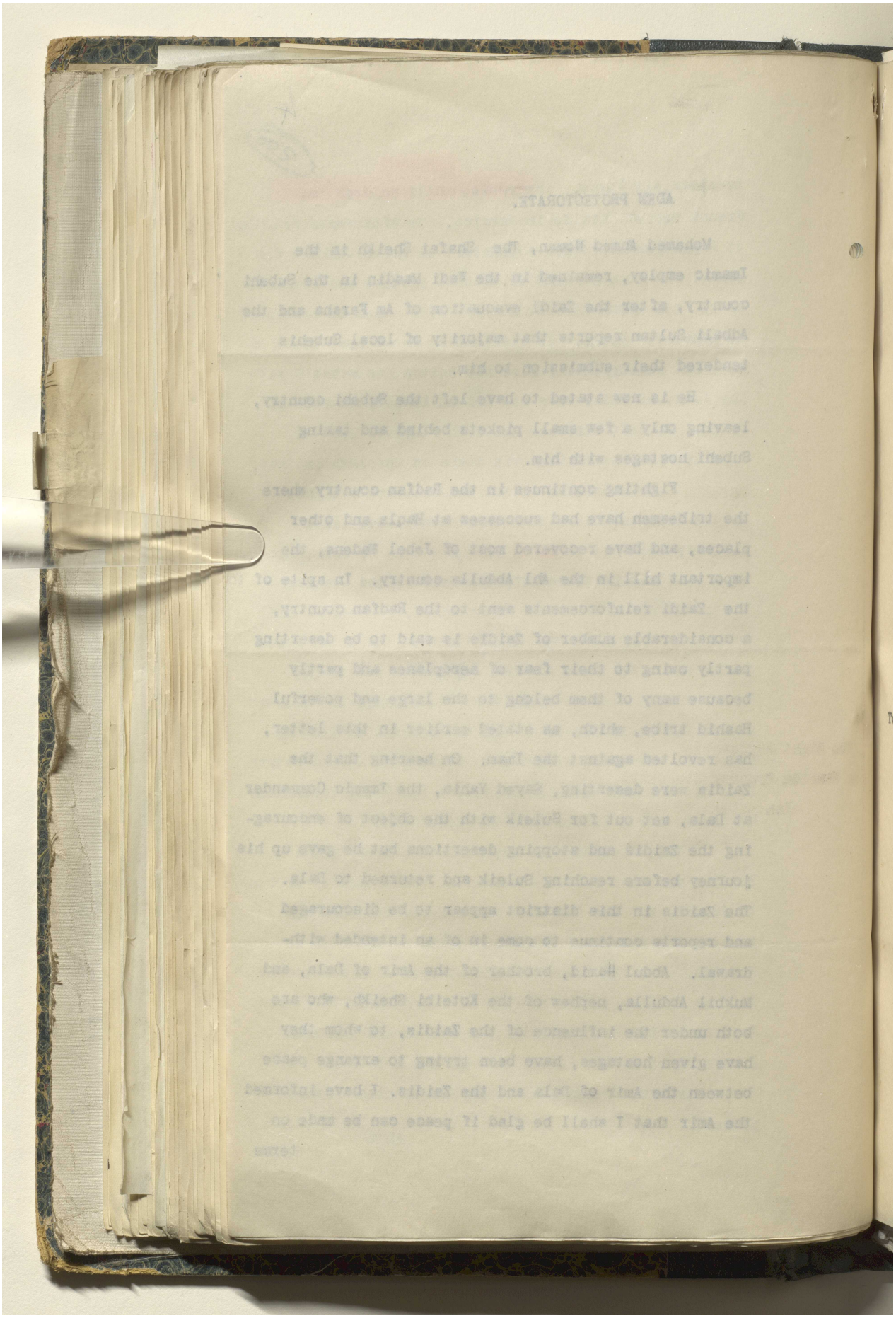

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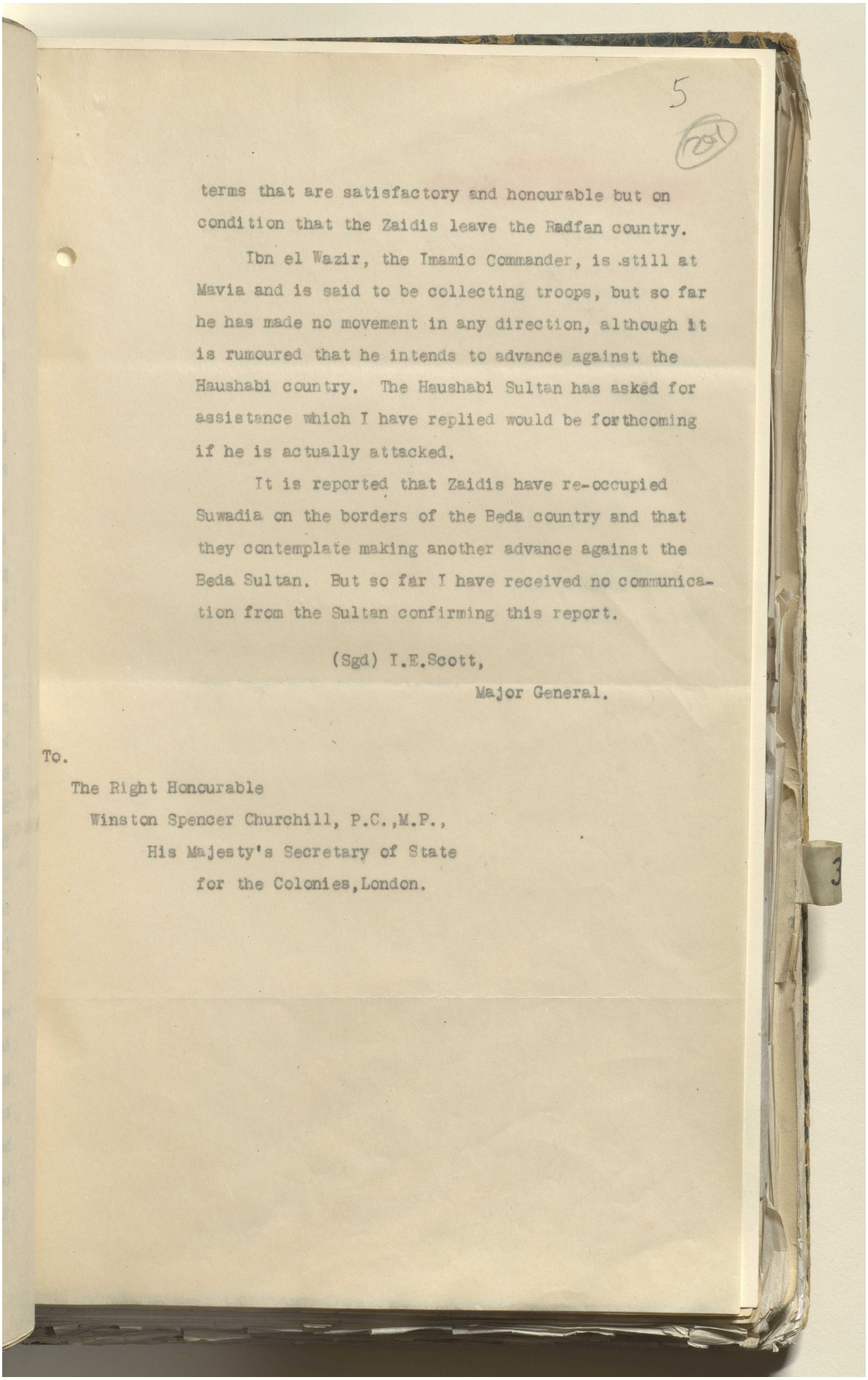

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terms that are satisfactory and honourable but on condition that the Zaidis leave the Radfan country.

Ibn el Wazir, the Imamic Commander, is still at Mavia and is said to be collecting troops, but so far he has made no movement in any direction, although it is rumoured that he intends to advance against the Haushabi country. The Haushabi Sultan has asked for assistance which I have replied would be forthcoming if he is actually attacked.

It is reported that Zaidis have re-occupied Suwadia on the borders of the Beda country and that they contemplate making another advance against the Beda Sultan. But so far I have received no communication from the Sultan confirming this report.

(Sgd) I.E.Scott,
Major General.

To.
The Right Honourable
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C.,M.P.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies,London.

3

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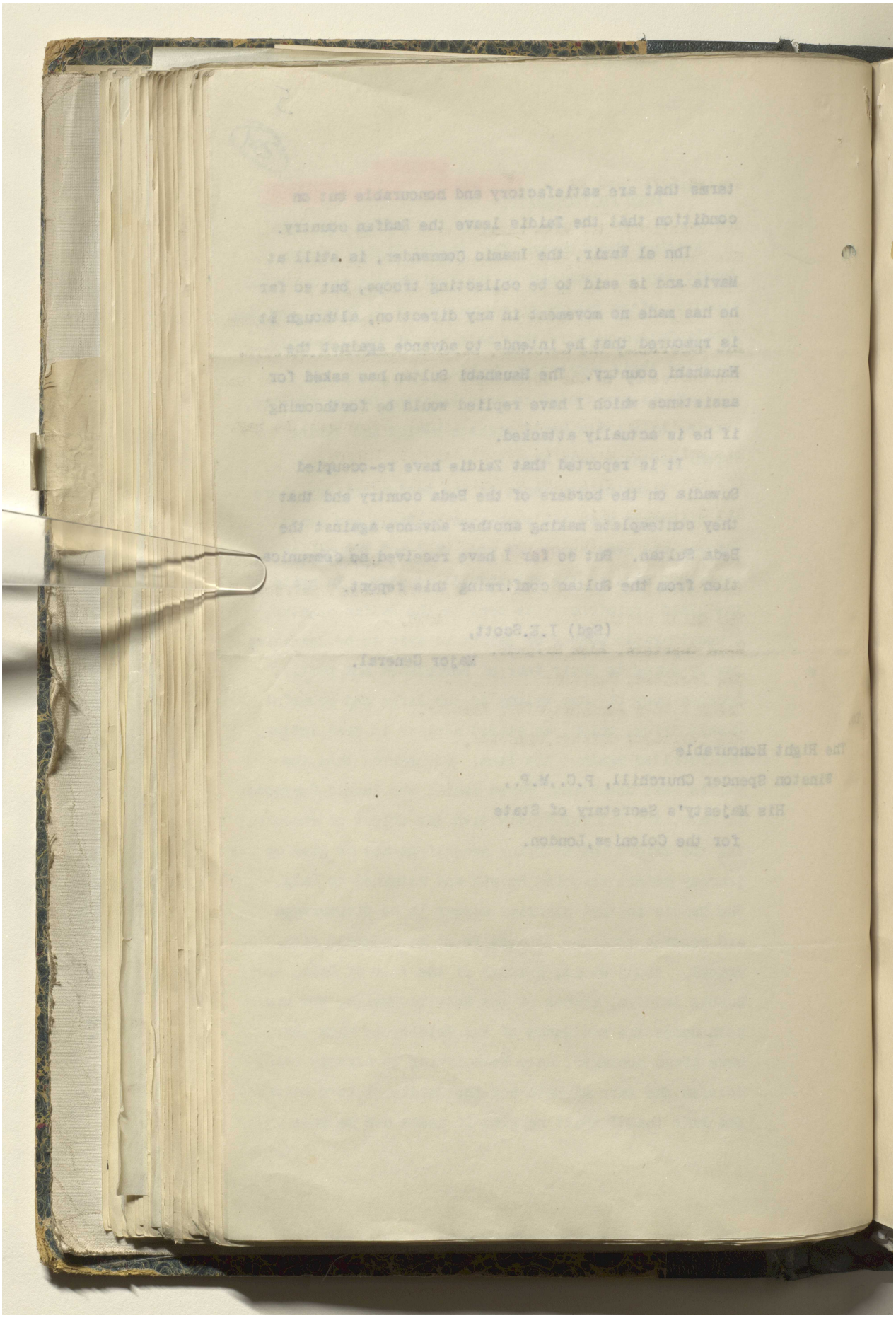

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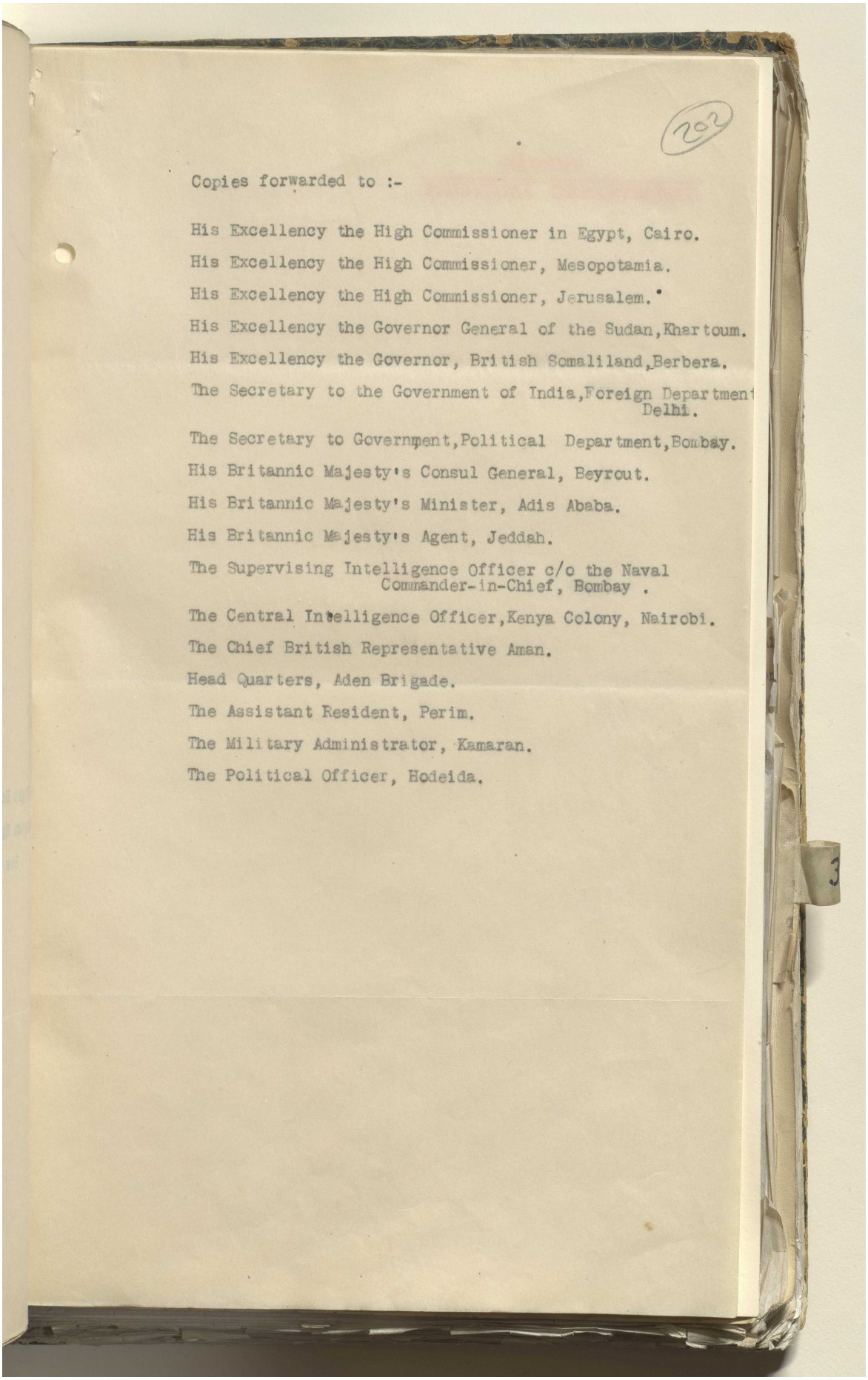

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His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia.
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Jerusalem.
His Excellency the Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department Delhi.
The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa.
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The Central Intelligence Officer, Kenya Colony, Nairobi.
The Chief British Representative Aman.
Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamaran.
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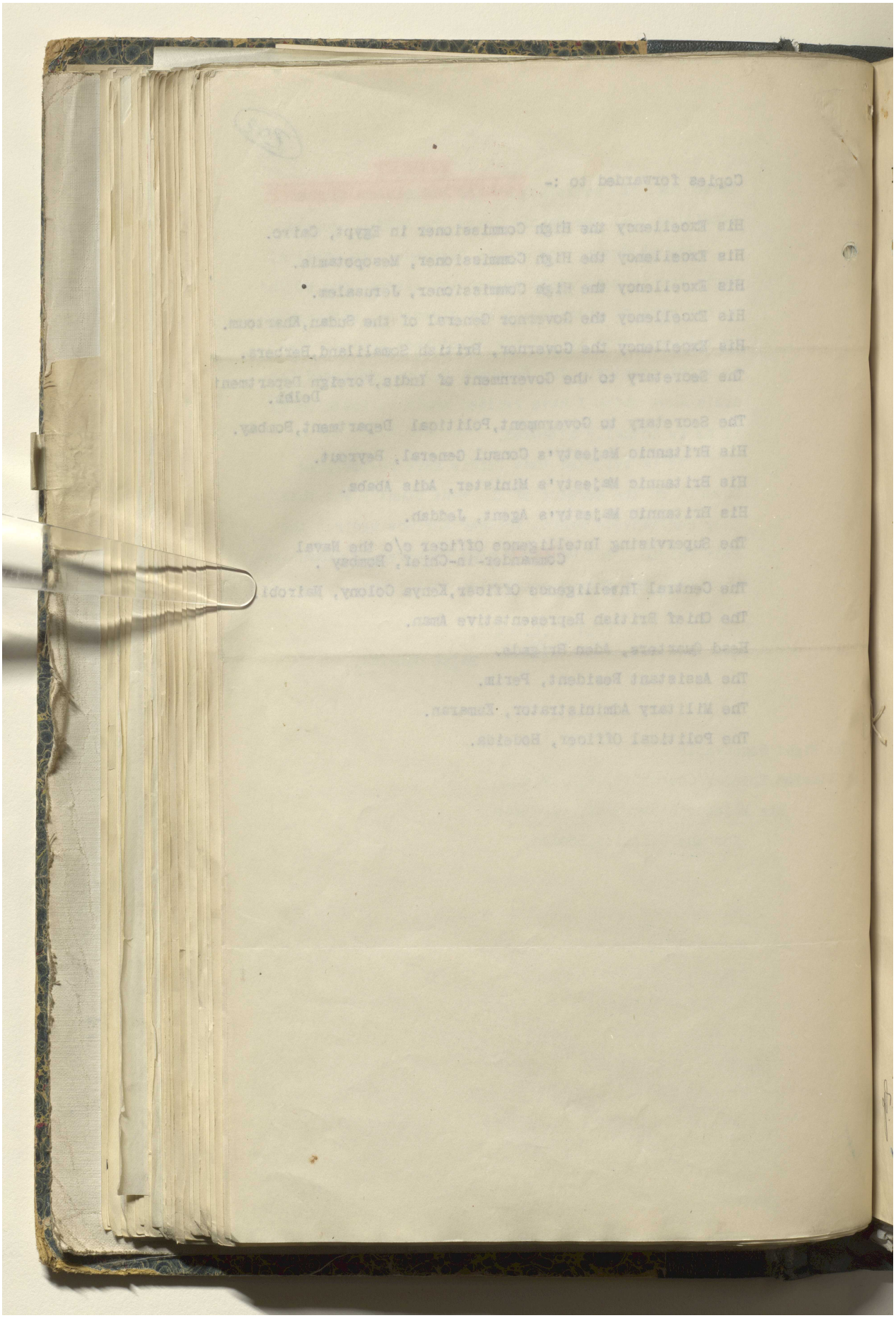

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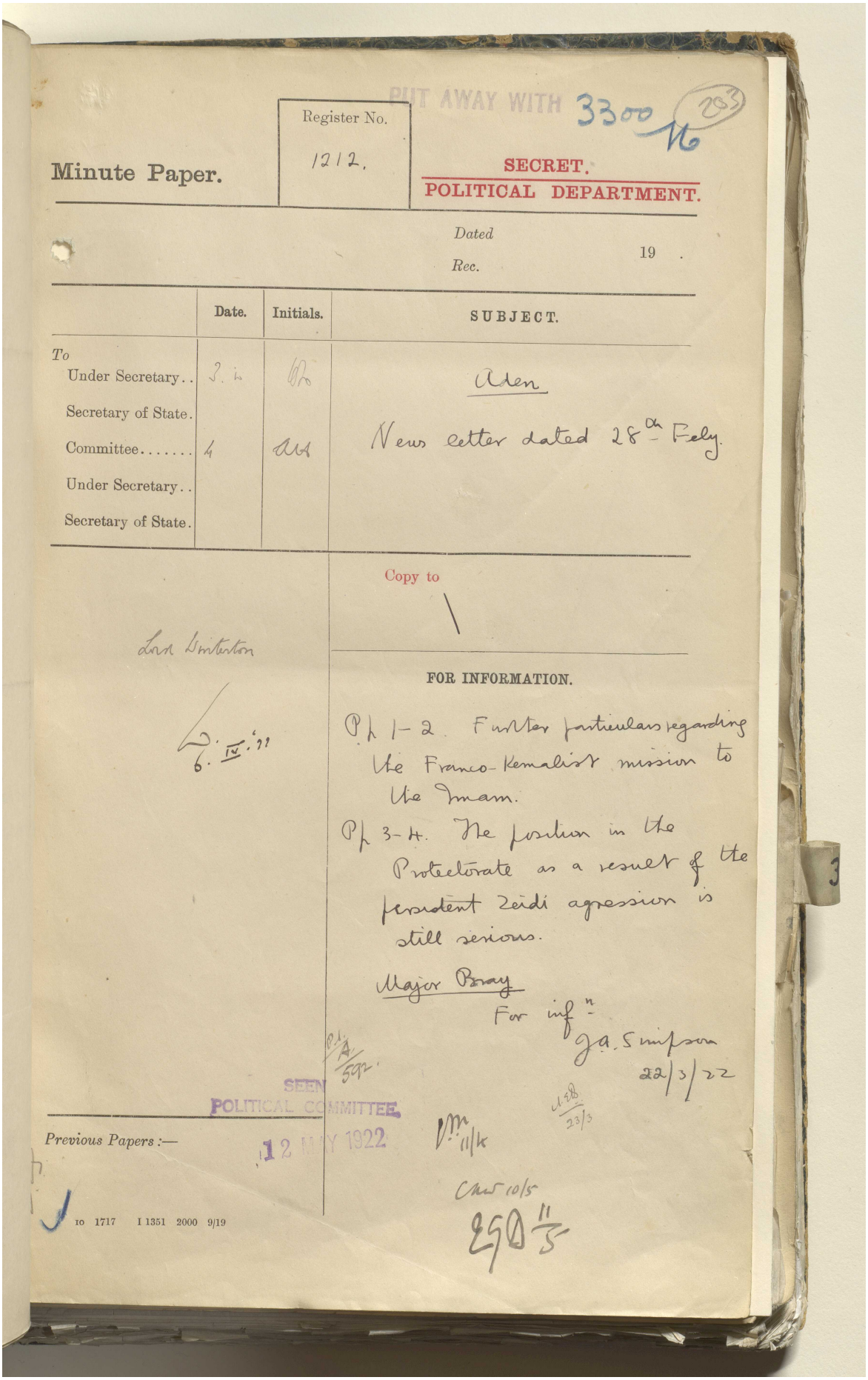

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 1212.

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
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	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..	3. iv	[illegible]	Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	4	[illegible]	News letter dated 28th Feby.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

Lord Winterton

6. IV. '22

FOR INFORMATION.

Pp 1-2. Further particulars regarding the Franco-Kemalist mission to the Imam.

Pp 3-4. The position in the Protectorate as a result of the persistent Zeidi agression is still serious.

Major Bray

For infn

G.A. Simpson
22/3/22

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
12 MAY 1922

Previous Papers :—

10 1717 I 1351 2000 9/19

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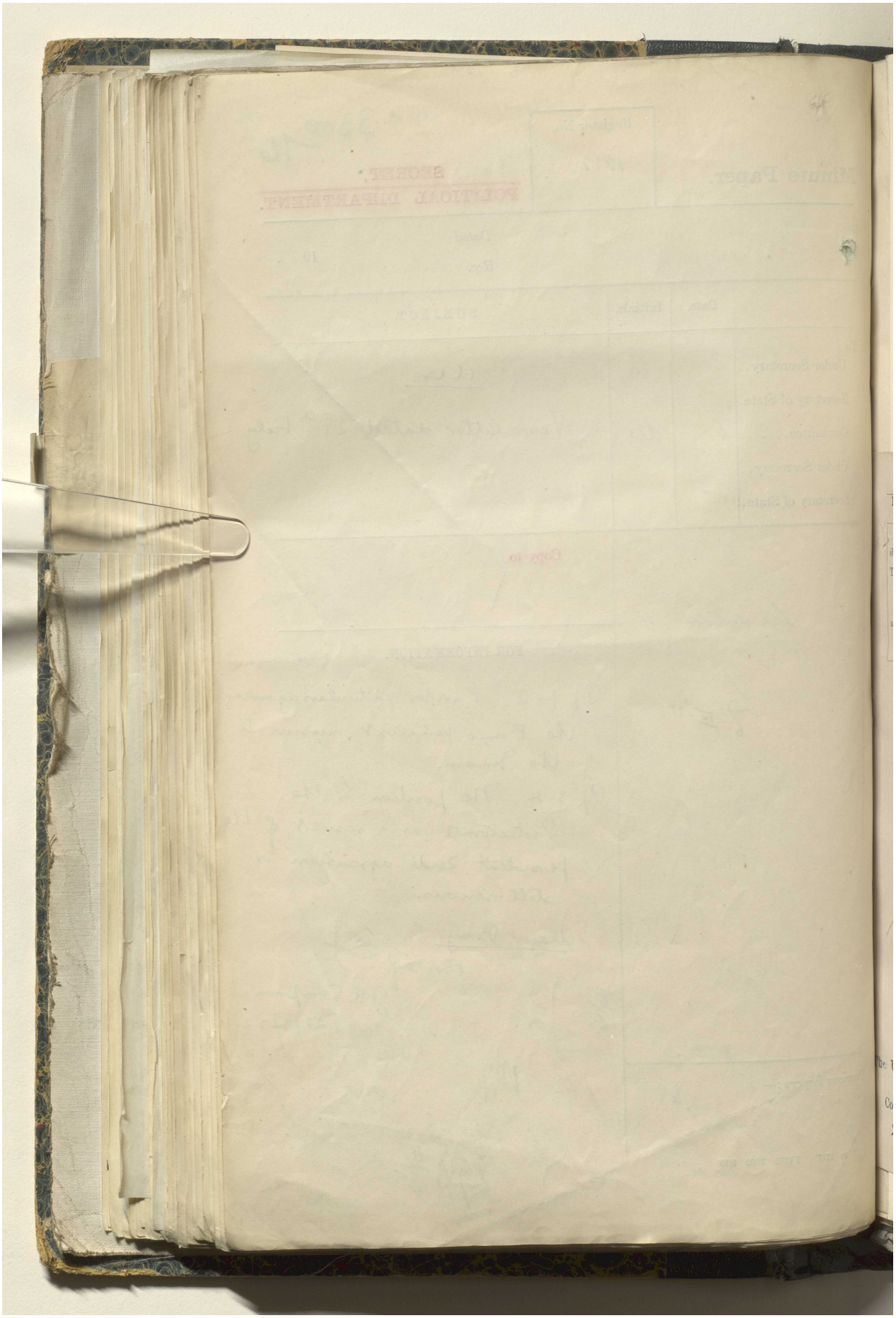

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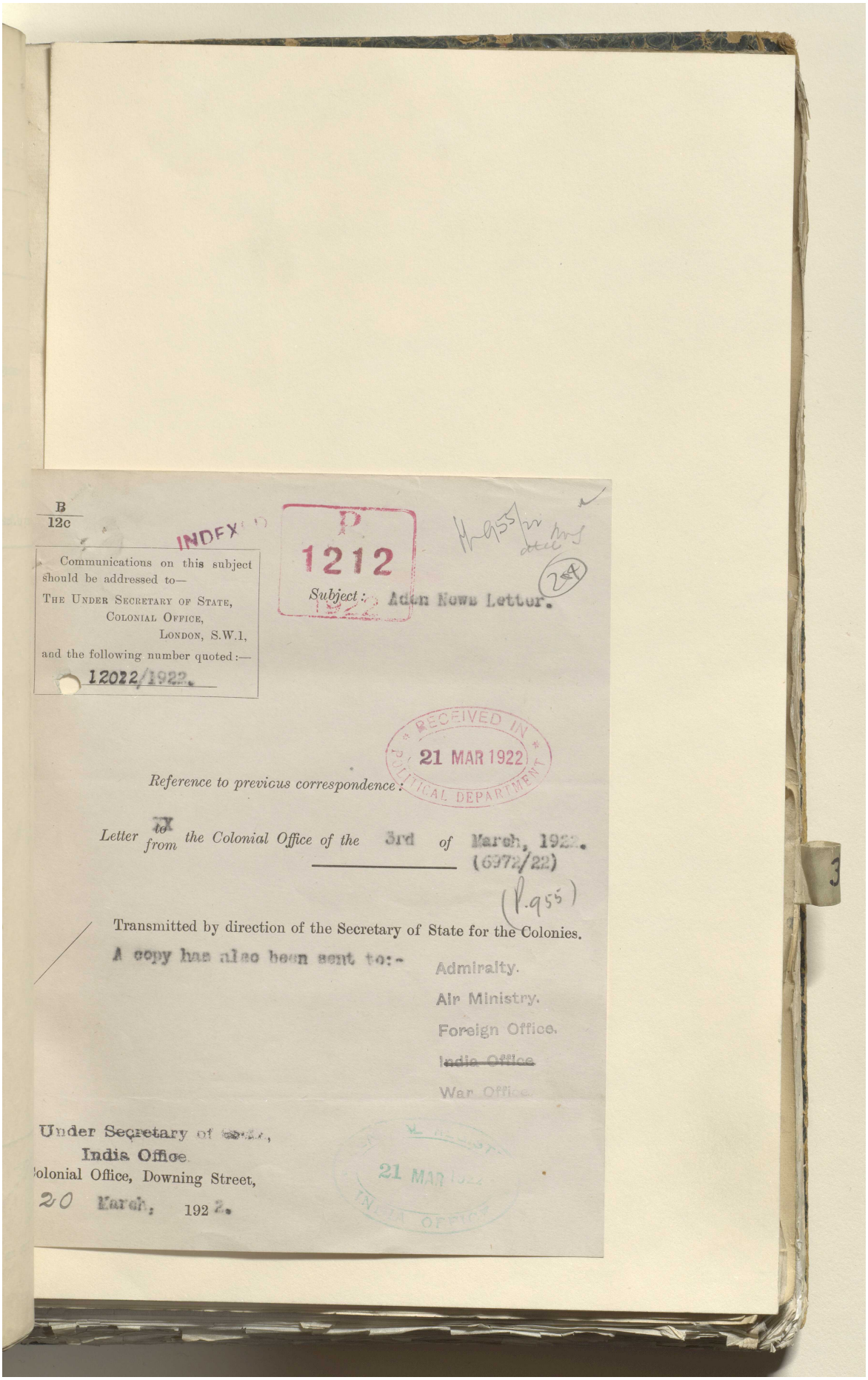

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INDEX

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
12022/1922.

P
1212

Subject: Aden News Letter.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
21 MAR 1922

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 3rd *of* March, 1922.
(6372/22)

(P.955)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to:-

Admiralty.
Air Ministry.
Foreign Office.
~~India Office~~
War Office.

Under Secretary of State,
India Office.
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
20 March, 1922.

21 MAR 1922
INDIA OFFICE

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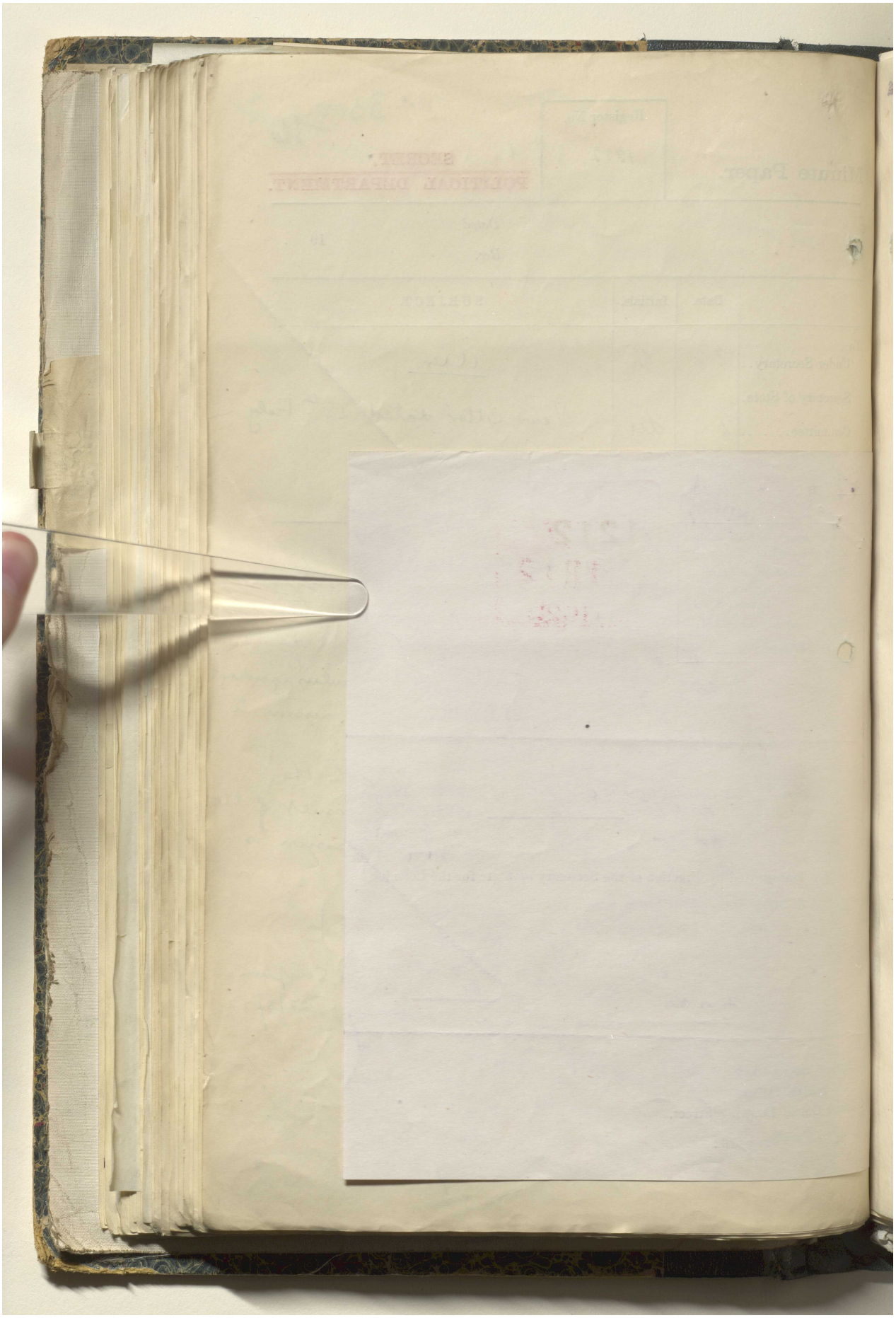

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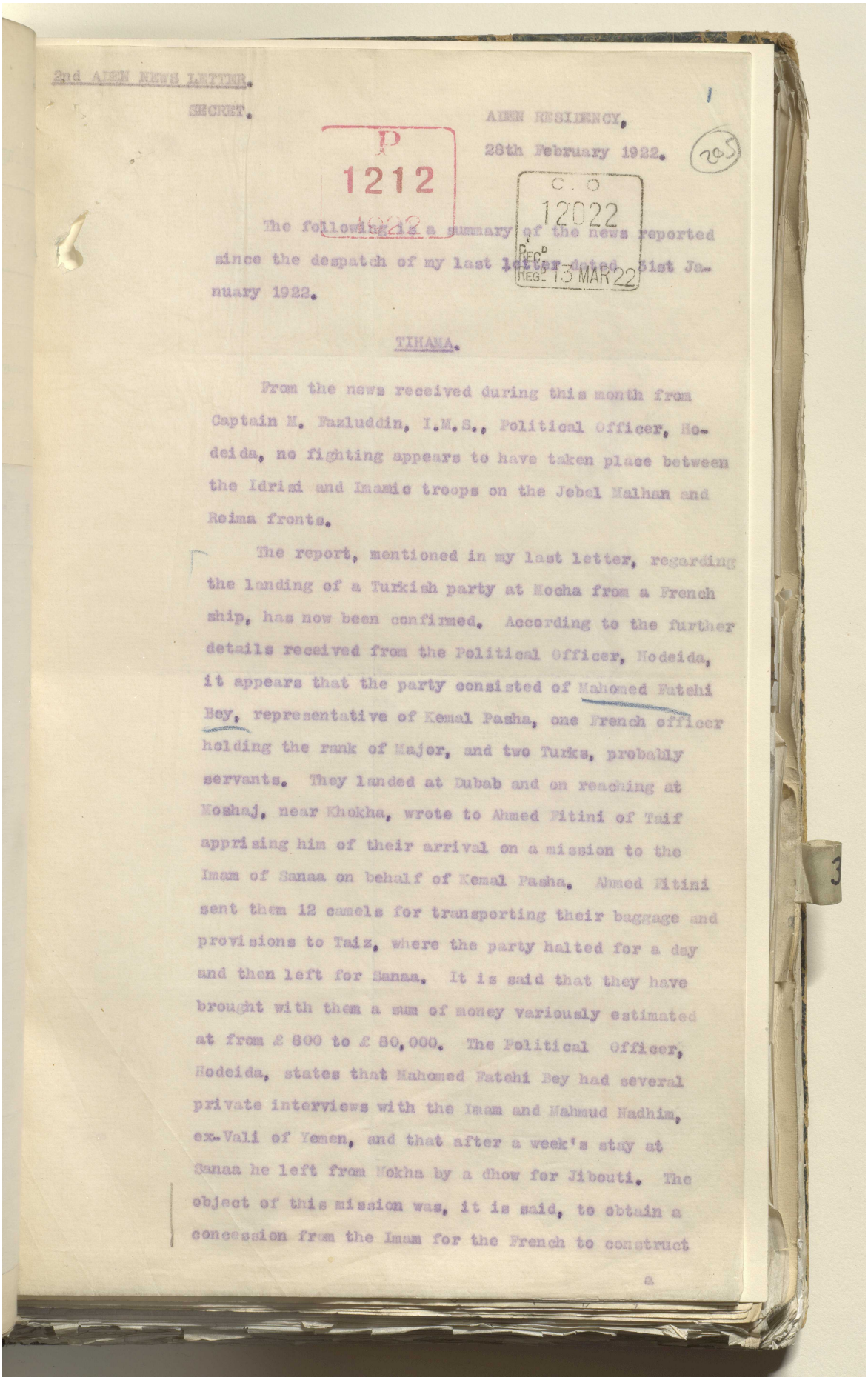

2nd ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
28th February 1922.

205

P
1212
1922

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12022
REC'D
REG. 13 MAR 22

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 31st January 1922.

TIHAMA.

From the news received during this month from Captain M. Fazluddin, I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeida, no fighting appears to have taken place between the Idrisi and Imamic troops on the Jebel Malhan and Reima fronts.

The report, mentioned in my last letter, regarding the landing of a Turkish party at Mocha from a French ship, has now been confirmed. According to the further details received from the Political Officer, Hodeida, it appears that the party consisted of Mahomed Fatehi Bey, representative of Kemal Pasha, one French officer holding the rank of Major, and two Turks, probably servants. They landed at Dubab and on reaching at Moshaj, near Khokha, wrote to Ahmed Fitini of Taif apprising him of their arrival on a mission to the Imam of Sanaa on behalf of Kemal Pasha. Ahmed Fitini sent them 12 camels for transporting their baggage and provisions to Taiz, where the party halted for a day and then left for Sanaa. It is said that they have brought with them a sum of money variously estimated at from £ 800 to £ 80,000. The Political Officer, Hodeida, states that Mahomed Fatehi Bey had several private interviews with the Imam and Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen, and that after a week's stay at Sanaa he left from Mokha by a dhow for Jibouti. The object of this mission was, it is said, to obtain a concession from the Imam for the French to construct

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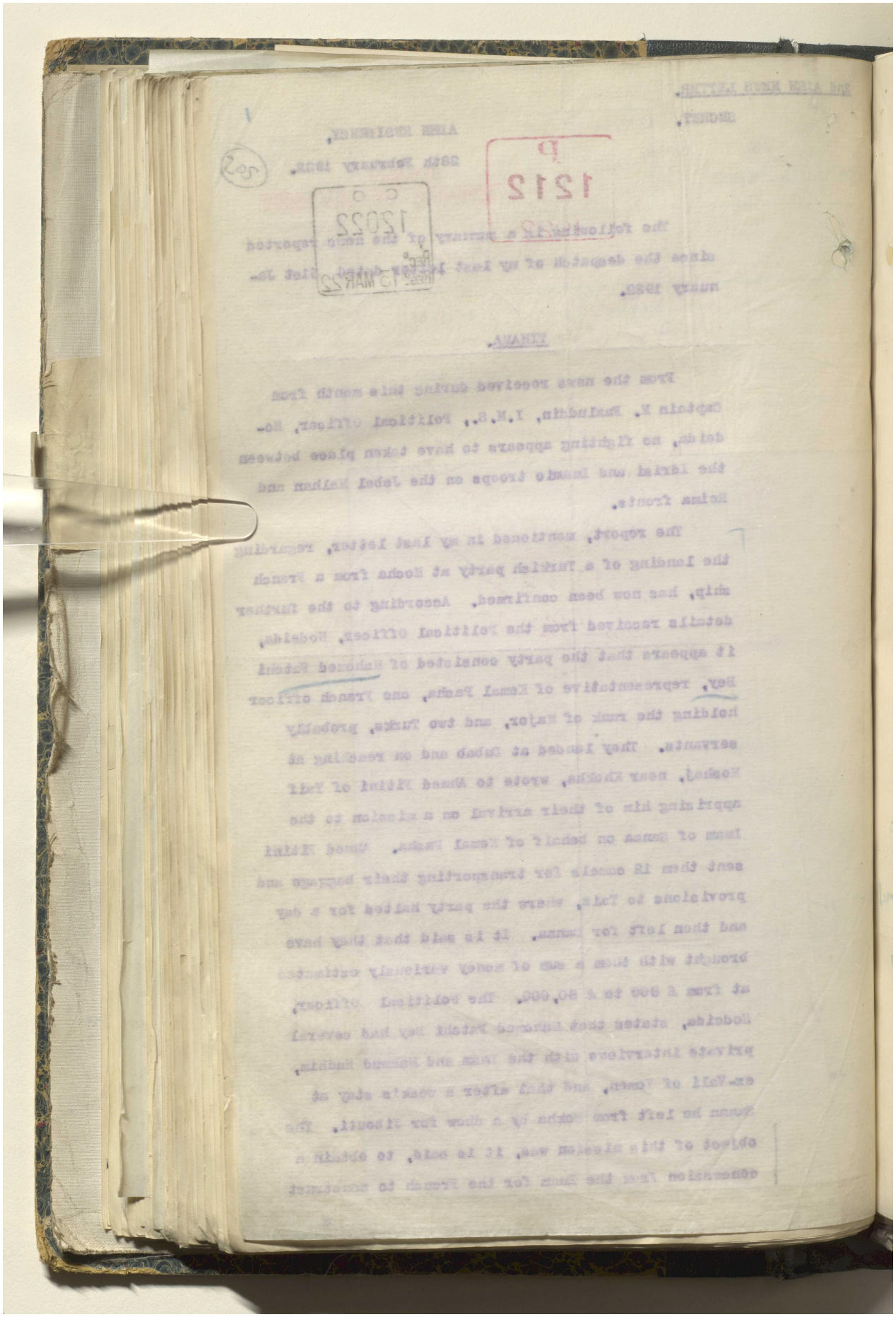

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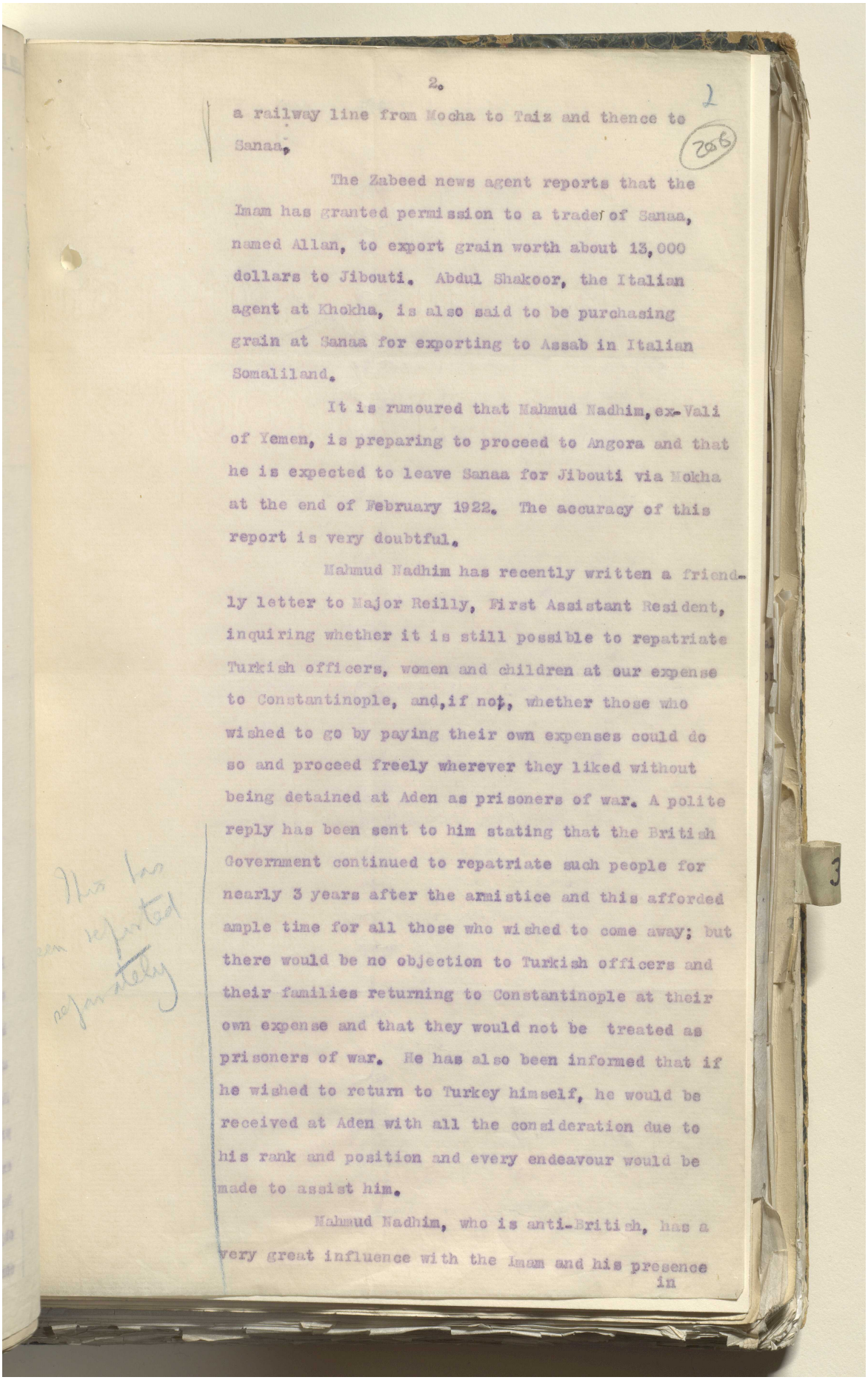

a railway line from Mocha to Taiz and thence to Sanaa.

The Zabeed news agent reports that the Imam has granted permission to a trader of Sanaa, named Allan, to export grain worth about 13,000 dollars to Jibouti. Abdul Shakoor, the Italian agent at Khokha, is also said to be purchasing grain at Sanaa for exporting to Assab in Italian Somaliland.

It is rumoured that Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen, is preparing to proceed to Angora and that he is expected to leave Sanaa for Jibouti via Mokha at the end of February 1922. The accuracy of this report is very doubtful.

Mahmud Nadhim has recently written a friendly letter to Major Reilly, First Assistant Resident, inquiring whether it is still possible to repatriate Turkish officers, women and children at our expense to Constantinople, and, if not, whether those who wished to go by paying their own expenses could do so and proceed freely wherever they liked without being detained at Aden as prisoners of war. A polite reply has been sent to him stating that the British Government continued to repatriate such people for nearly 3 years after the armistice and this afforded ample time for all those who wished to come away; but there would be no objection to Turkish officers and their families returning to Constantinople at their own expense and that they would not be treated as prisoners of war. He has also been informed that if he wished to return to Turkey himself, he would be received at Aden with all the consideration due to his rank and position and every endeavour would be made to assist him.

Mahmud Nadhim, who is anti-British, has a very great influence with the Imam and his presence in

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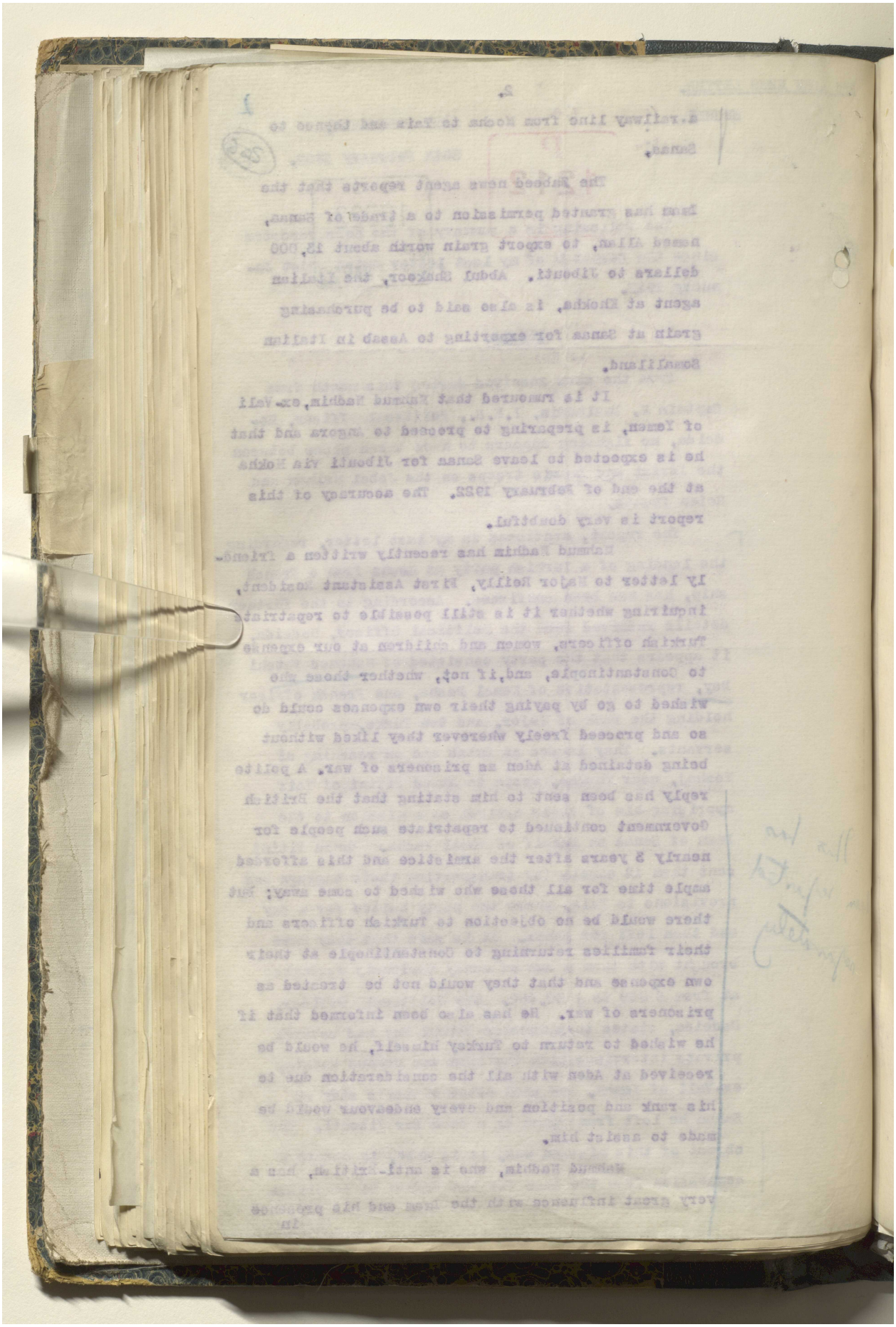

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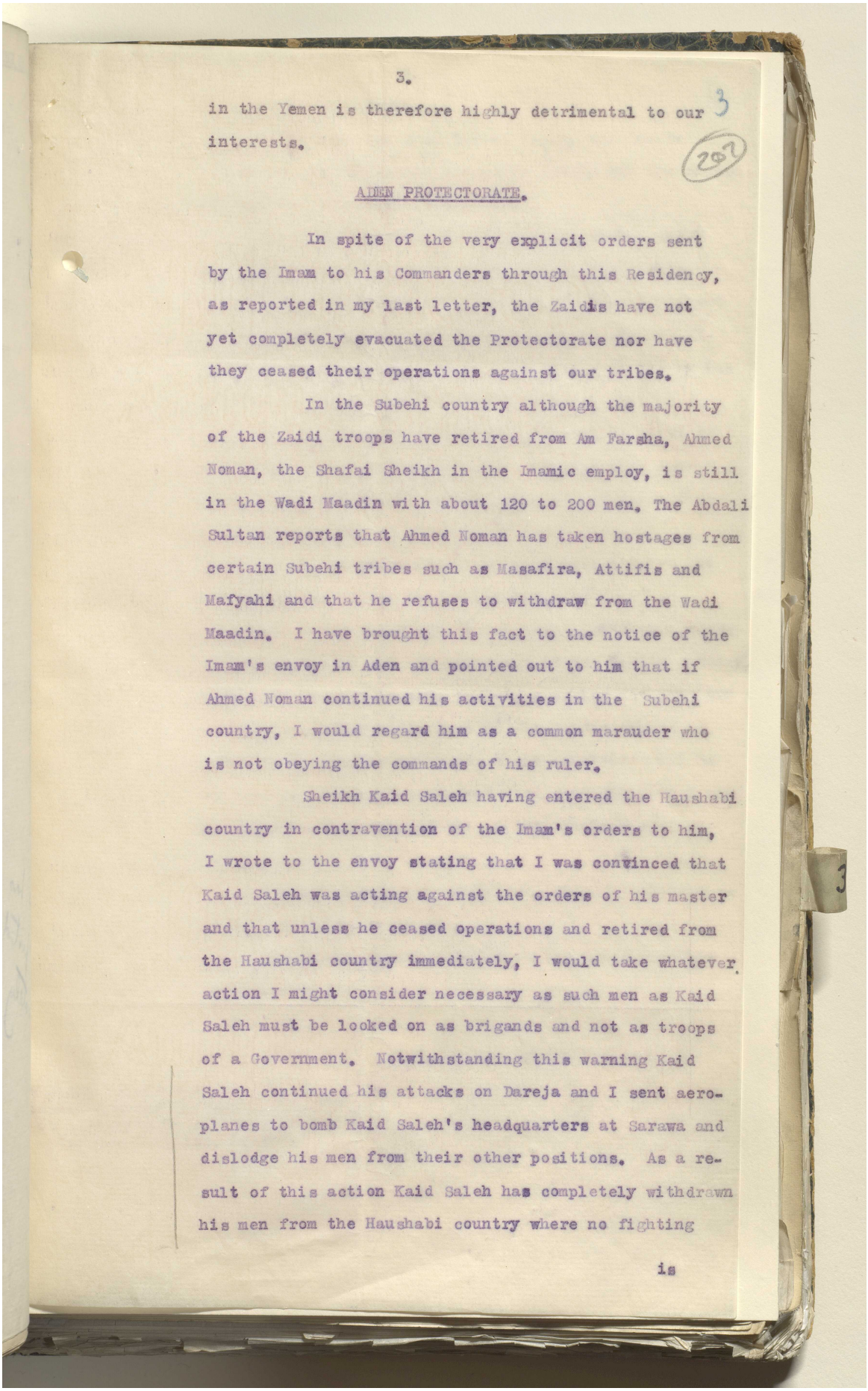

in the Yemen is therefore highly detrimental to our interests.

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ADEN PROTECTORATE.

In spite of the very explicit orders sent by the Imam to his Commanders through this Residency, as reported in my last letter, the Zaidis have not yet completely evacuated the Protectorate nor have they ceased their operations against our tribes.

In the Subehi country although the majority of the Zaidi troops have retired from Am Farsha, Ahmed Noman, the Shafai Sheikh in the Imamic employ, is still in the Wadi Maadin with about 120 to 200 men. The Abdali Sultan reports that Ahmed Noman has taken hostages from certain Subehi tribes such as Masafira, Attifis and Mafyahi and that he refuses to withdraw from the Wadi Maadin. I have brought this fact to the notice of the Imam's envoy in Aden and pointed out to him that if Ahmed Noman continued his activities in the Subehi country, I would regard him as a common marauder who is not obeying the commands of his ruler.

Sheikh Kaid Saleh having entered the Haushabi country in contravention of the Imam's orders to him, I wrote to the envoy stating that I was convinced that Kaid Saleh was acting against the orders of his master and that unless he ceased operations and retired from the Haushabi country immediately, I would take whatever action I might consider necessary as such men as Kaid Saleh must be looked on as brigands and not as troops of a Government. Notwithstanding this warning Kaid Saleh continued his attacks on Dareja and I sent aeroplanes to bomb Kaid Saleh's headquarters at Sarawa and dislodge his men from their other positions. As a result of this action Kaid Saleh has completely withdrawn his men from the Haushabi country where no fighting

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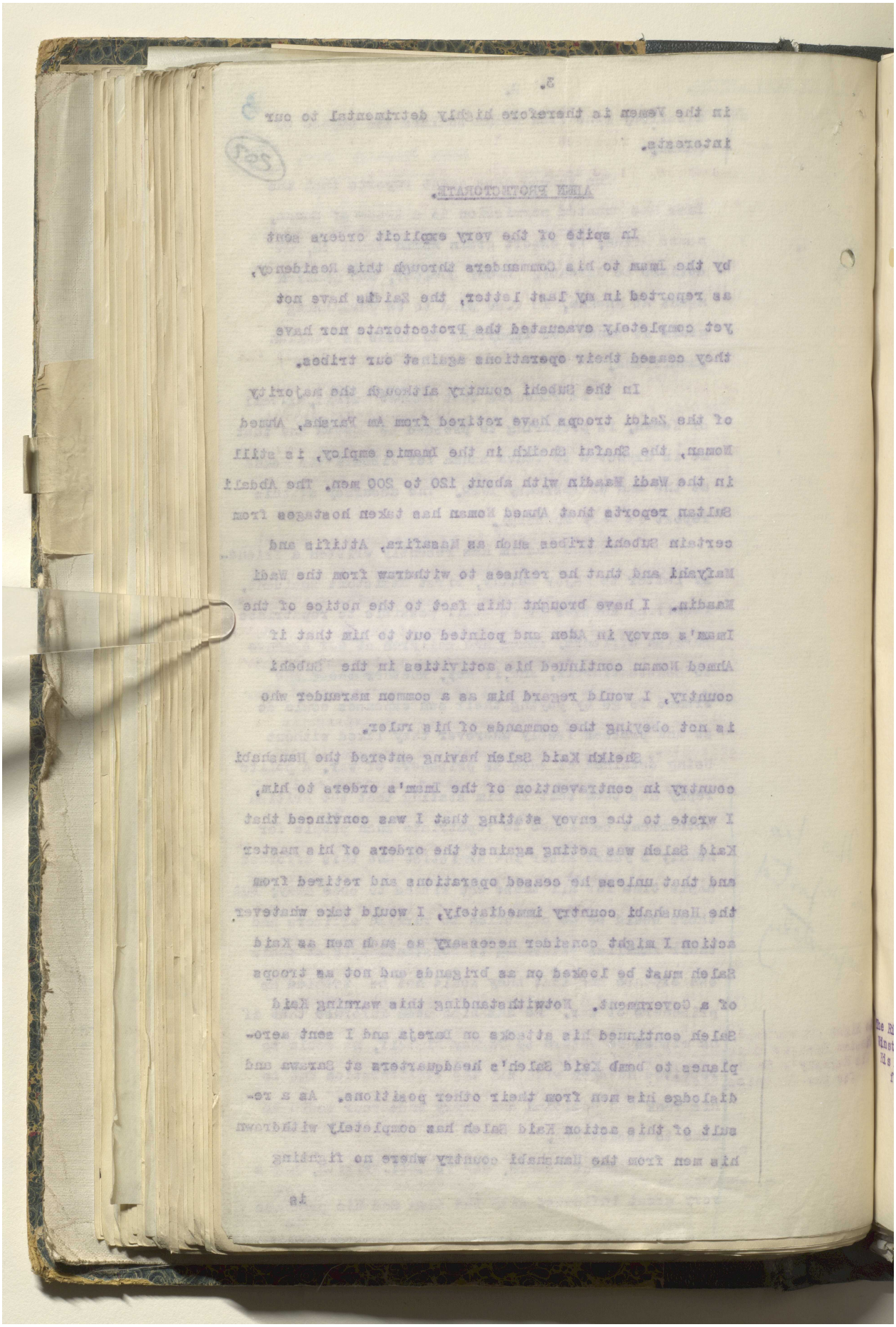

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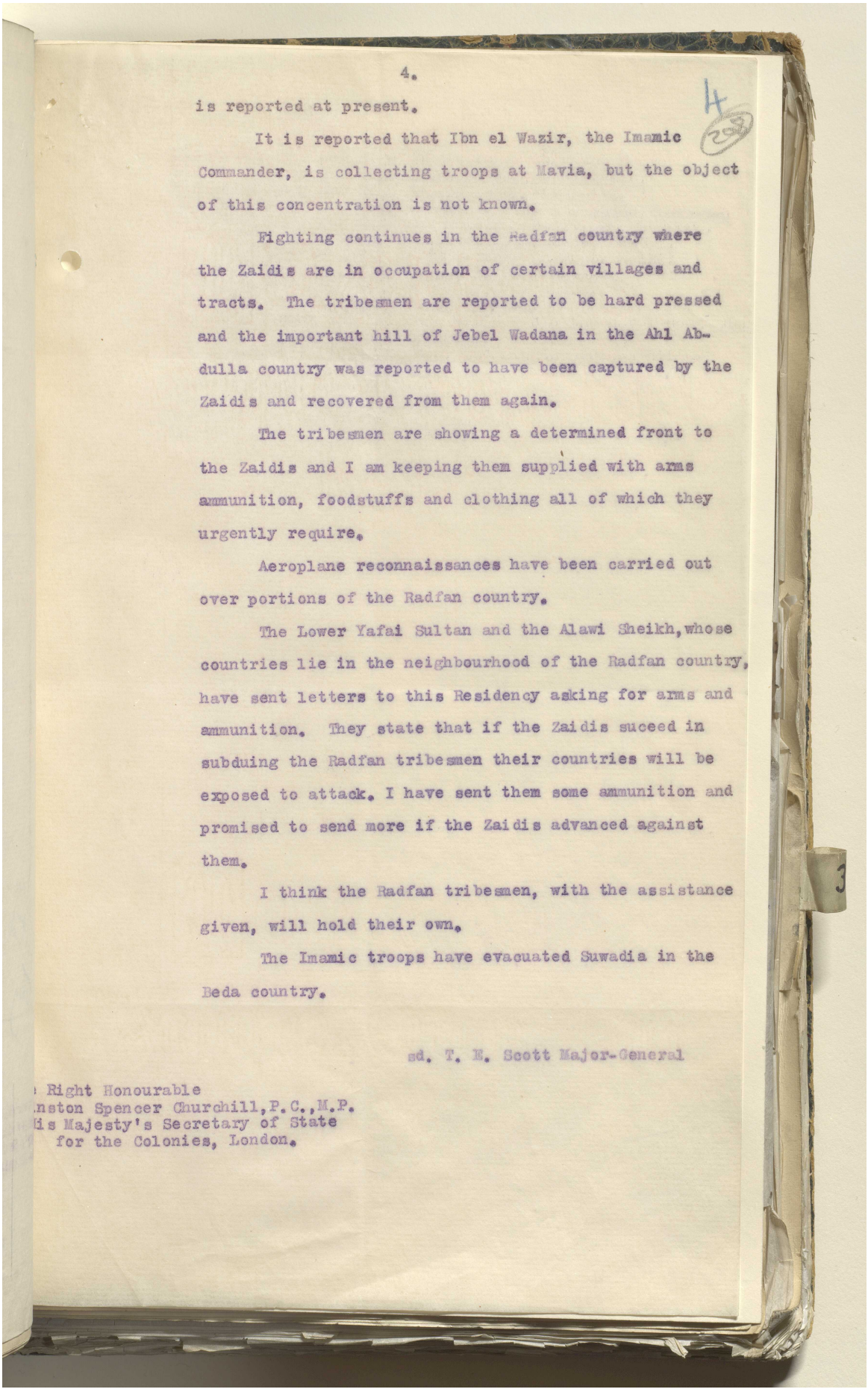

is reported at present.

It is reported that Ibn el Wazir, the Imamic Commander, is collecting troops at Mavia, but the object of this concentration is not known.

Fighting continues in the Radfan country where the Zaidis are in occupation of certain villages and tracts. The tribesmen are reported to be hard pressed and the important hill of Jebel Wadana in the Ahl Abdulla country was reported to have been captured by the Zaidis and recovered from them again.

The tribesmen are showing a determined front to the Zaidis and I am keeping them supplied with arms ammunition, foodstuffs and clothing all of which they urgently require.

Aeroplane reconnaissances have been carried out over portions of the Radfan country.

The Lower Yafai Sultan and the Alawi Sheikh, whose countries lie in the neighbourhood of the Radfan country, have sent letters to this Residency asking for arms and ammunition. They state that if the Zaidis suceed in subduing the Radfan tribesmen their countries will be exposed to attack. I have sent them some ammunition and promised to send more if the Zaidis advanced against them.

I think the Radfan tribesmen, with the assistance given, will hold their own.

The Imamic troops have evacuated Suwadia in the Beda country.

sd. T. H. Scott Major-General

e Right Honourable
.nston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.

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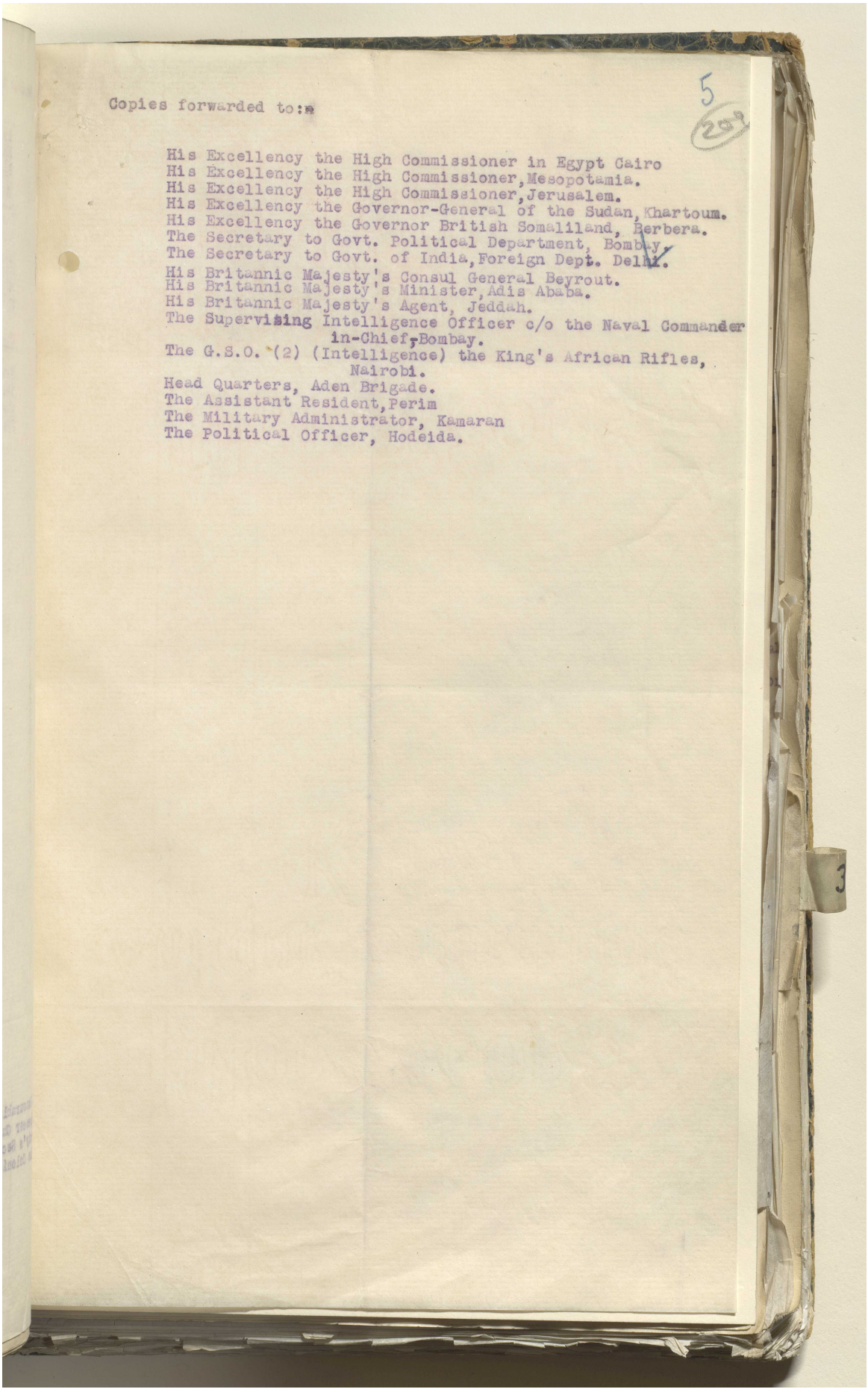

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His Excellency the Governor British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to Govt. Political Department, Bombay.
The Secretary to Govt. of India, Foreign Dept. Delhi.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General Beyrout.
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa.
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander in-Chief, Bombay.
The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi.
Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.
The Assistant Resident, Perim
The Military Administrator, Kamaran
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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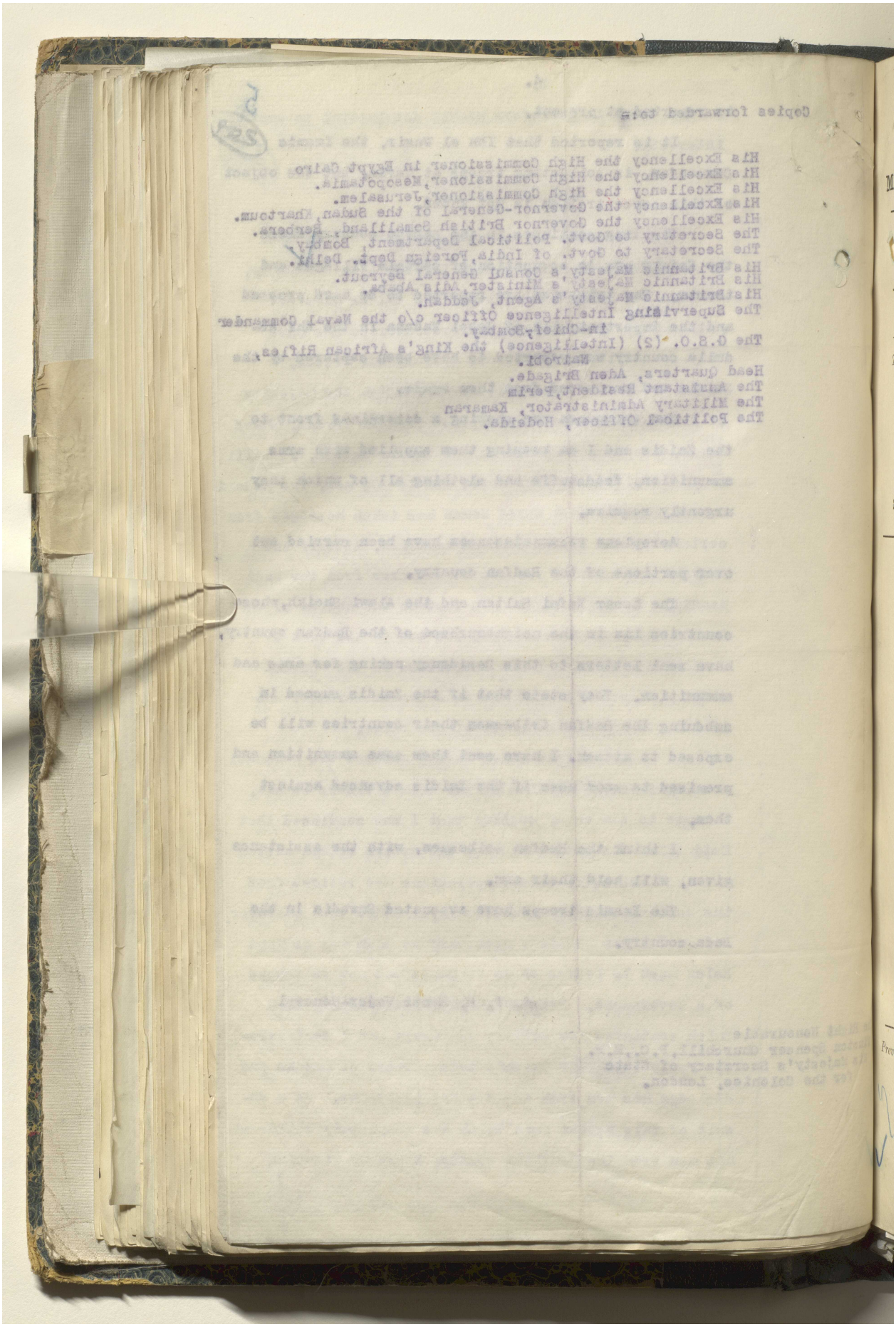

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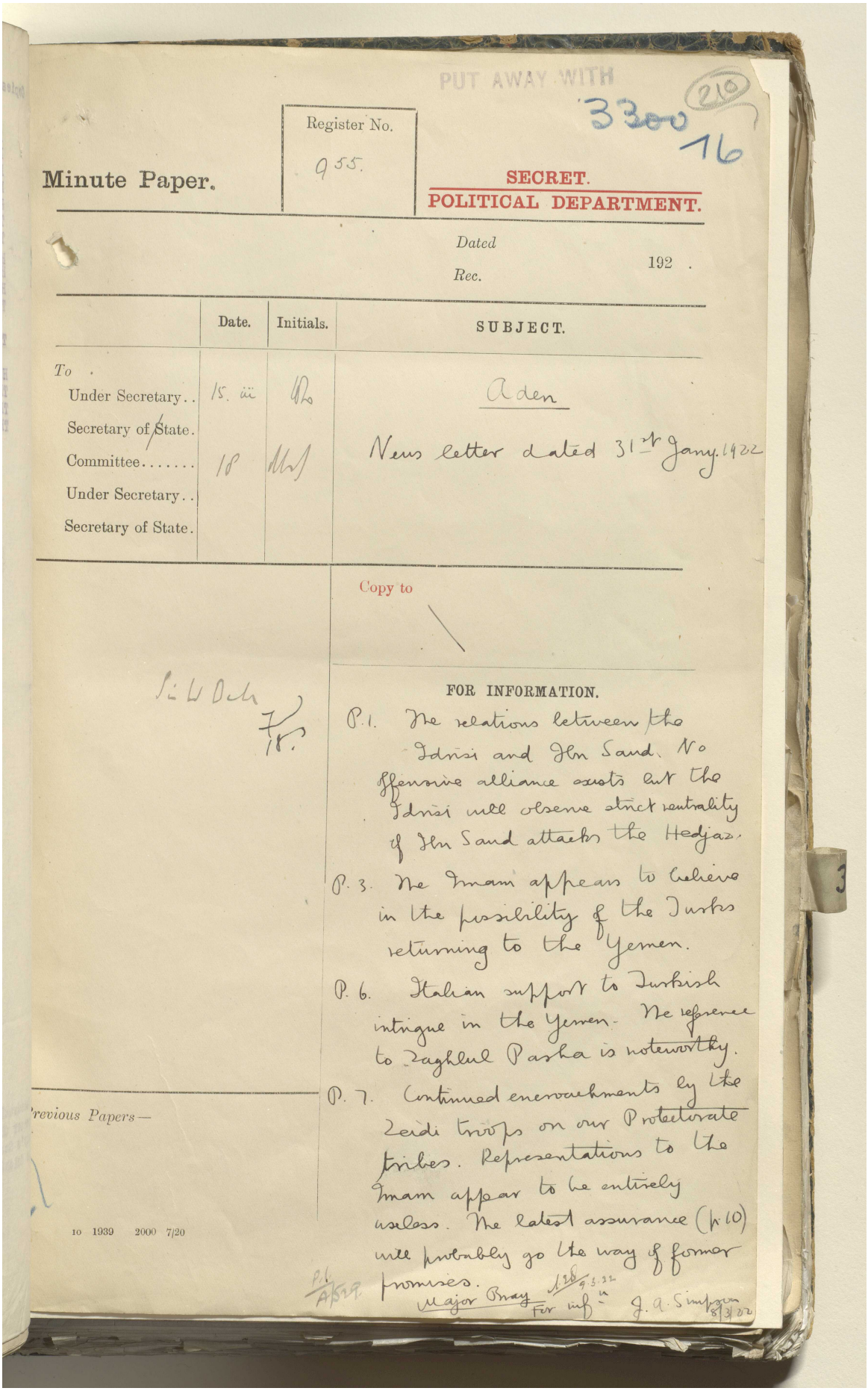

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 955.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To .			
Under Secretary..	15. iii	[illegible]	Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	18	[illegible]	News letter dated 31st Jany. 1922
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

S. L. Dick 7/18.

FOR INFORMATION.

P. 1. The relations between the Idrisi and Ibn Saud. No offensive alliance exists but the Idrisi will observe strict neutrality if Ibn Saud attacks the Hedjaz.

P. 3. The Imam appears to believe in the possibility of the Turks returning to the Yemen.

P. 6. Italian support to Turkish intrigue in the Yemen. No reference to Zaghlul Pasha is noteworthy.

P. 7. Continued encroachments by the Zaidi troops on our Protectorate tribes. Representations to the Imam appear to be entirely useless. The latest assurance (p 10) will probably go the way of former promises.

Major Bray 9.3.22
For inf[illegible] J. A. Simpson 8/3/22

Previous Papers—

10 1939 2000 7/20

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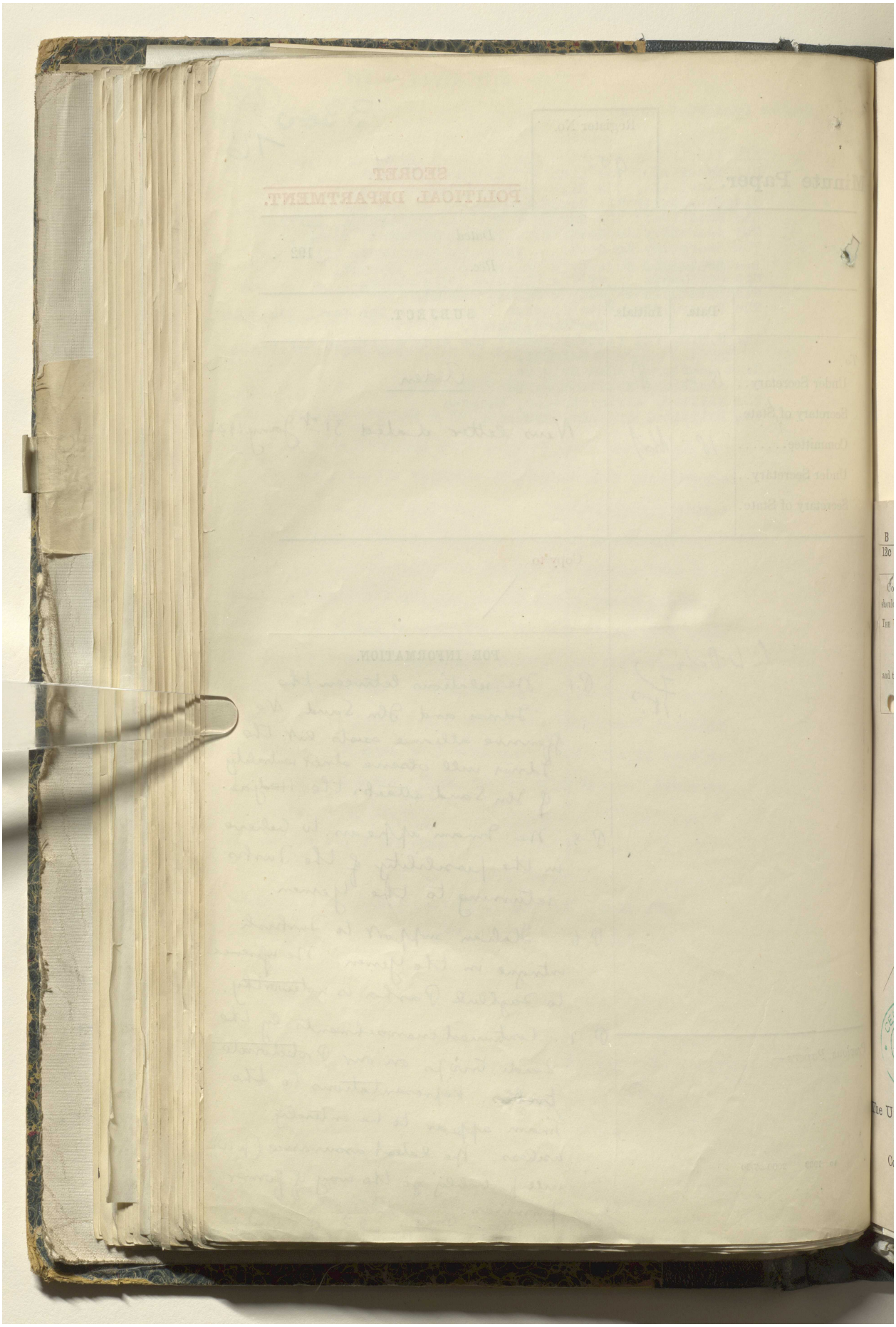

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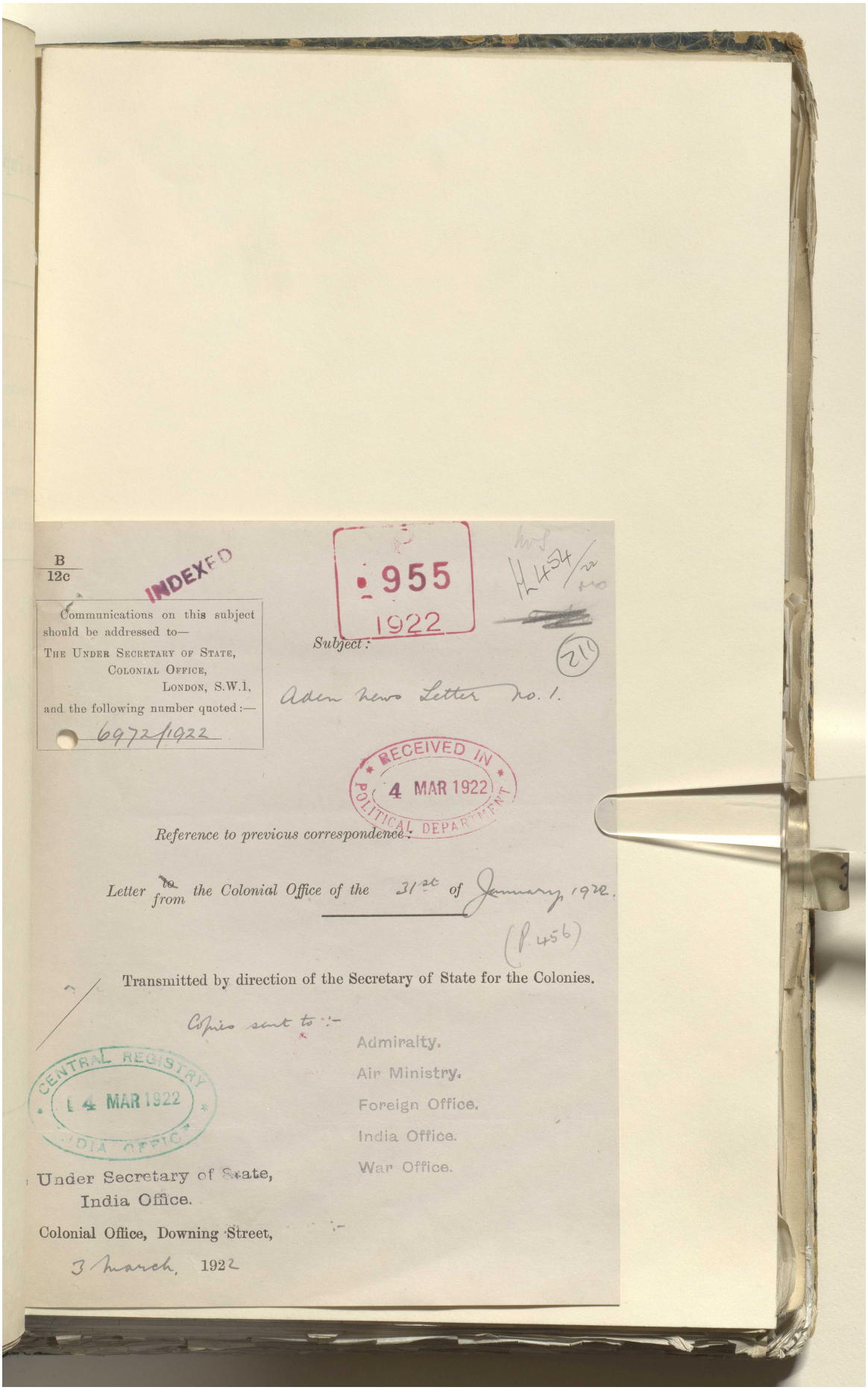

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
6972/1922

P 955 1922

Subject: Aden News Letter No. 1.

H 454/22

(211)

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 4 MAR 1922

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 31st *of* January, 1922.

(P 456)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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Foreign Office.
India Office.
War Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY 14 MAR 1922 INDIA OFFICE

Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
3 March, 1922

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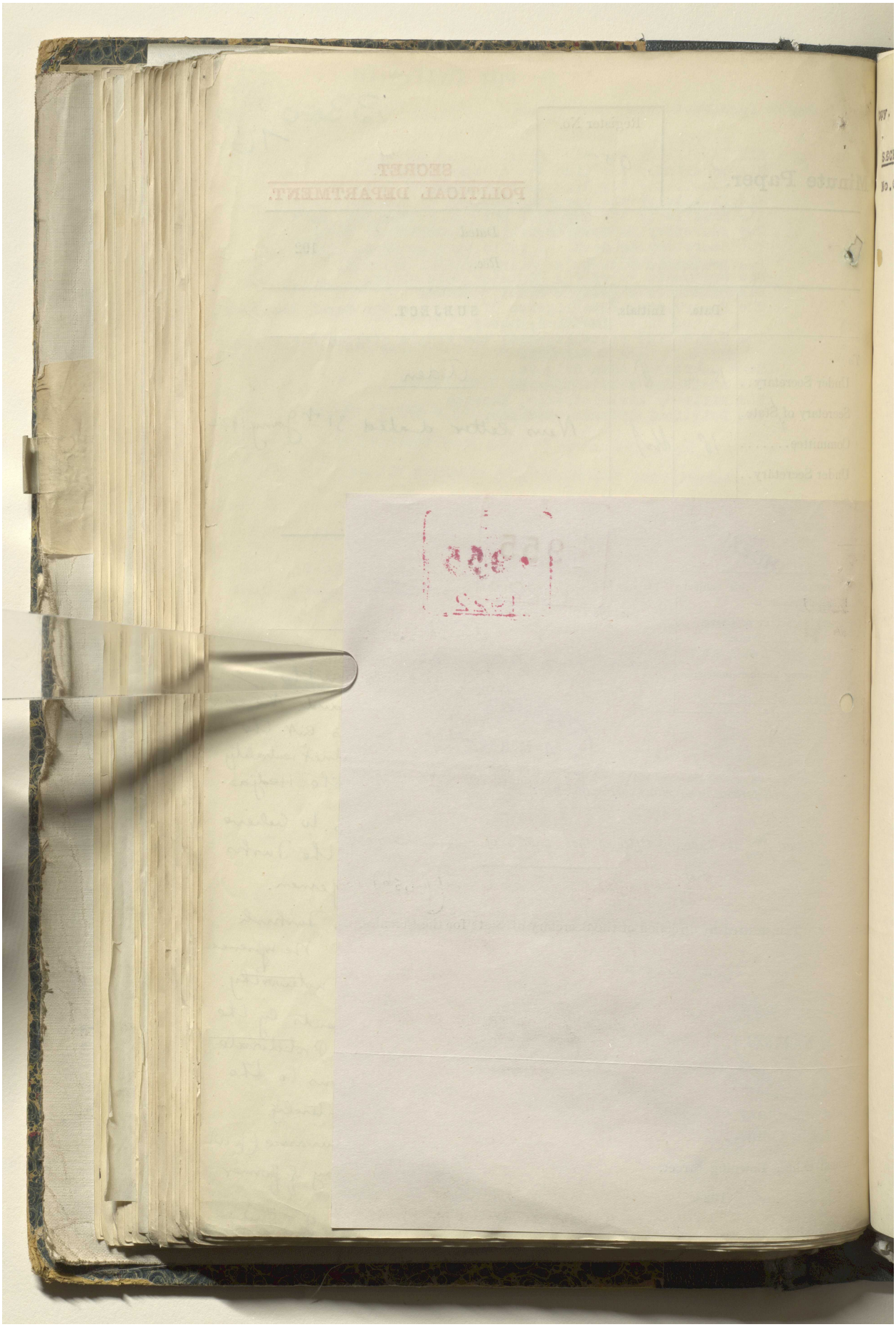

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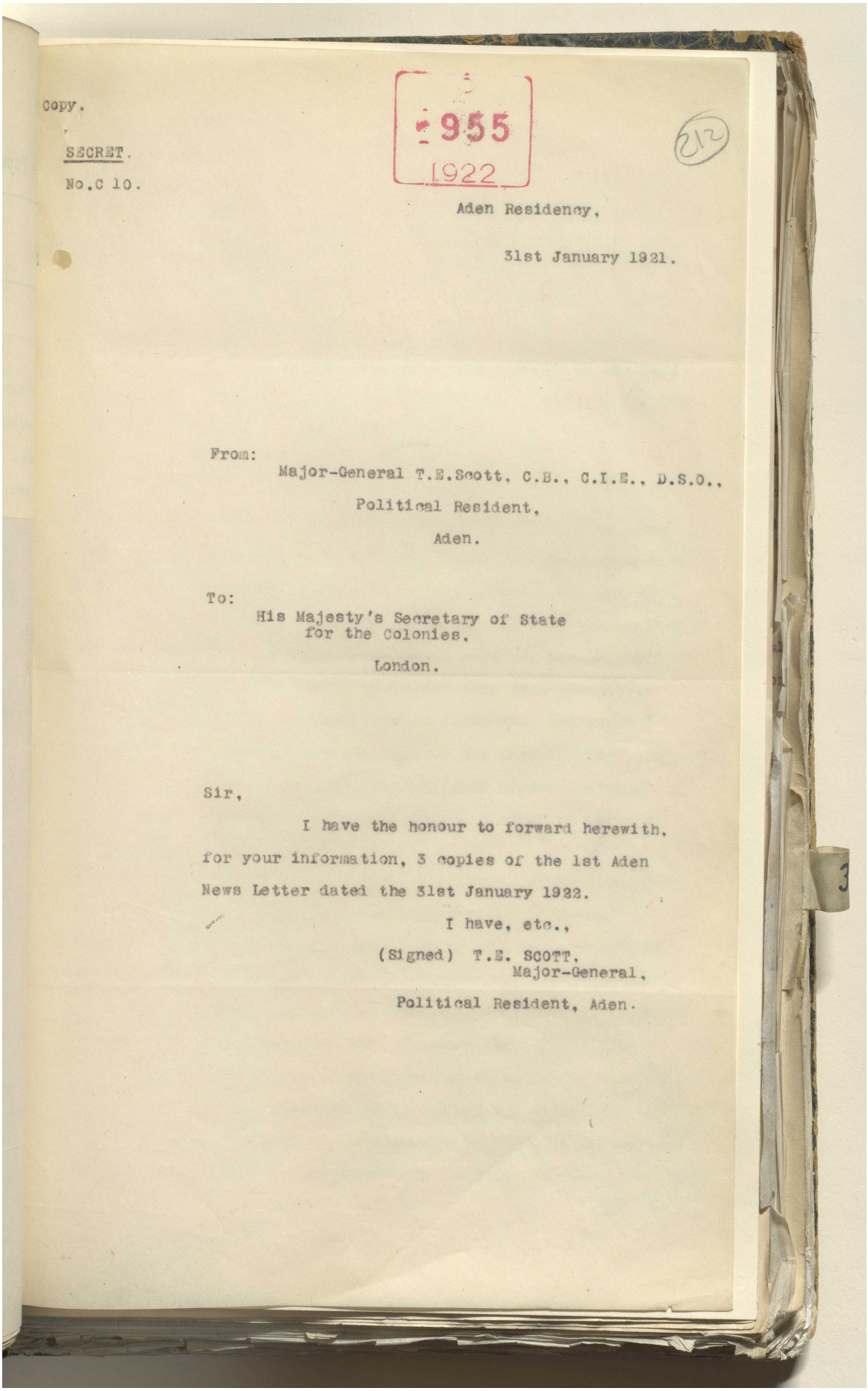

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SECRET.

No.C 10.

955
1922

212

Aden Residency,

31st January 1921.

From:
Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident,
Aden.

To:
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, 3 copies of the 1st Aden News Letter dated the 31st January 1922.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) T.E. SCOTT,
Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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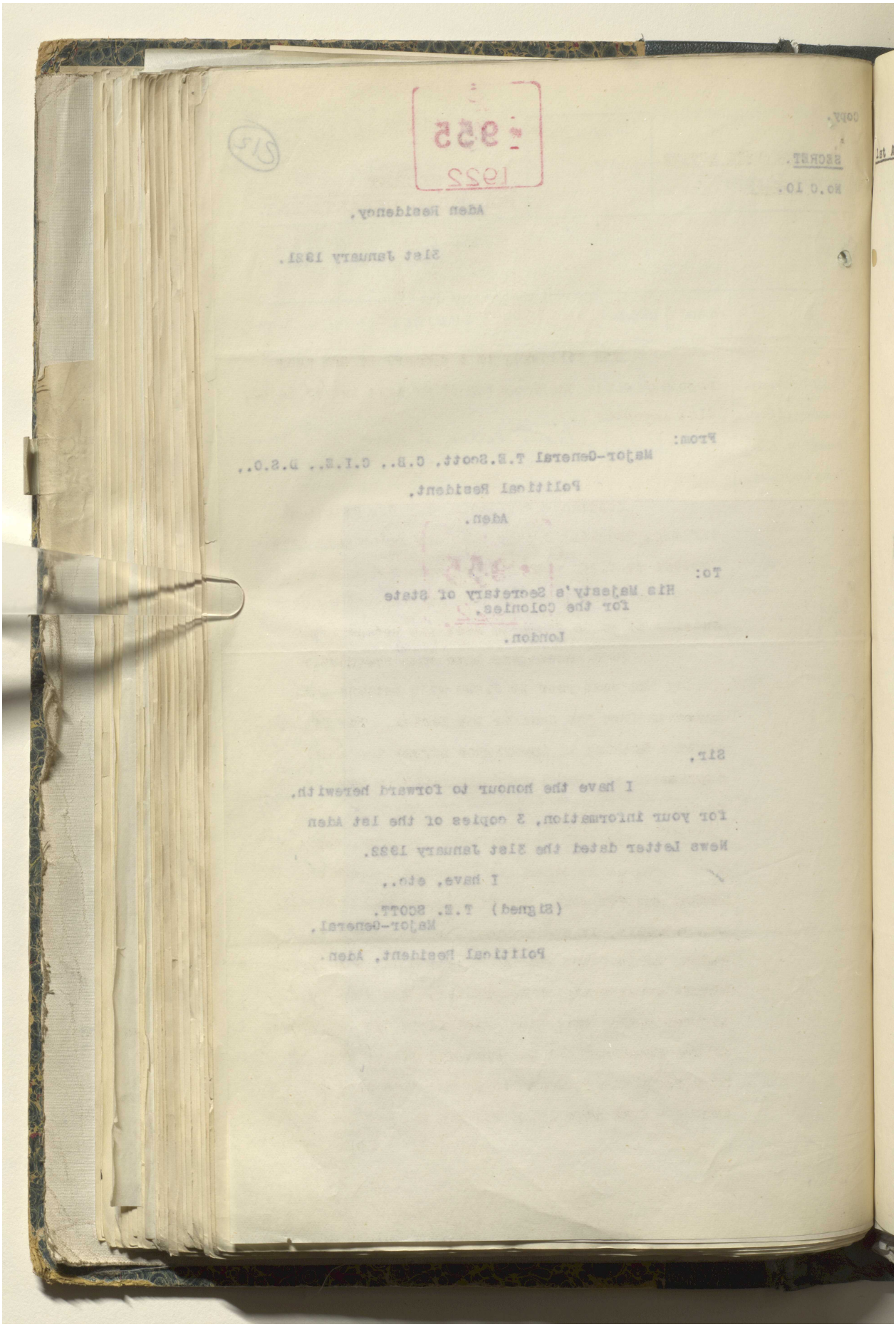

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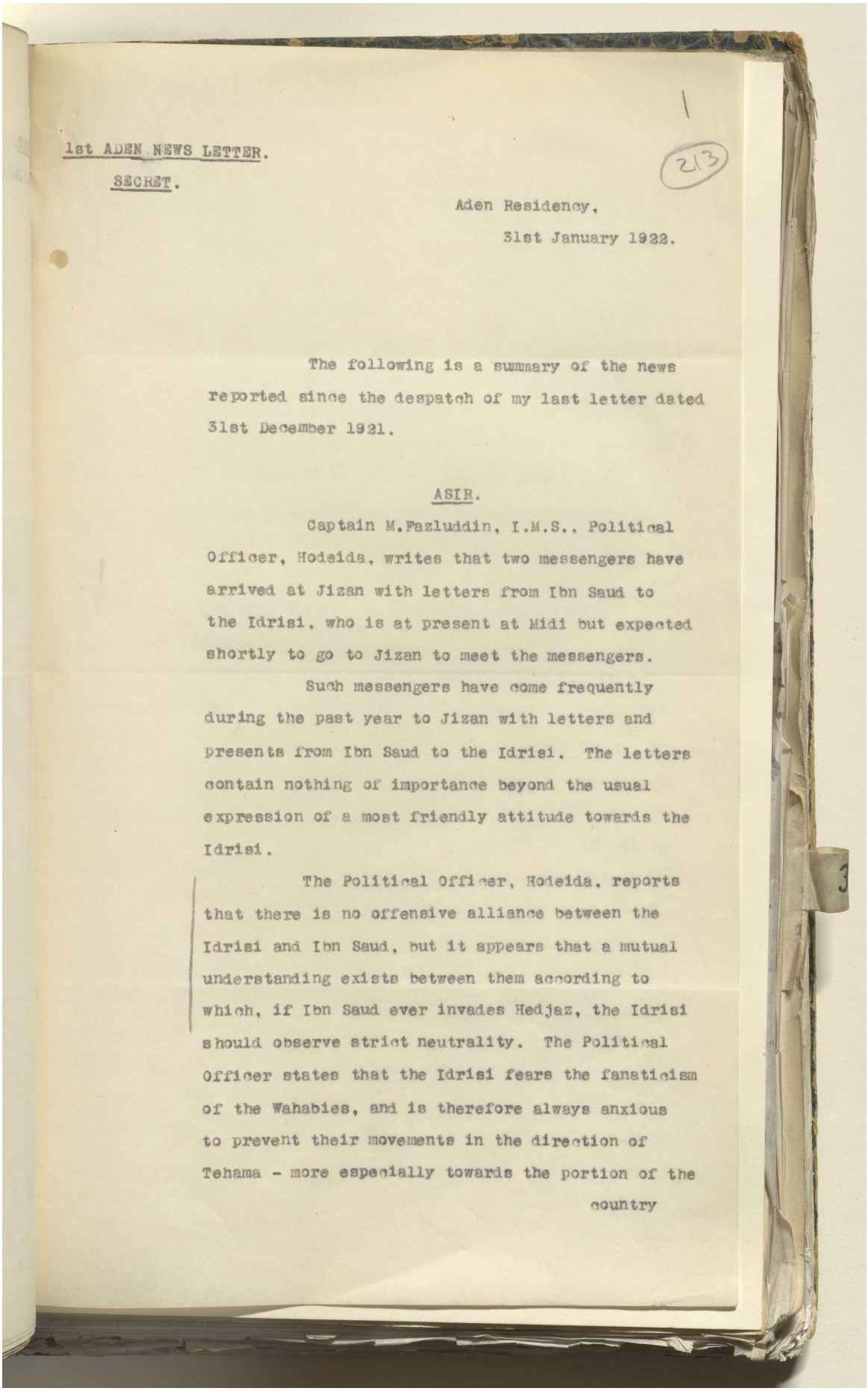

1st ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

213

Aden Residency,
31st January 1922.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 31st December 1921.

ASIR.

Captain M.Fazluddin, I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeida, writes that two messengers have arrived at Jizan with letters from Ibn Saud to the Idrisi, who is at present at Midi but expected shortly to go to Jizan to meet the messengers.

Such messengers have come frequently during the past year to Jizan with letters and presents from Ibn Saud to the Idrisi. The letters contain nothing of importance beyond the usual expression of a most friendly attitude towards the Idrisi.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that there is no offensive alliance between the Idrisi and Ibn Saud, but it appears that a mutual understanding exists between them according to which, if Ibn Saud ever invades Hedjaz, the Idrisi should observe strict neutrality. The Political Officer states that the Idrisi fears the fanaticism of the Wahabies, and is therefore always anxious to prevent their movements in the direction of Tehama - more especially towards the portion of the

country

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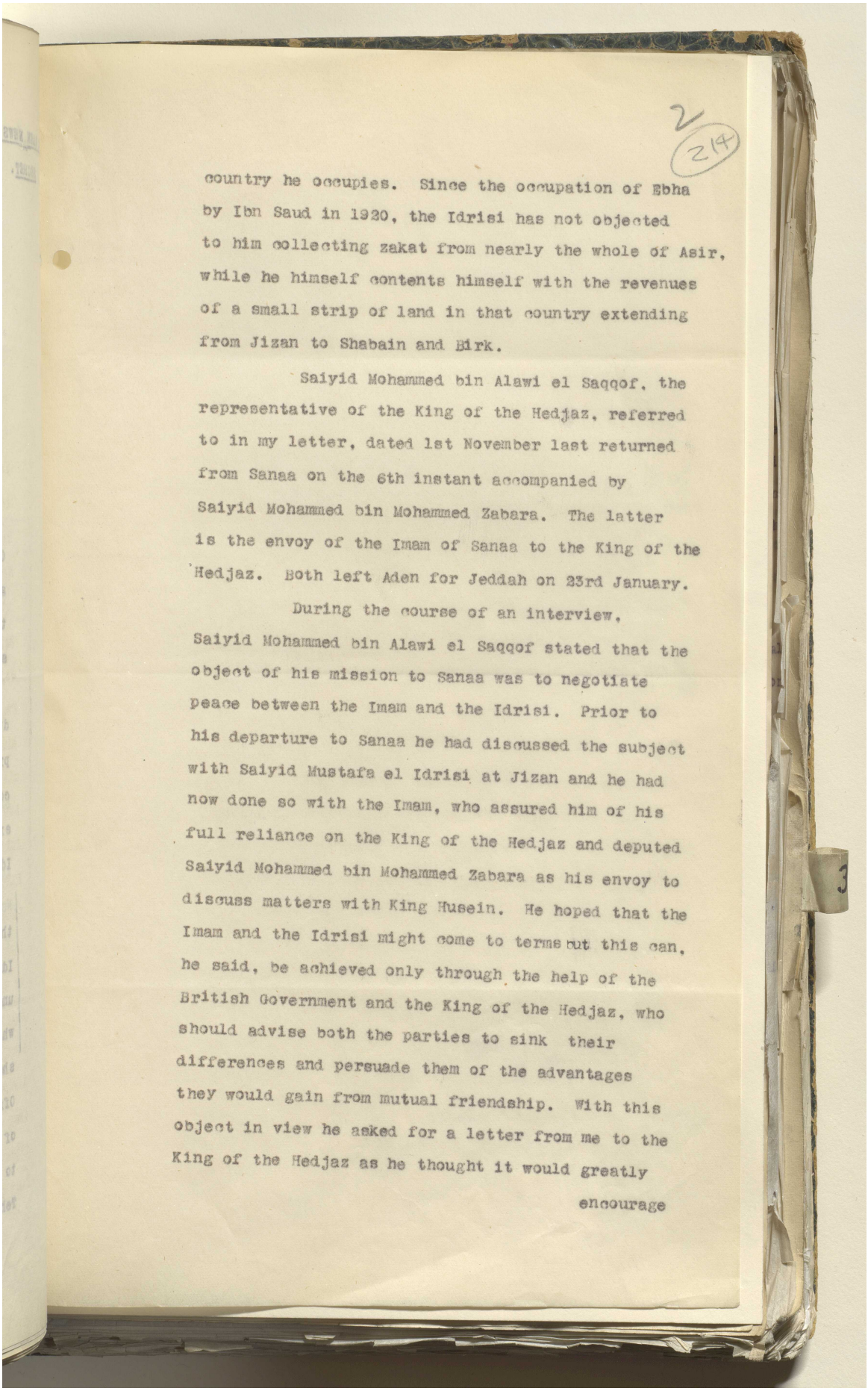

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country he occupies. Since the occupation of Ebha by Ibn Saud in 1920, the Idrisi has not objected to him collecting zakat from nearly the whole of Asir, while he himself contents himself with the revenues of a small strip of land in that country extending from Jizan to Shabain and Birk.

Saiyid Mohammed bin Alawi el Saqqof, the representative of the King of the Hedjaz, referred to in my letter, dated 1st November last returned from Sanaa on the 6th instant accompanied by Saiyid Mohammed bin Mohammed Zabara. The latter is the envoy of the Imam of Sanaa to the King of the Hedjaz. Both left Aden for Jeddah on 23rd January.

During the course of an interview, Saiyid Mohammed bin Alawi el Saqqof stated that the object of his mission to Sanaa was to negotiate peace between the Imam and the Idrisi. Prior to his departure to Sanaa he had discussed the subject with Saiyid Mustafa el Idrisi at Jizan and he had now done so with the Imam, who assured him of his full reliance on the King of the Hedjaz and deputed Saiyid Mohammed bin Mohammed Zabara as his envoy to discuss matters with King Husein. He hoped that the Imam and the Idrisi might come to terms but this can, he said, be achieved only through the help of the British Government and the King of the Hedjaz, who should advise both the parties to sink their differences and persuade them of the advantages they would gain from mutual friendship. With this object in view he asked for a letter from me to the King of the Hedjaz as he thought it would greatly

encourage

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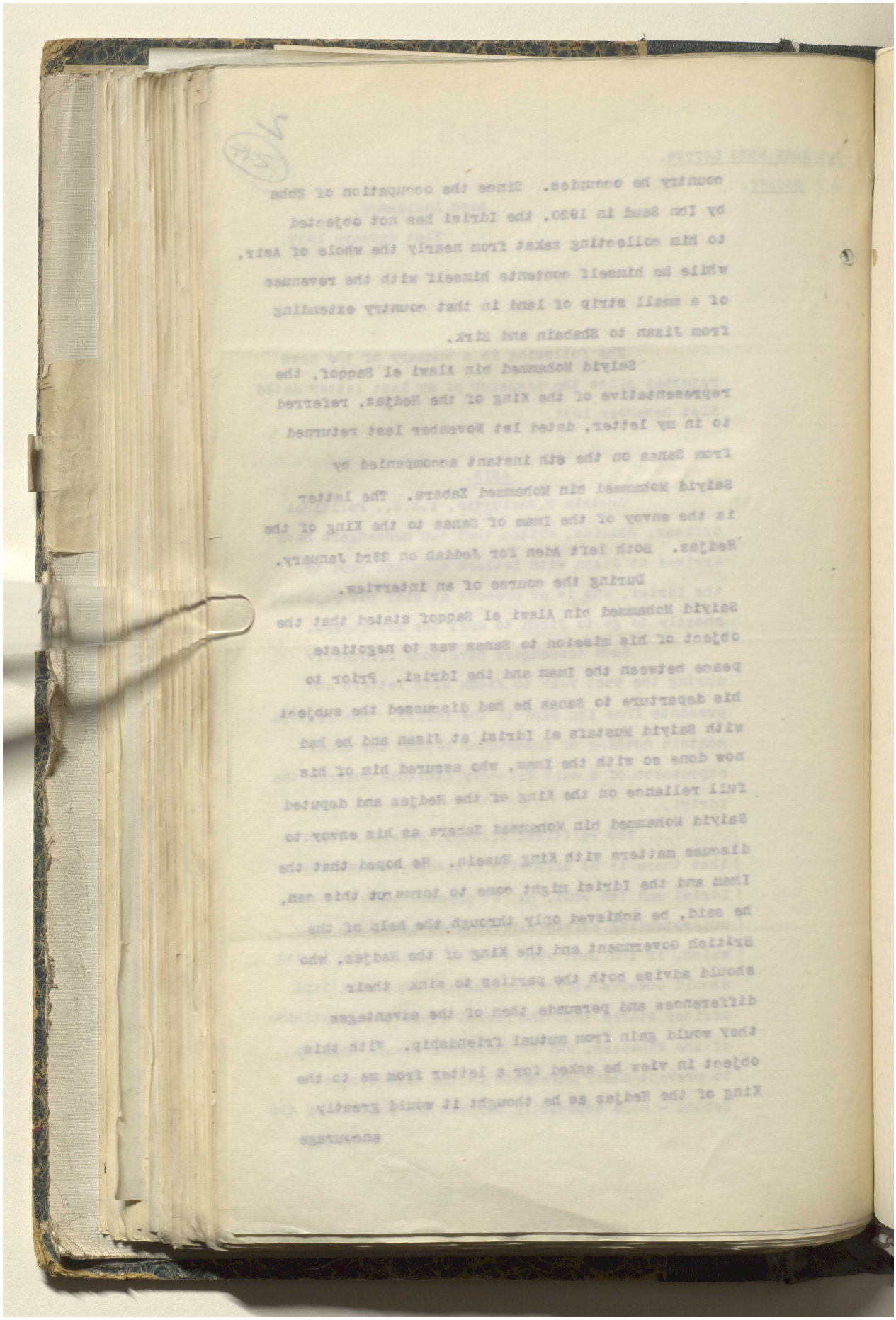

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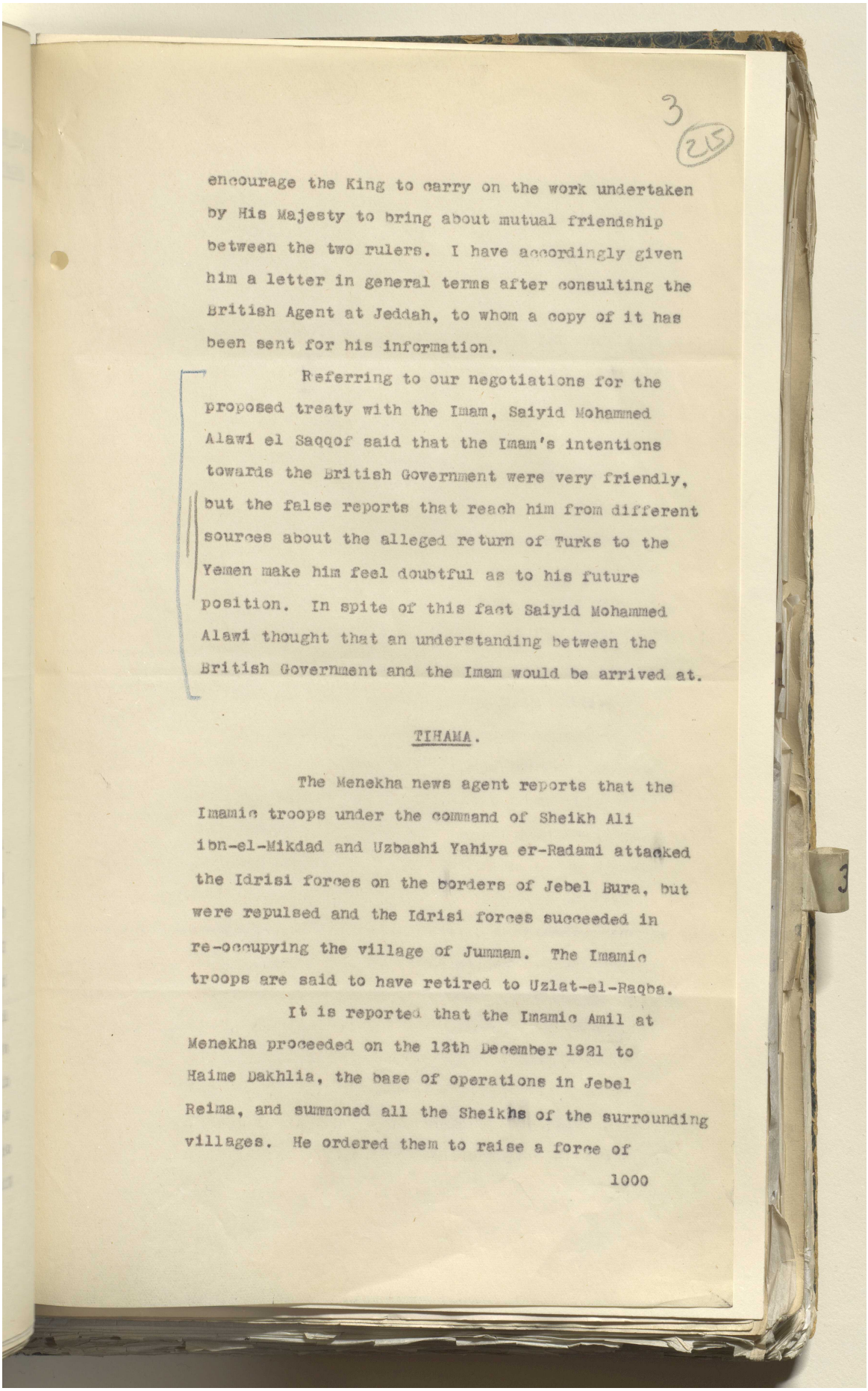

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encourage the King to carry on the work undertaken by His Majesty to bring about mutual friendship between the two rulers. I have accordingly given him a letter in general terms after consulting the British Agent at Jeddah, to whom a copy of it has been sent for his information.

Referring to our negotiations for the proposed treaty with the Imam, Saiyid Mohammed Alawi el Saqqof said that the Imam's intentions towards the British Government were very friendly, but the false reports that reach him from different sources about the alleged return of Turks to the Yemen make him feel doubtful as to his future position. In spite of this fact Saiyid Mohammed Alawi thought that an understanding between the British Government and the Imam would be arrived at.

TIHAMA.

The Menekha news agent reports that the Imamic troops under the command of Sheikh Ali ibn-el-Mikdad and Uzbashi Yahiya er-Radami attacked the Idrisi forces on the borders of Jebel Bura, but were repulsed and the Idrisi forces succeeded in re-occupying the village of Jummam. The Imamic troops are said to have retired to Uzlat-el-Raqba.

It is reported that the Imamic Amil at Menekha proceeded on the 12th December 1921 to Haime Dakhlia, the base of operations in Jebel Reima, and summoned all the Sheikhs of the surrounding villages. He ordered them to raise a force of

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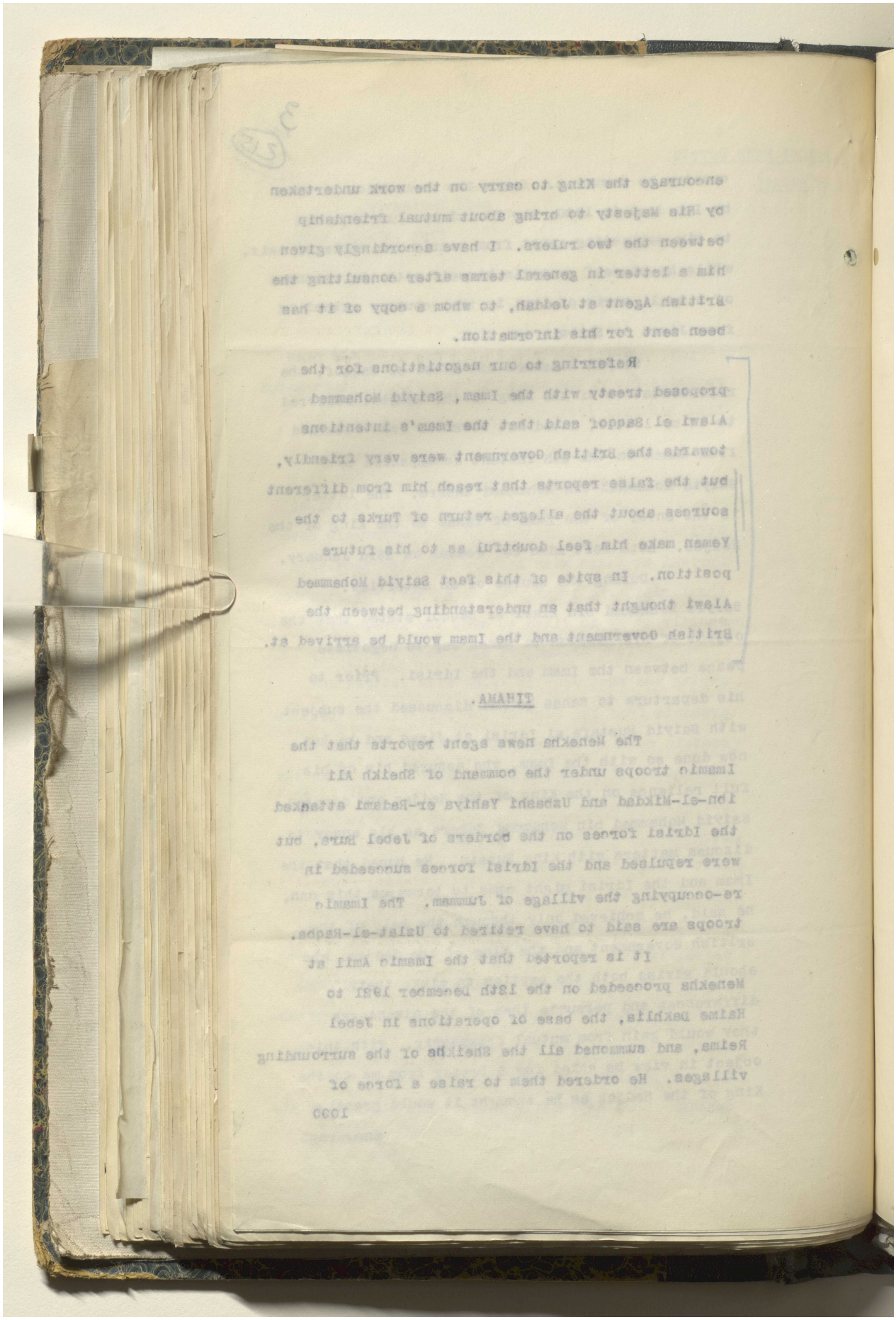

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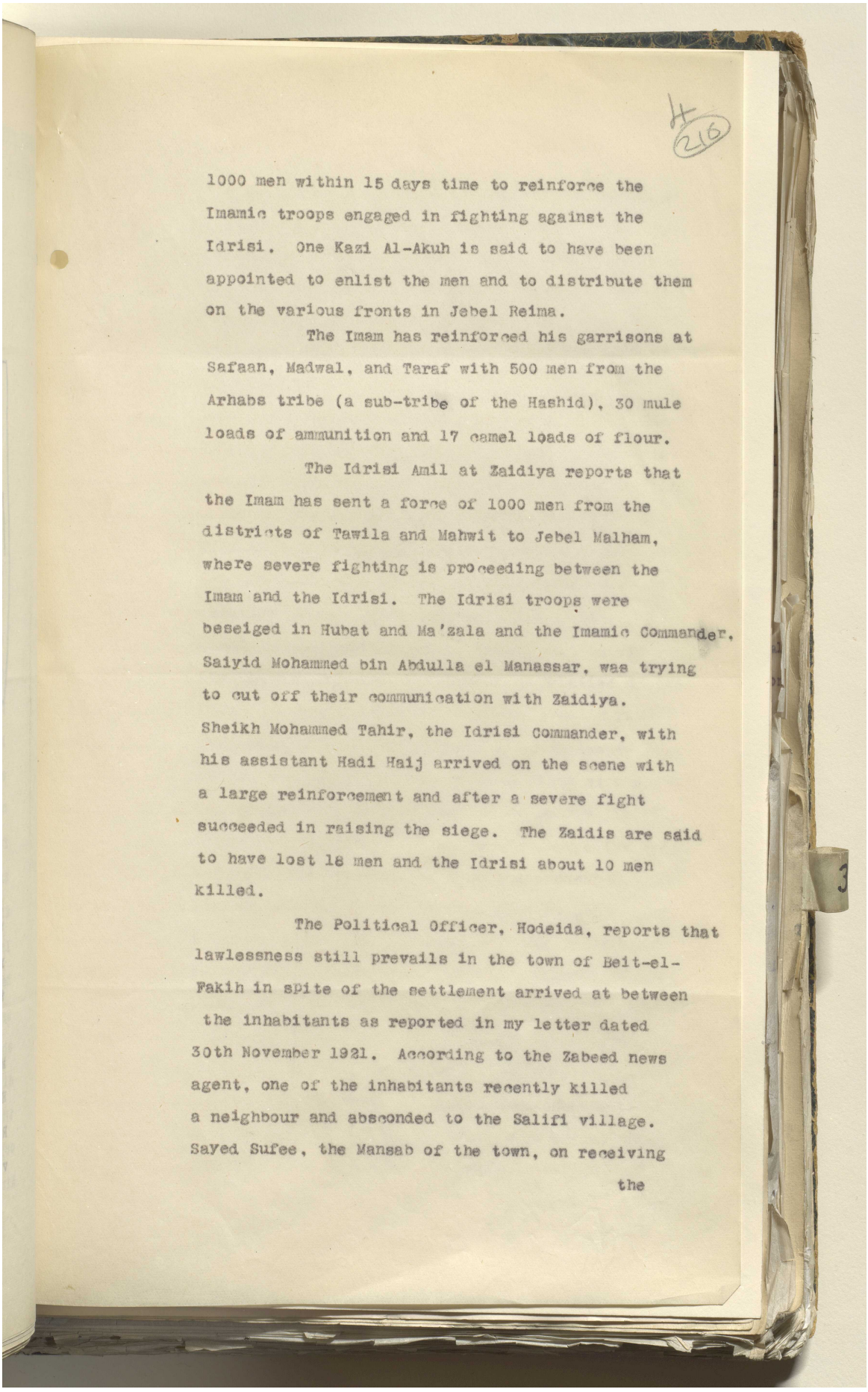

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1000 men within 15 days time to reinforce the Imamic troops engaged in fighting against the Idrisi. One Kazi Al-Akuh is said to have been appointed to enlist the men and to distribute them on the various fronts in Jebel Reima.

The Imam has reinforced his garrisons at Safaan, Madwal, and Taraf with 500 men from the Arhabs tribe (a sub-tribe of the Hashid), 30 mule loads of ammunition and 17 camel loads of flour.

The Idrisi Amil at Zaidiya reports that the Imam has sent a force of 1000 men from the districts of Tawila and Mahwit to Jebel Malham, where severe fighting is proceeding between the Imam and the Idrisi. The Idrisi troops were beseiged in Hubat and Ma'zala and the Imamic Commander, Saiyid Mohammed bin Abdulla el Manassar, was trying to cut off their communication with Zaidiya. Sheikh Mohammed Tahir, the Idrisi Commander, with his assistant Hadi Haij arrived on the scene with a large reinforcement and after a severe fight succeeded in raising the siege. The Zaidis are said to have lost 18 men and the Idrisi about 10 men killed.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that lawlessness still prevails in the town of Beit-el-Fakih in spite of the settlement arrived at between the inhabitants as reported in my letter dated 30th November 1921. According to the Zabeed news agent, one of the inhabitants recently killed a neighbour and absconded to the Salifi village. Sayed Sufee, the Mansab of the town, on receiving

the

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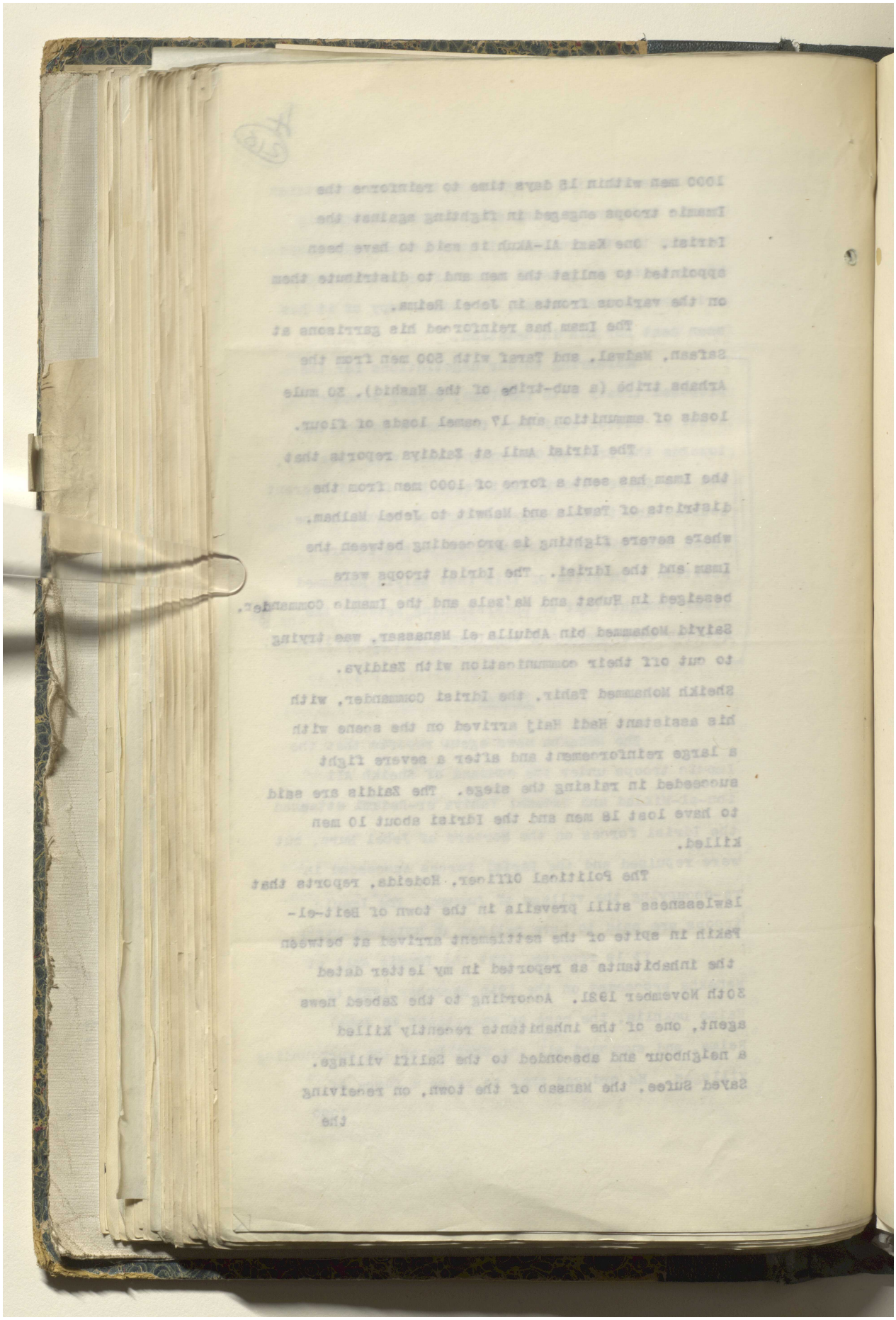

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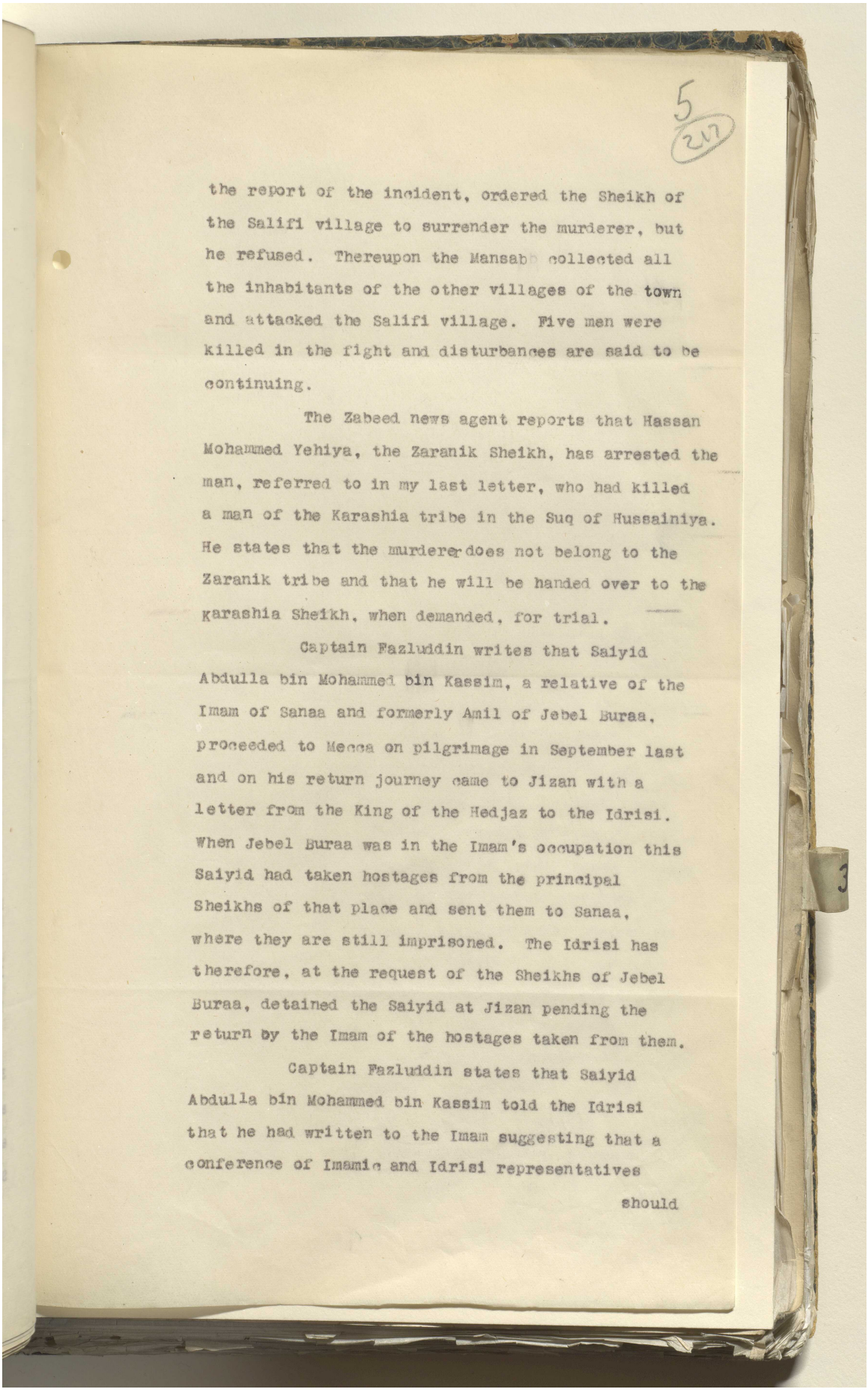

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the report of the incident, ordered the Sheikh of the Salifi village to surrender the murderer, but he refused. Thereupon the Mansab collected all the inhabitants of the other villages of the town and attacked the Salifi village. Five men were killed in the fight and disturbances are said to be continuing.

The Zabeed news agent reports that Hassan Mohammed Yehiya, the Zaranik Sheikh, has arrested the man, referred to in my last letter, who had killed a man of the Karashia tribe in the Suq of Hussainiya. He states that the murderer does not belong to the Zaranik tribe and that he will be handed over to the Karashia Sheikh, when demanded, for trial.

Captain Fazluddin writes that Saiyid Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Kassim, a relative of the Imam of Sanaa and formerly Amil of Jebel Buraa, proceeded to Mecca on pilgrimage in September last and on his return journey came to Jizan with a letter from the King of the Hedjaz to the Idrisi. When Jebel Buraa was in the Imam's occupation this Saiyid had taken hostages from the principal Sheikhs of that place and sent them to Sanaa, where they are still imprisoned. The Idrisi has therefore, at the request of the Sheikhs of Jebel Buraa, detained the Saiyid at Jizan pending the return by the Imam of the hostages taken from them.

Captain Fazluddin states that Saiyid Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Kassim told the Idrisi that he had written to the Imam suggesting that a conference of Imamic and Idrisi representatives

should

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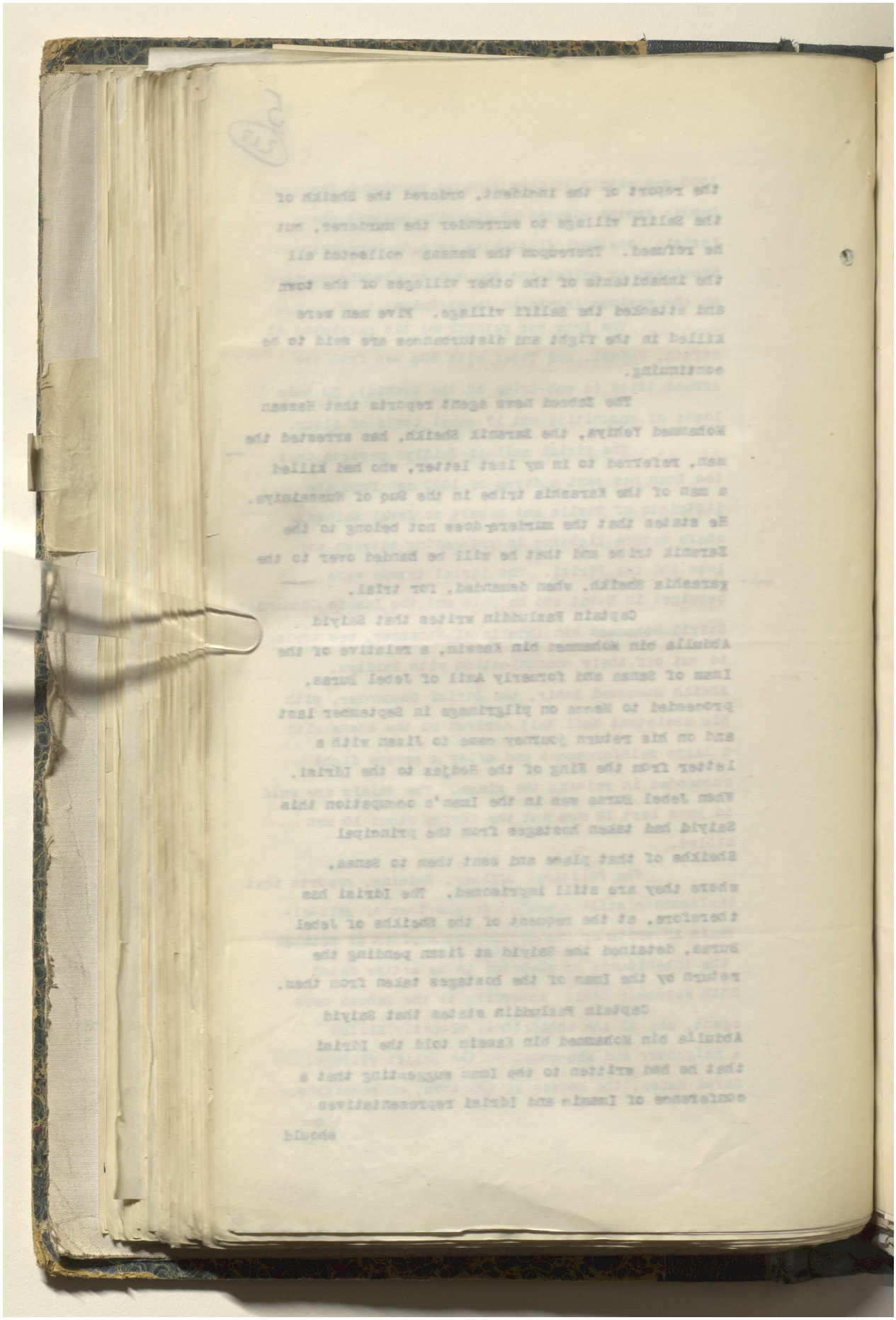

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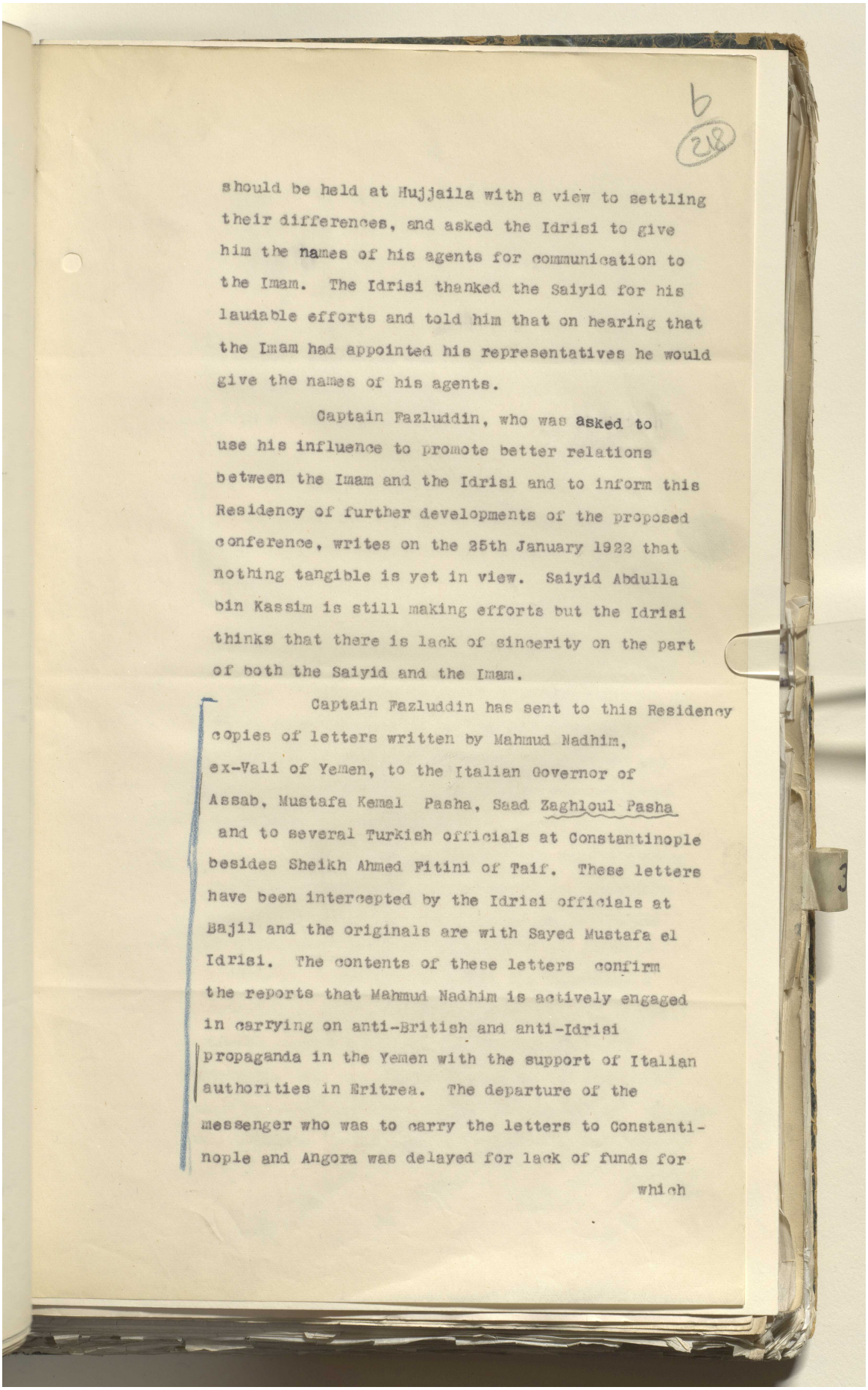

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should be held at Hujjaila with a view to settling their differences, and asked the Idrisi to give him the names of his agents for communication to the Imam. The Idrisi thanked the Saiyid for his laudable efforts and told him that on hearing that the Imam had appointed his representatives he would give the names of his agents.

Captain Fazluddin, who was asked to use his influence to promote better relations between the Imam and the Idrisi and to inform this Residency of further developments of the proposed conference, writes on the 25th January 1923 that nothing tangible is yet in view. Saiyid Abdulla bin Kassim is still making efforts but the Idrisi thinks that there is lack of sincerity on the part of both the Saiyid and the Imam.

Captain Fazluddin has sent to this Residency copies of letters written by Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen, to the Italian Governor of Assab, Mustafa Kemal Pasha, Saad Zaghloul Pasha and to several Turkish officials at Constantinople besides Sheikh Ahmed Fitini of Taif. These letters have been intercepted by the Idrisi officials at Bajil and the originals are with Sayed Mustafa el Idrisi. The contents of these letters confirm the reports that Mahmud Nadhim is actively engaged in carrying on anti-British and anti-Idrisi propaganda in the Yemen with the support of Italian authorities in Eritrea. The departure of the messenger who was to carry the letters to Constantinople and Angora was delayed for lack of funds for which

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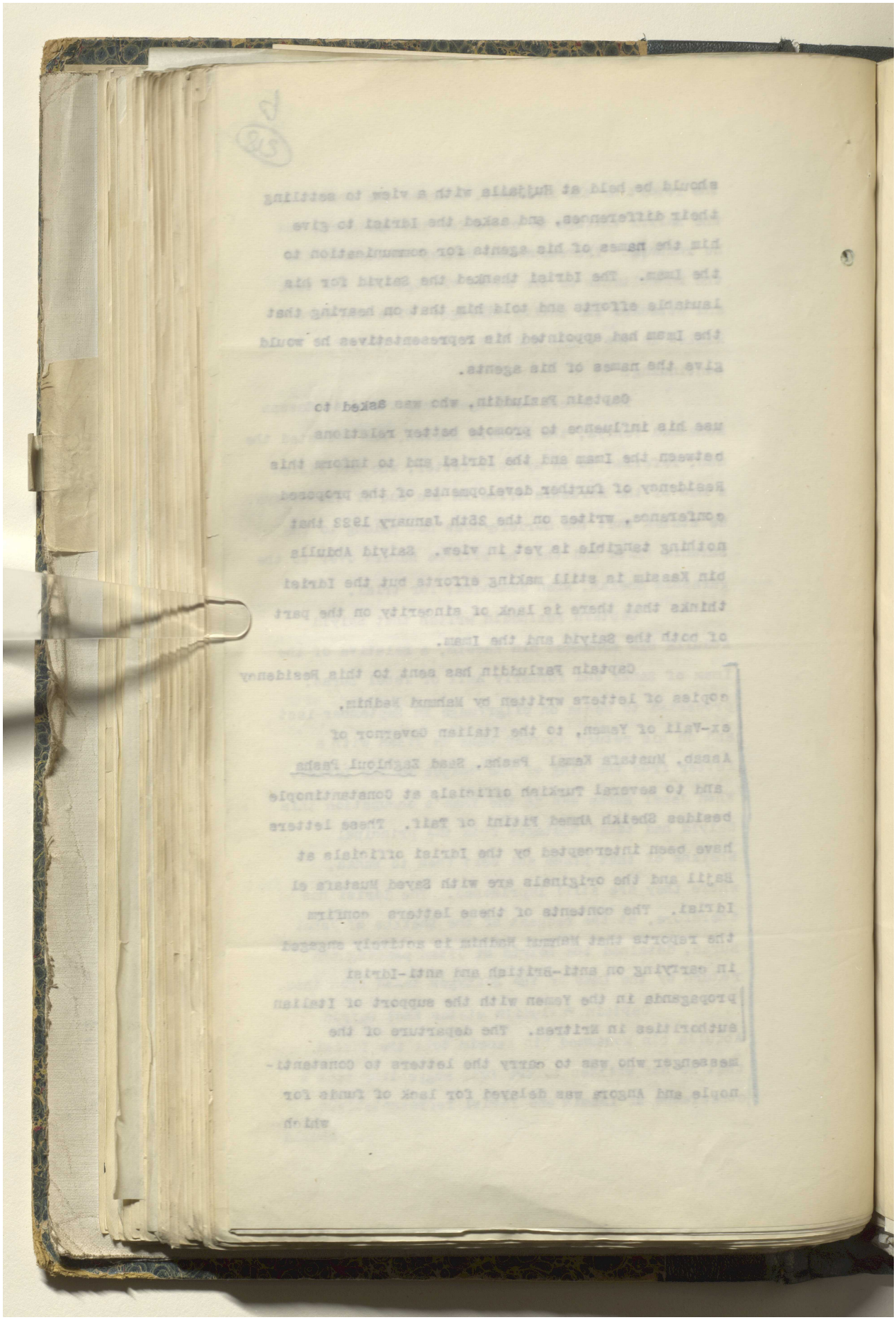

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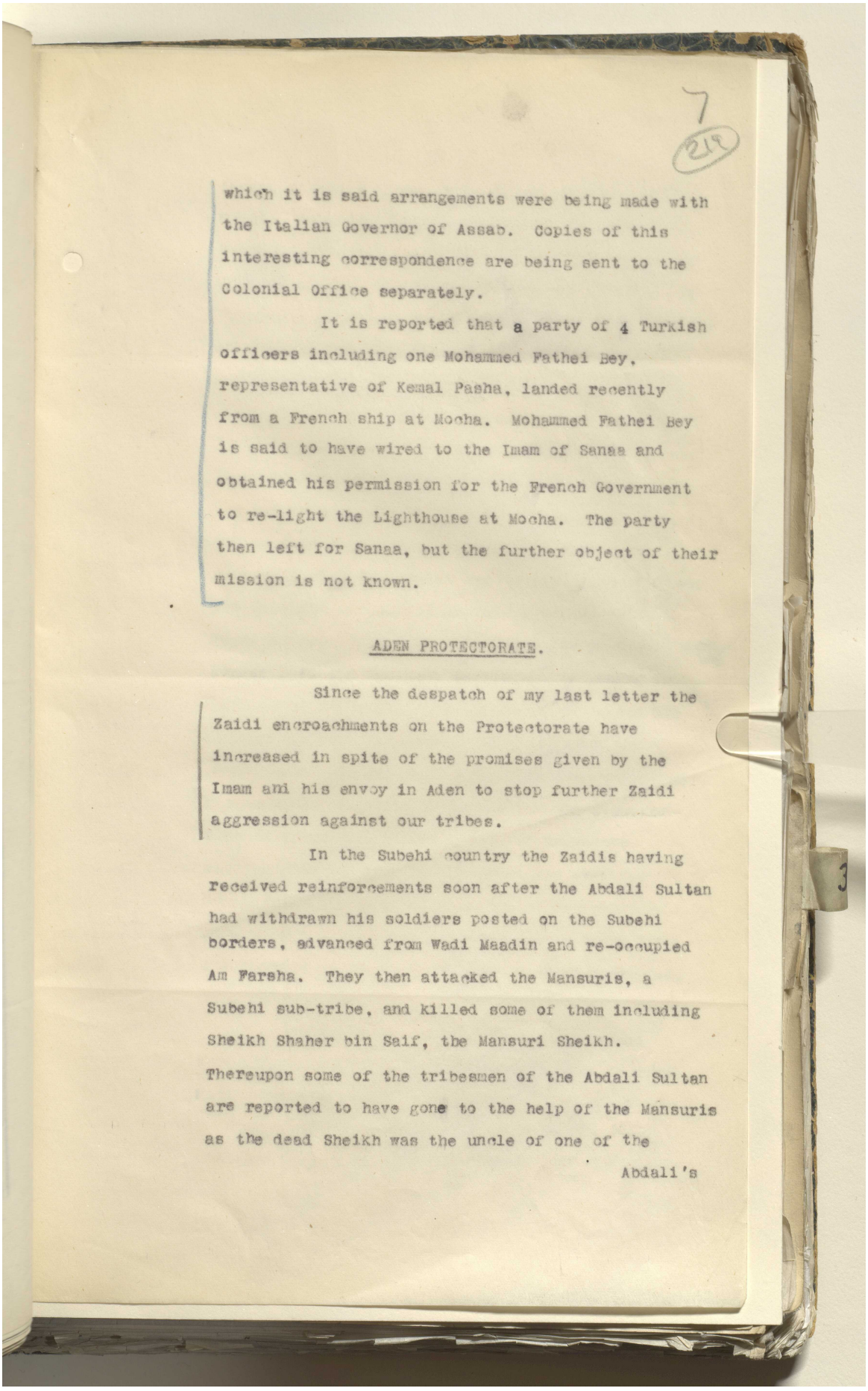

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which it is said arrangements were being made with the Italian Governor of Assab. Copies of this interesting correspondence are being sent to the Colonial Office separately.

It is reported that a party of 4 Turkish officers including one Mohammed Fathei Bey, representative of Kemal Pasha, landed recently from a French ship at Mocha. Mohammed Fathei Bey is said to have wired to the Imam of Sanaa and obtained his permission for the French Government to re-light the Lighthouse at Mocha. The party then left for Sanaa, but the further object of their mission is not known.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Since the despatch of my last letter the Zaidi encroachments on the Protectorate have increased in spite of the promises given by the Imam and his envoy in Aden to stop further Zaidi aggression against our tribes.

In the Subehi country the Zaidis having received reinforcements soon after the Abdali Sultan had withdrawn his soldiers posted on the Subehi borders, advanced from Wadi Maadin and re-occupied Am Farsha. They then attacked the Mansuris, a Subehi sub-tribe, and killed some of them including Sheikh Shaher bin Saif, the Mansuri Sheikh. Thereupon some of the tribesmen of the Abdali Sultan are reported to have gone to the help of the Mansuris as the dead Sheikh was the uncle of one of the

Abdali's

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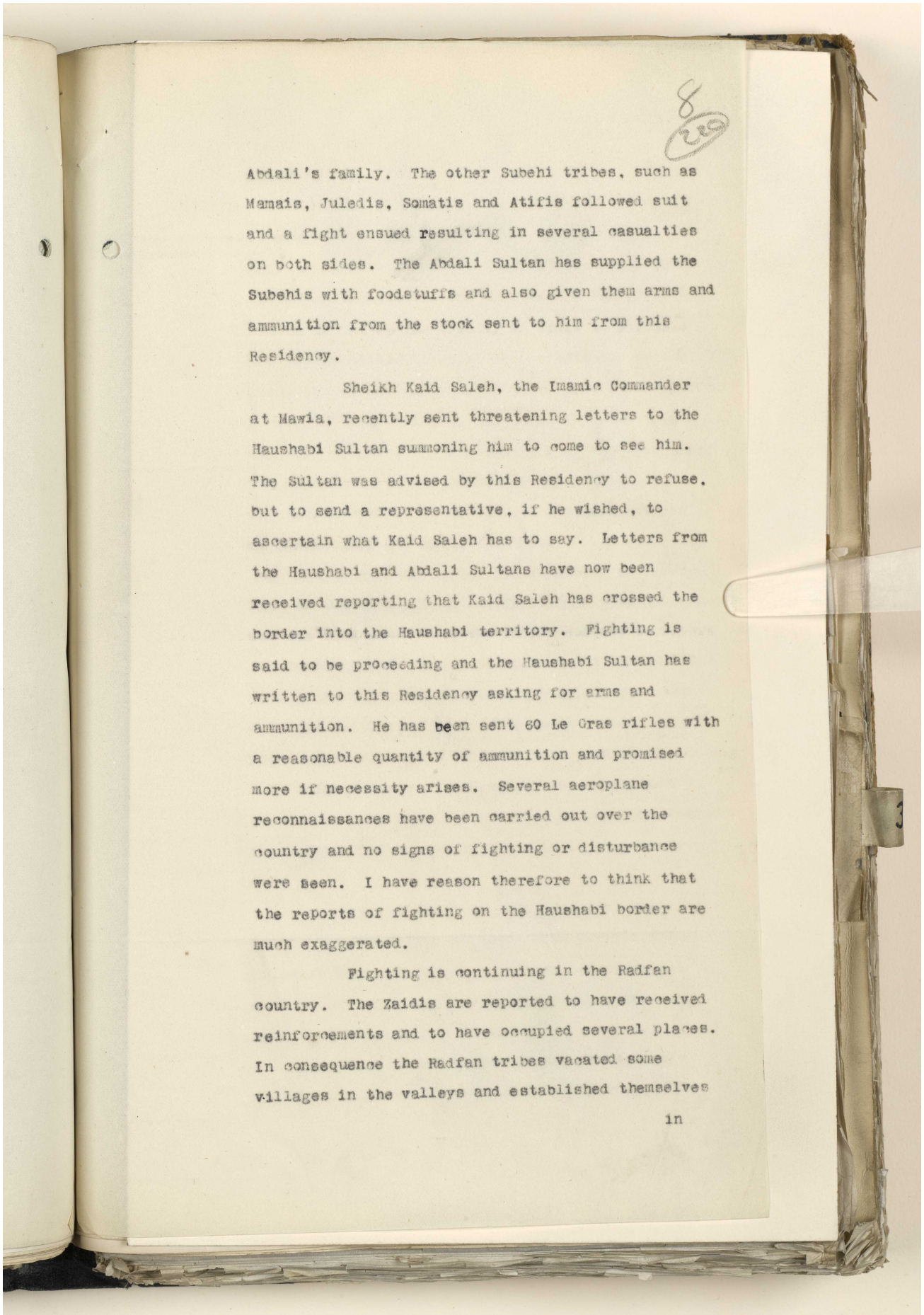

Abdali's family. The other Subehi tribes, such as Mamais, Juledis, Somatis and Atifis followed suit and a fight ensued resulting in several casualties on both sides. The Abdali Sultan has supplied the Subehis with foodstuffs and also given them arms and ammunition from the stock sent to him from this Residency.

Sheikh Kaid Saleh, the Imamic Commander at Mawia, recently sent threatening letters to the Haushabi Sultan summoning him to come to see him. The Sultan was advised by this Residency to refuse, but to send a representative, if he wished, to ascertain what Kaid Saleh has to say. Letters from the Haushabi and Abdali Sultans have now been received reporting that Kaid Saleh has crossed the border into the Haushabi territory. Fighting is said to be proceeding and the Haushabi Sultan has written to this Residency asking for arms and ammunition. He has been sent 60 Le Gras rifles with a reasonable quantity of ammunition and promised more if necessity arises. Several aeroplane reconnaissances have been carried out over the country and no signs of fighting or disturbance were seen. I have reason therefore to think that the reports of fighting on the Haushabi border are much exaggerated.

Fighting is continuing in the Radfan country. The Zaidis are reported to have received reinforcements and to have occupied several places. In consequence the Radfan tribes vacated some villages in the valleys and established themselves in

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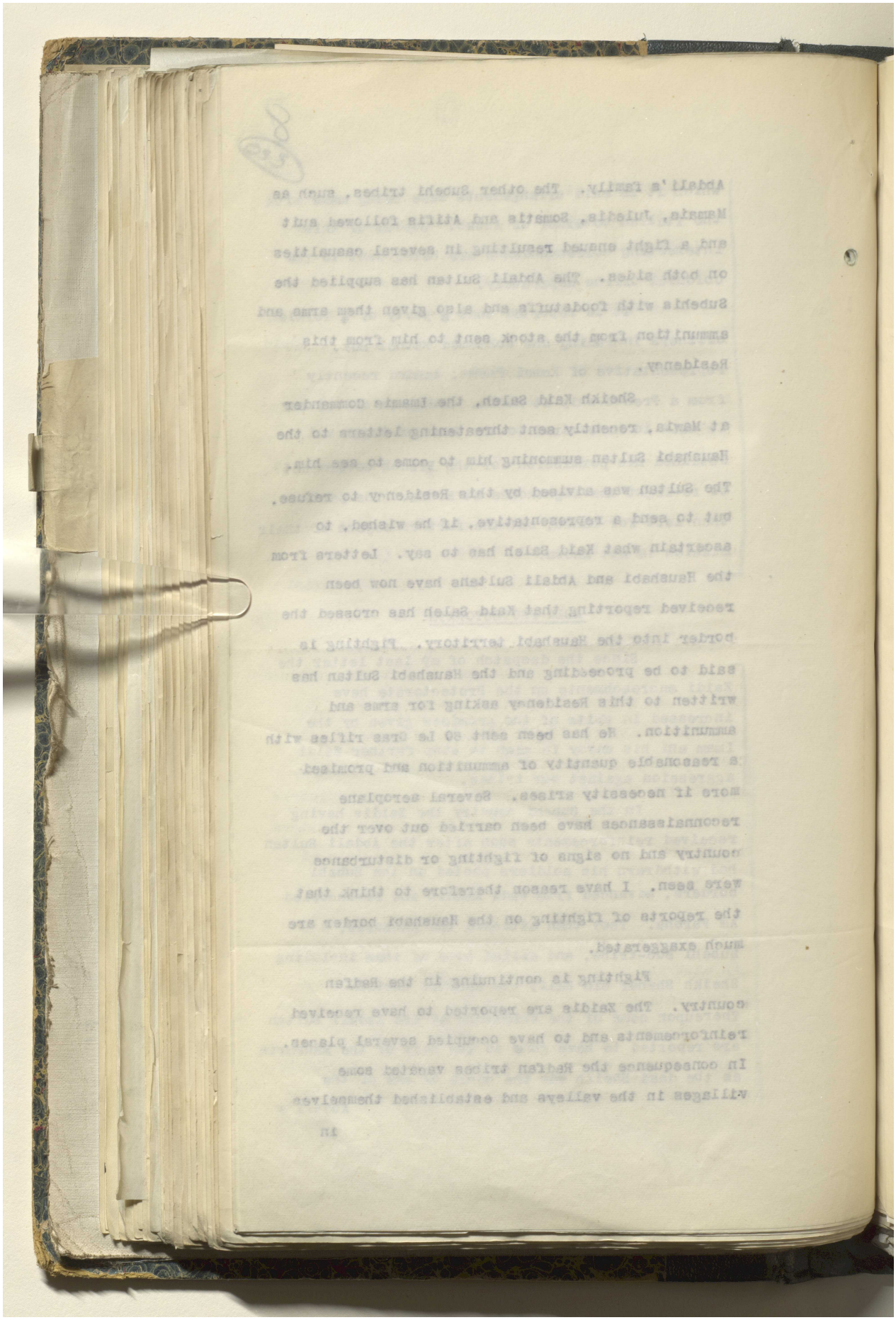

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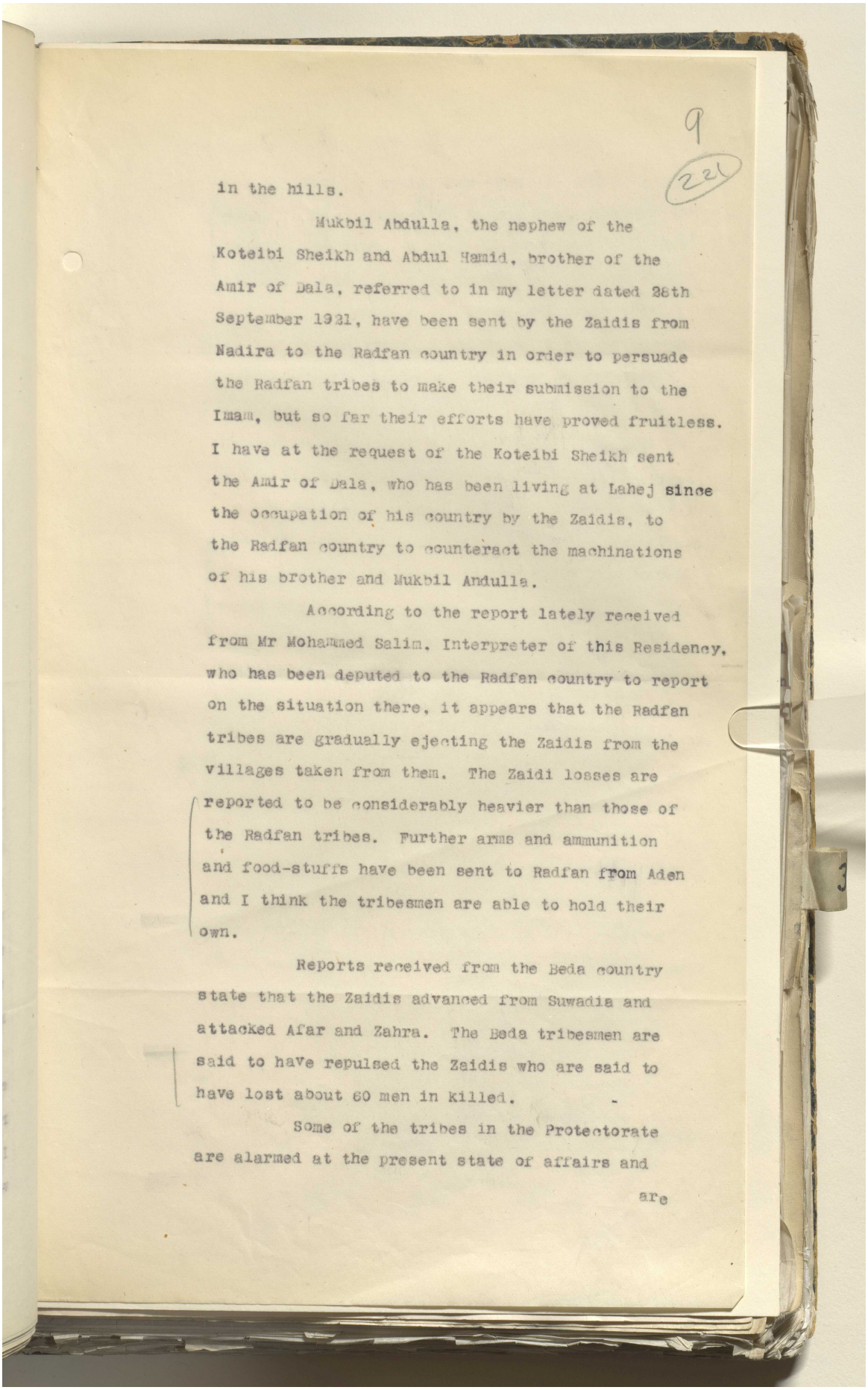

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in the hills.

Mukbil Abdulla, the nephew of the Koteibi Sheikh and Abdul Hamid, brother of the Amir of Dala, referred to in my letter dated 28th September 1921, have been sent by the Zaidis from Nadira to the Radfan country in order to persuade the Radfan tribes to make their submission to the Imam, but so far their efforts have proved fruitless. I have at the request of the Koteibi Sheikh sent the Amir of Dala, who has been living at Lahej since the occupation of his country by the Zaidis, to the Radfan country to counteract the machinations of his brother and Mukbil Andulla.

According to the report lately received from Mr Mohammed Salim, Interpreter of this Residency, who has been deputed to the Radfan country to report on the situation there, it appears that the Radfan tribes are gradually ejecting the Zaidis from the villages taken from them. The Zaidi losses are reported to be considerably heavier than those of the Radfan tribes. Further arms and ammunition and food-stuffs have been sent to Radfan from Aden and I think the tribesmen are able to hold their own.

Reports received from the Beda country state that the Zaidis advanced from Suwadia and attacked Afar and Zahra. The Beda tribesmen are said to have repulsed the Zaidis who are said to have lost about 60 men in killed.

Some of the tribes in the Protectorate are alarmed at the present state of affairs and

are

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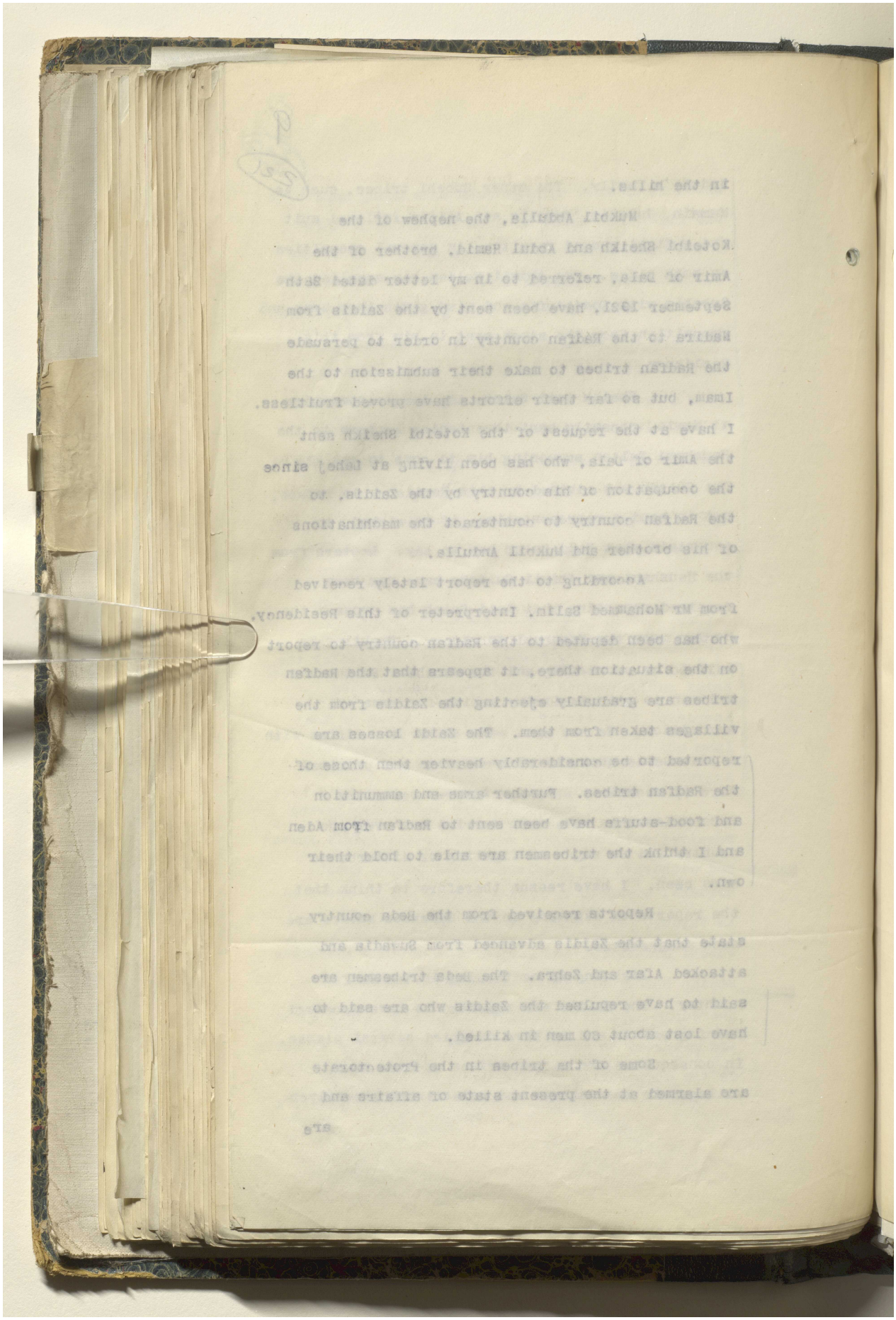

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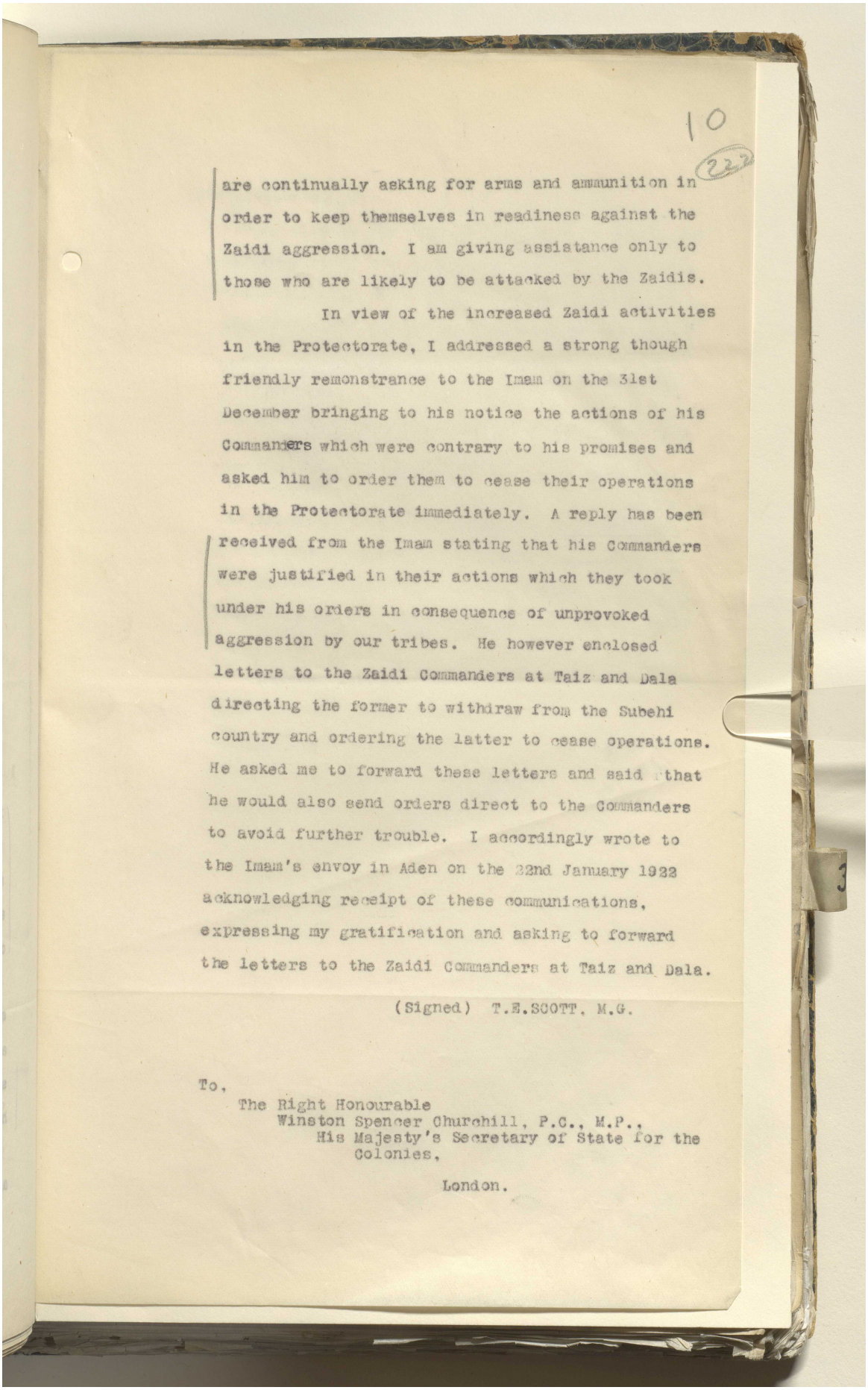

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are continually asking for arms and ammunition in order to keep themselves in readiness against the Zaidi aggression. I am giving assistance only to those who are likely to be attacked by the Zaidis.

In view of the increased Zaidi activities in the Protectorate, I addressed a strong though friendly remonstrance to the Imam on the 31st December bringing to his notice the actions of his Commanders which were contrary to his promises and asked him to order them to cease their operations in the Protectorate immediately. A reply has been received from the Imam stating that his Commanders were justified in their actions which they took under his orders in consequence of unprovoked aggression by our tribes. He however enclosed letters to the Zaidi Commanders at Taiz and Dala directing the former to withdraw from the Subehi country and ordering the latter to cease operations. He asked me to forward these letters and said that he would also send orders direct to the Commanders to avoid further trouble. I accordingly wrote to the Imam's envoy in Aden on the 22nd January 1922 acknowledging receipt of these communications, expressing my gratification and asking to forward the letters to the Zaidi Commanders at Taiz and Dala.

(Signed) T.E.SCOTT, M.G.

To,

The Right Honourable
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for the
Colonies,

London.

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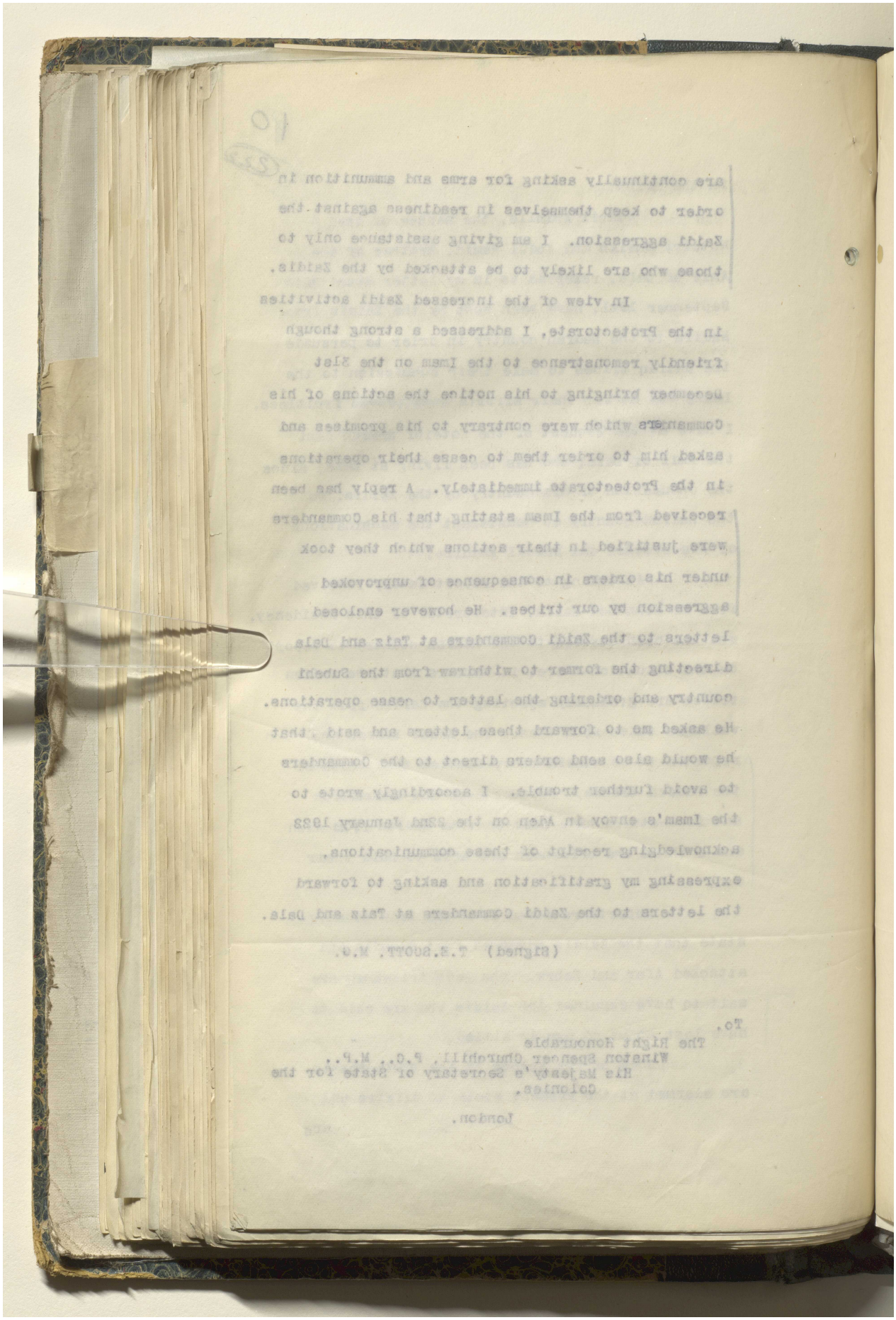

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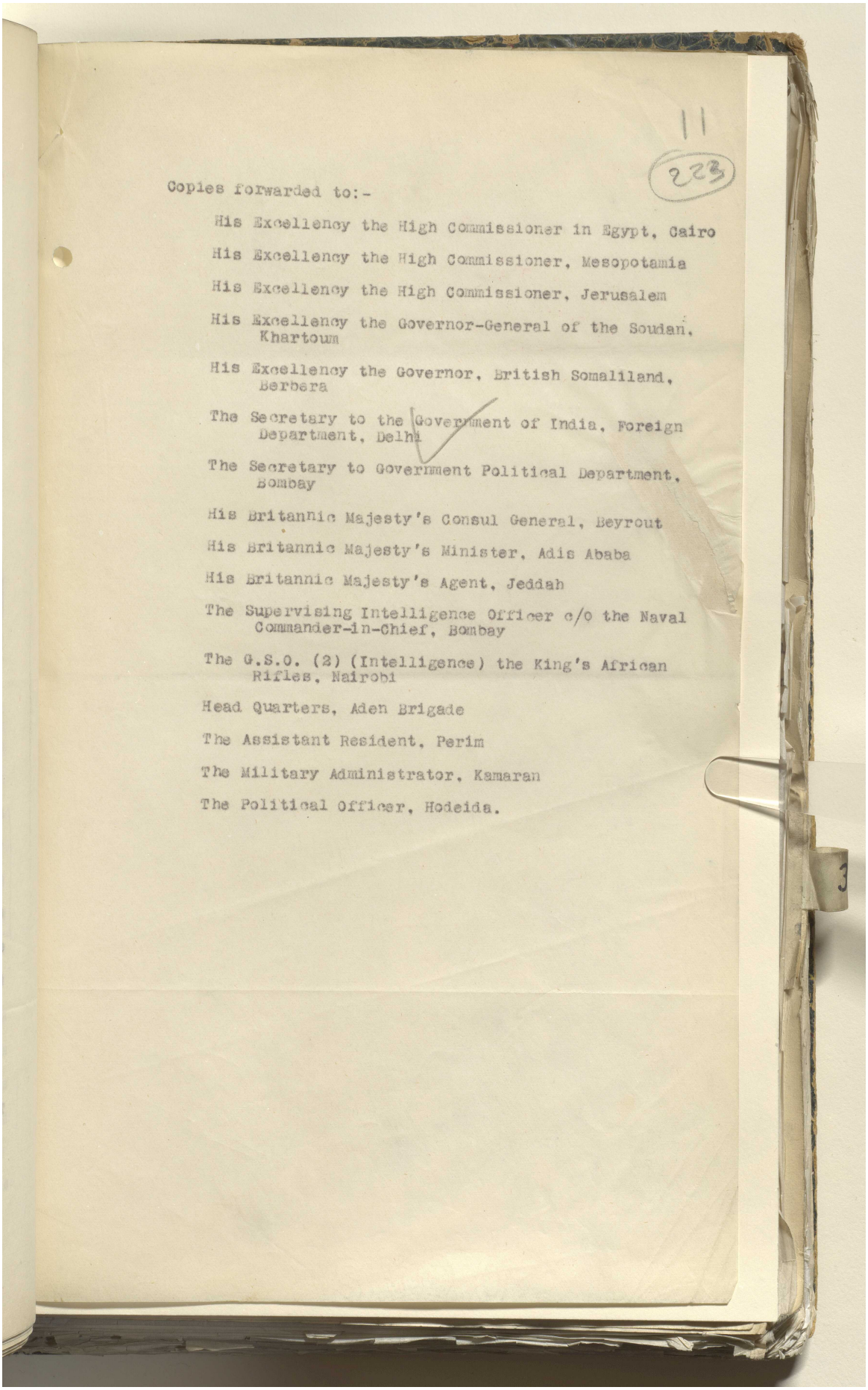

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His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Jerusalem

His Excellency the Governor-General of the Soudan, Khartoum

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera

The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Delhi

The Secretary to Government Political Department, Bombay

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay

The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi

Head Quarters, Aden Brigade

The Assistant Resident, Perim

The Military Administrator, Kamaran

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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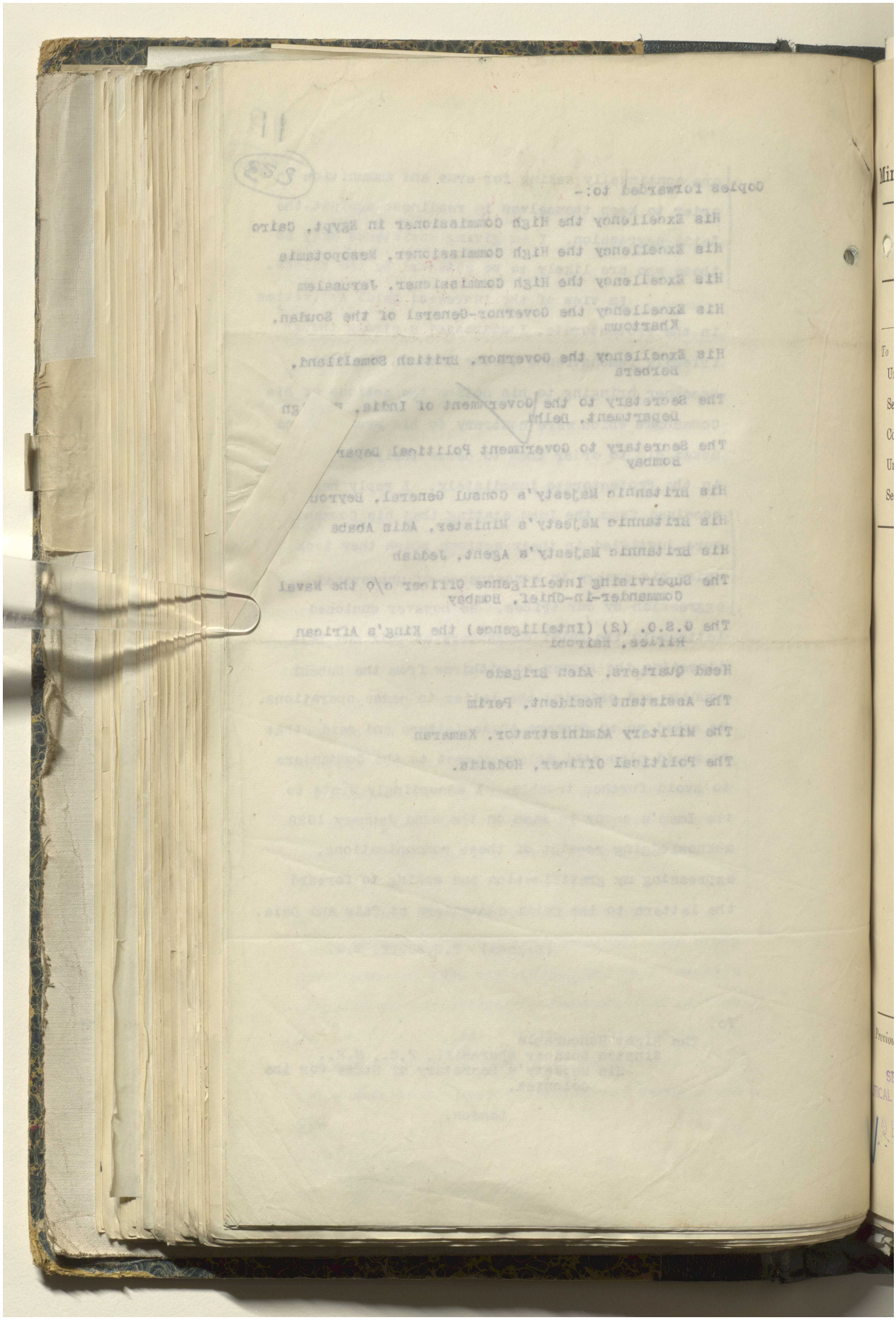

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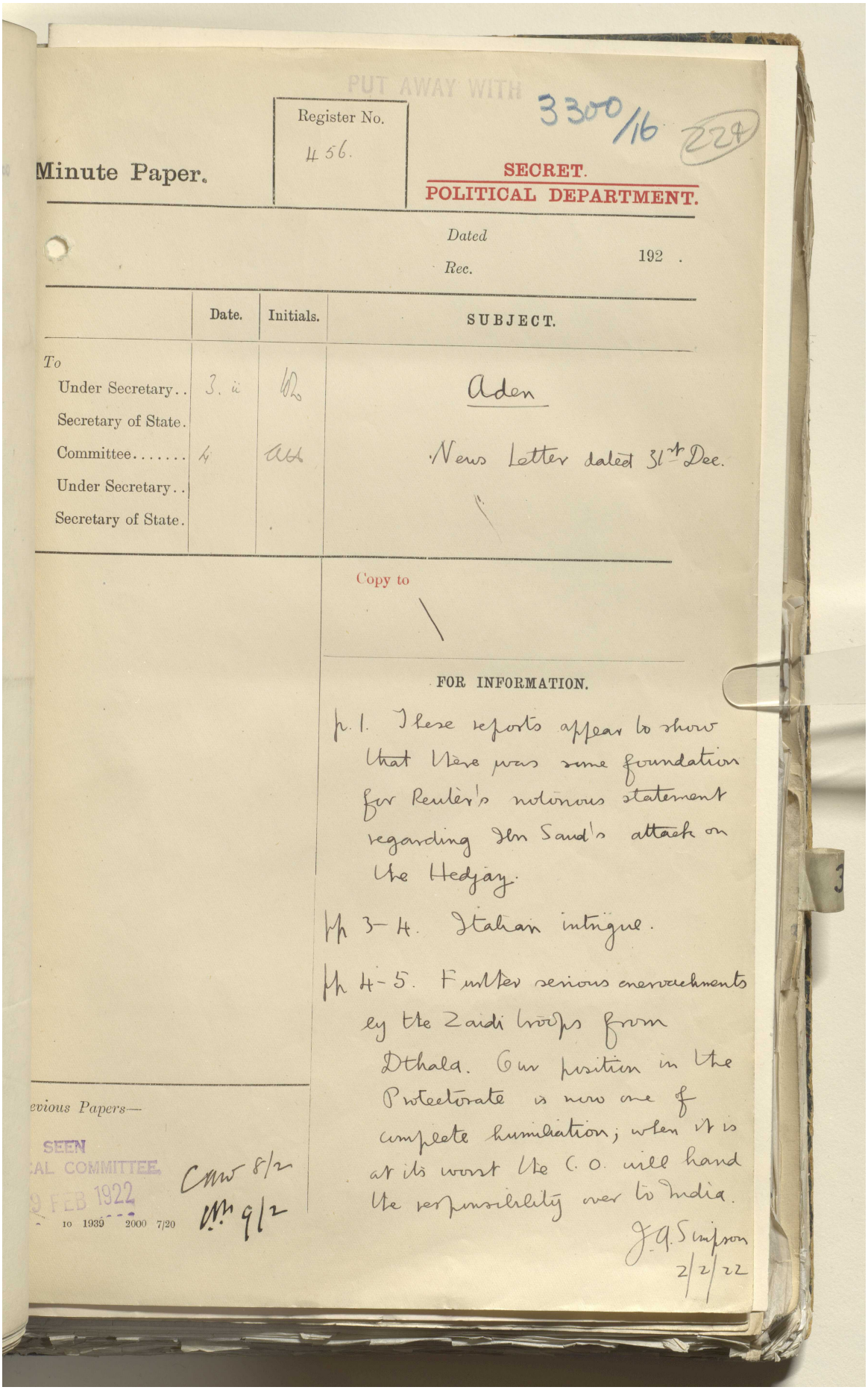

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 456.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..	3. ii	W.	Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	4	ASL	News Letter dated 31st Dec.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 1. These reports appear to show that there was some foundation for Reuter's notorious statement regarding Ibn Saud's attack on the Hedjaz.

pp 3–4. Italian intrigue.

pp 4–5. Further serious encroachments by the Zaidi troops from Dthala. Our position in the Protectorate is now one of complete humiliation; when it is at its worst the C.O. will hand the responsibility over to India.

J.A. Simpson
2/2/22

evious Papers—

SEEN
AL COMMITTEE.
2 FEB 1922

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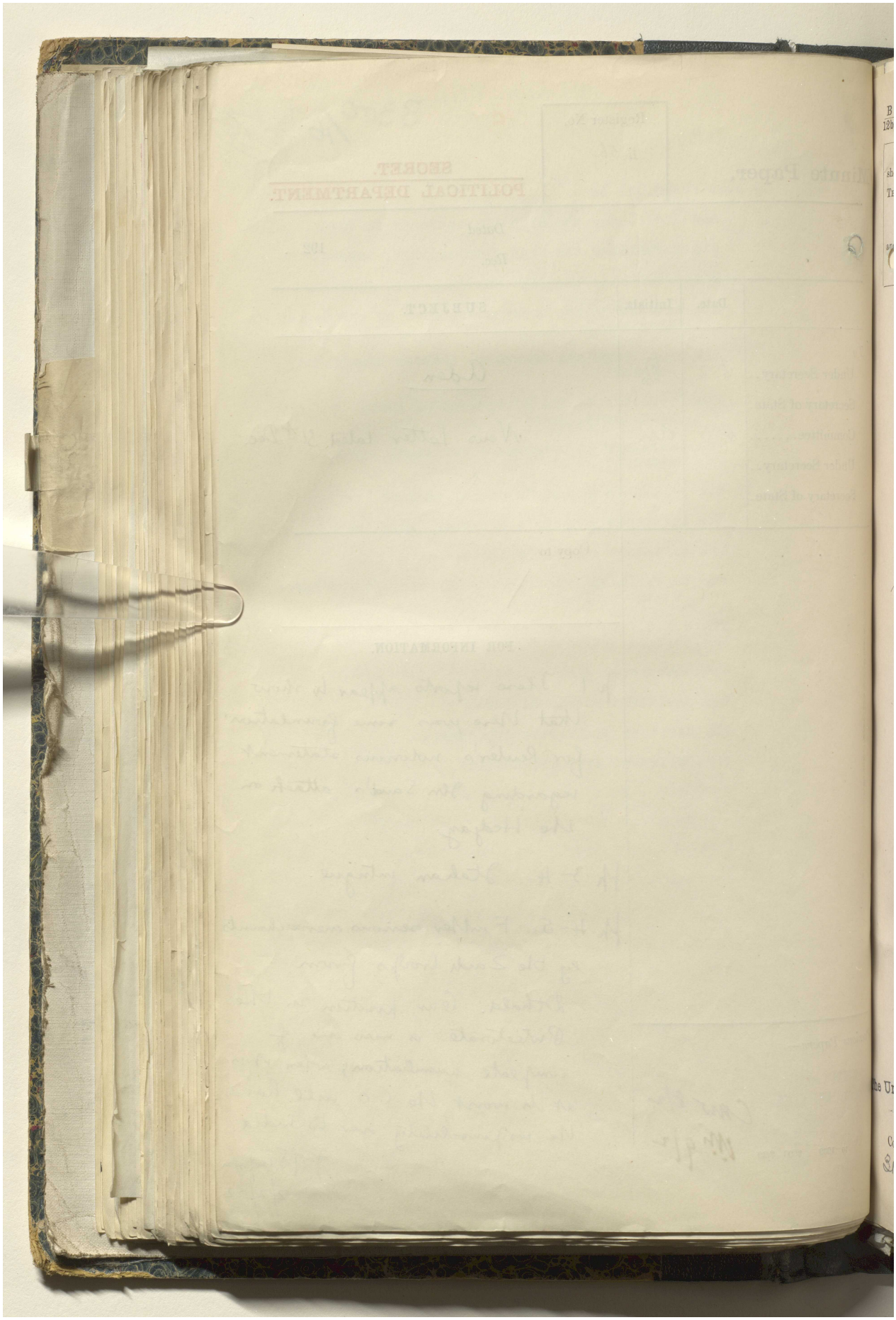

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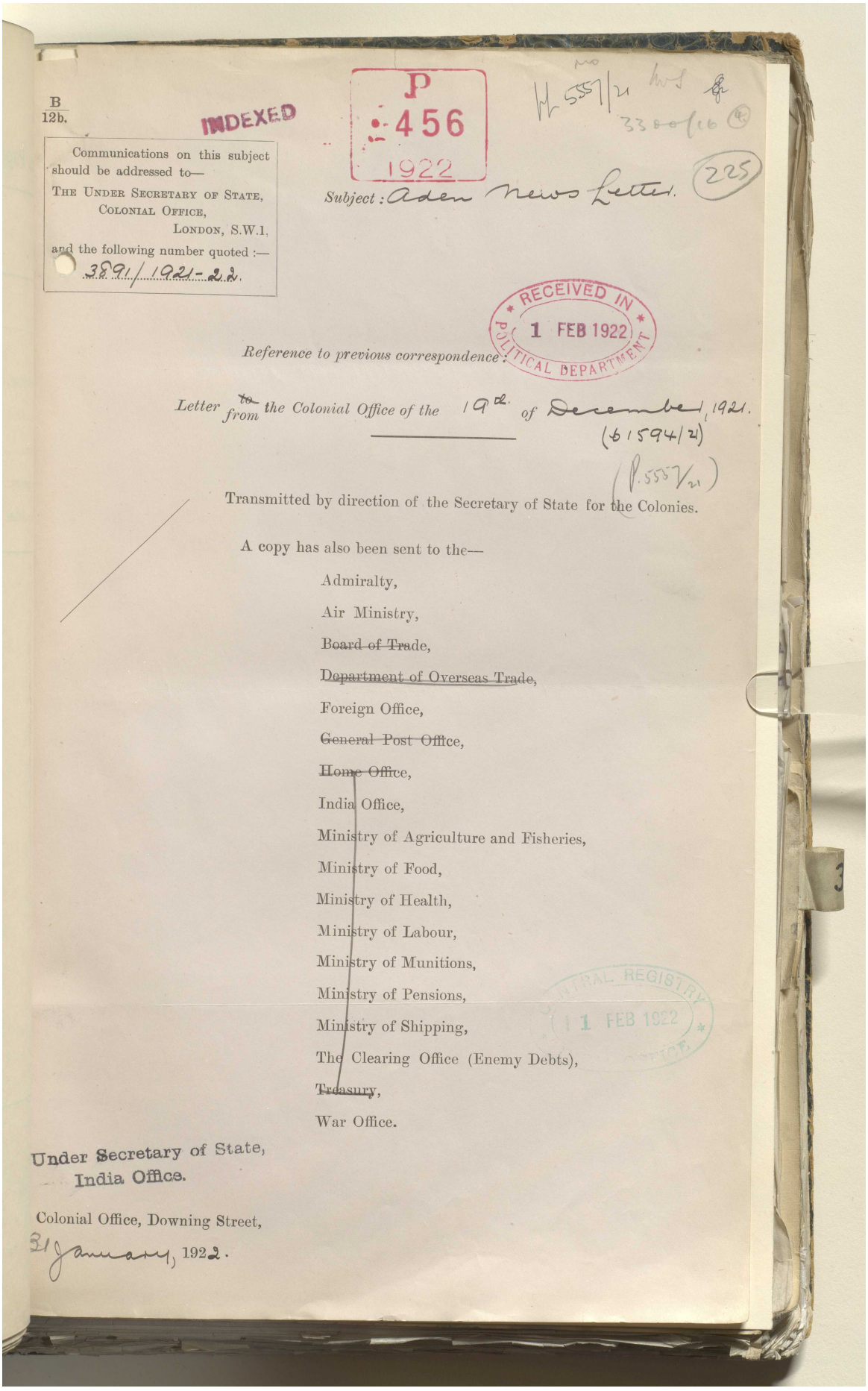

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3300/16

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
3891/1921-22.

Subject : Aden News Letter.

RECEIVED IN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT 1 FEB 1922

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter ~~to~~ from the Colonial Office of the 19th of December, 1921.
(61594/21)
(P. 557/21)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the—

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~~Department of Overseas Trade,~~
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~~Home Office,~~
India Office,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Ministry of Food,
Ministry of Health,
Ministry of Labour,
Ministry of Munitions,
Ministry of Pensions,
Ministry of Shipping,
The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
~~Treasury,~~
War Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY 11 FEB 1922 COLONIAL OFFICE

Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
31 January, 1922.

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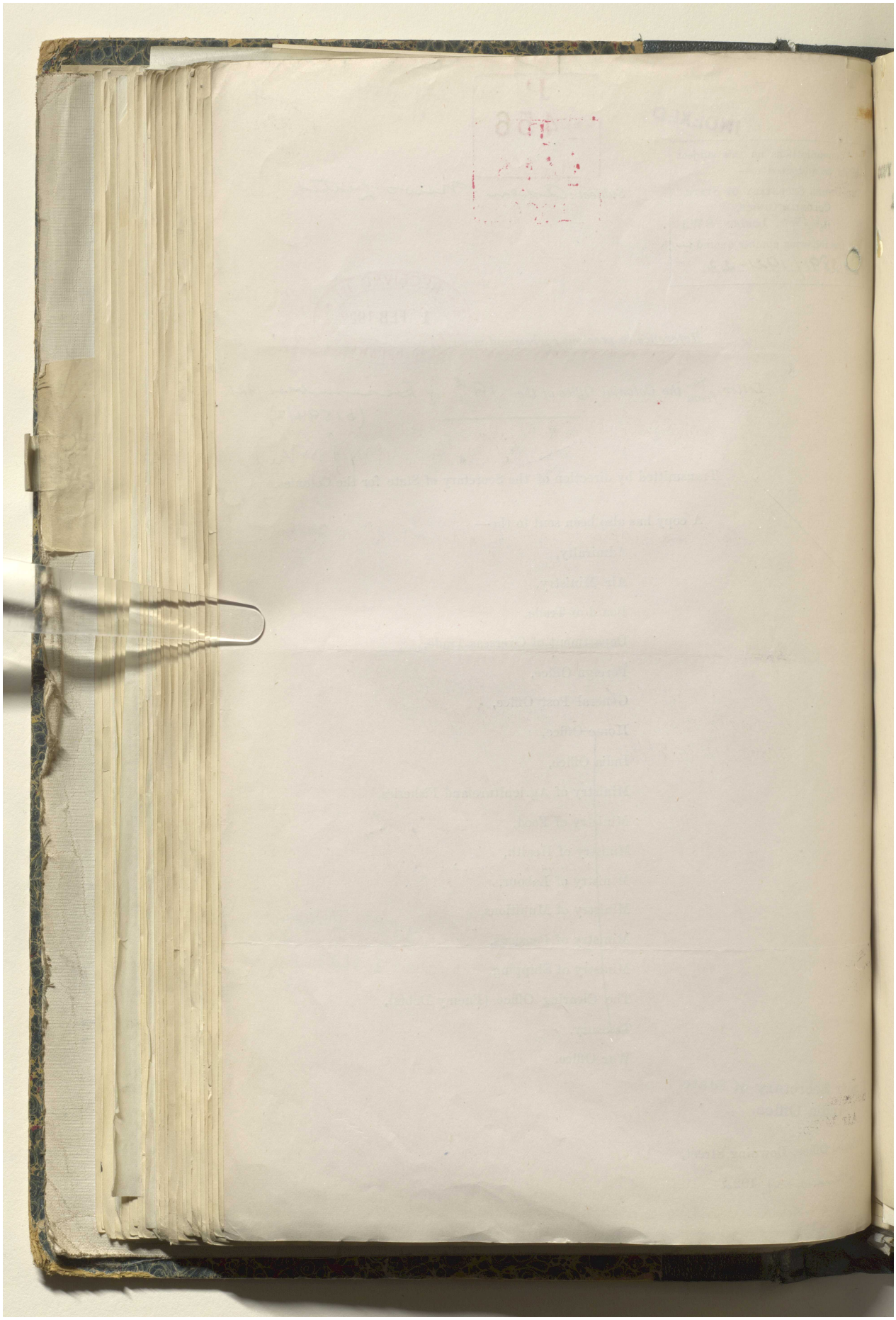

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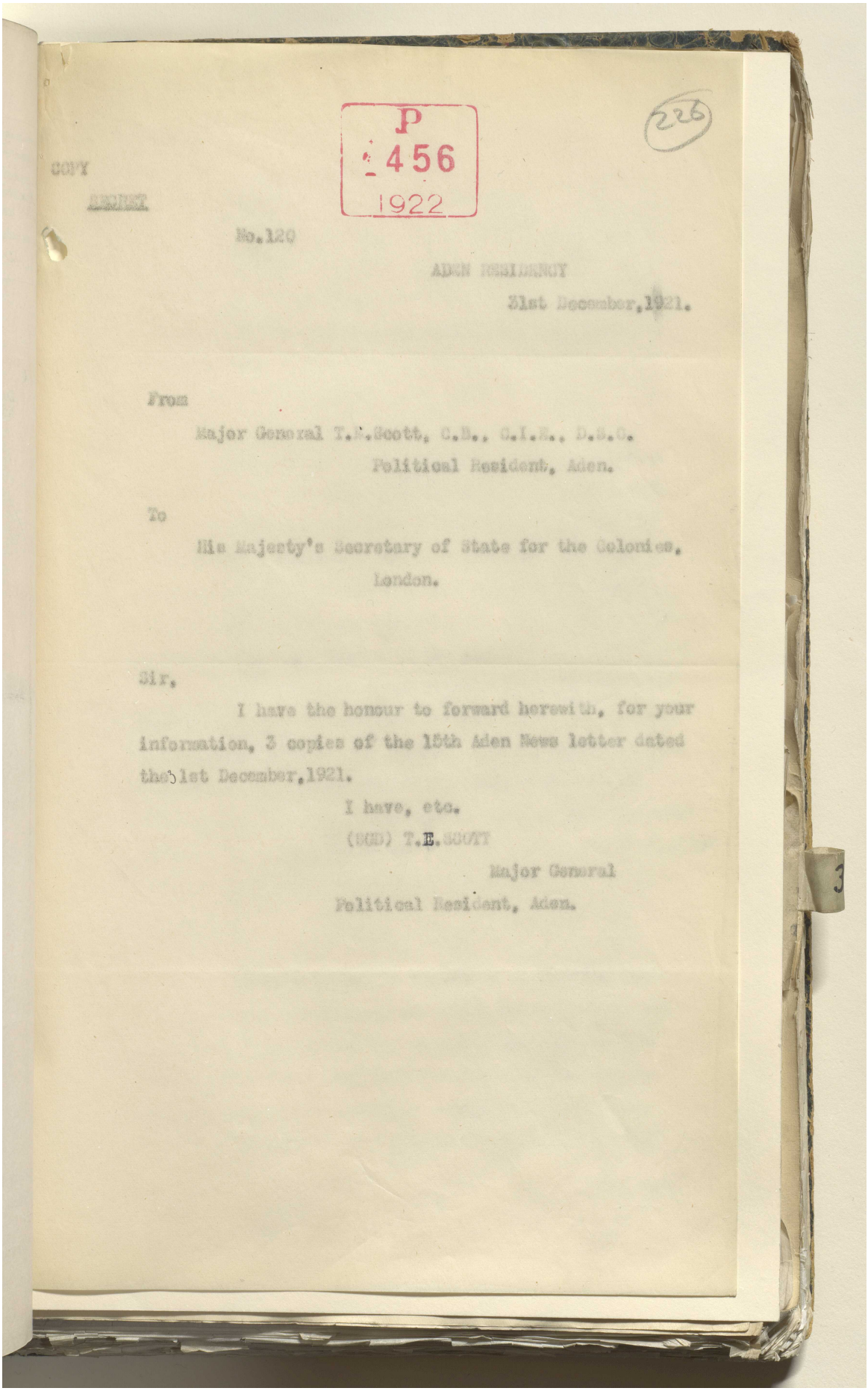

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1922

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COPY

ABSTRACT

No.120

ADEN RESIDENCY

31st December,1921.

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden.

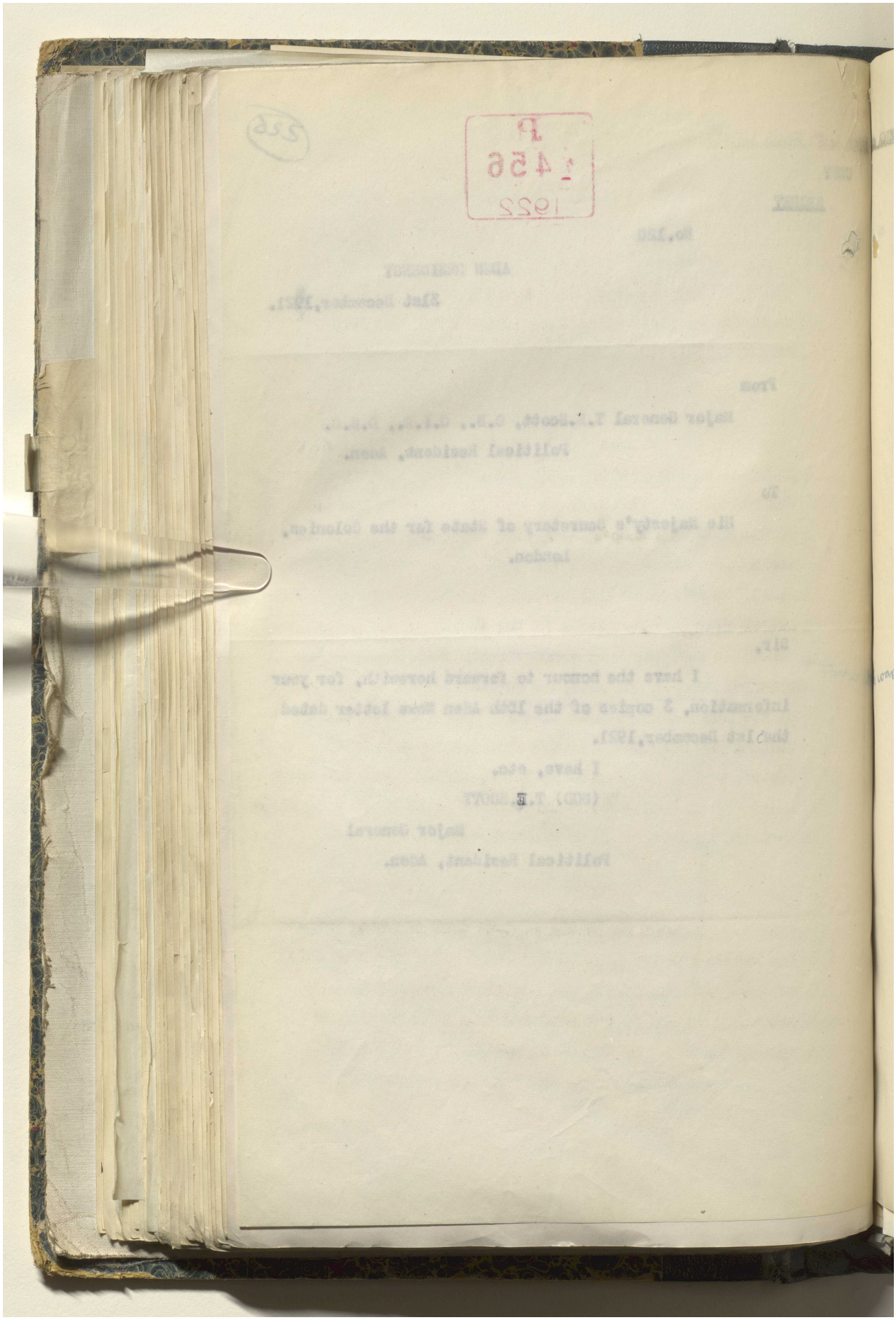
To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, 3 copies of the 15th Aden News letter dated the 31st December,1921.

I have, etc.
(SGD) T.E.SCOTT
Major General
Political Resident, Aden.



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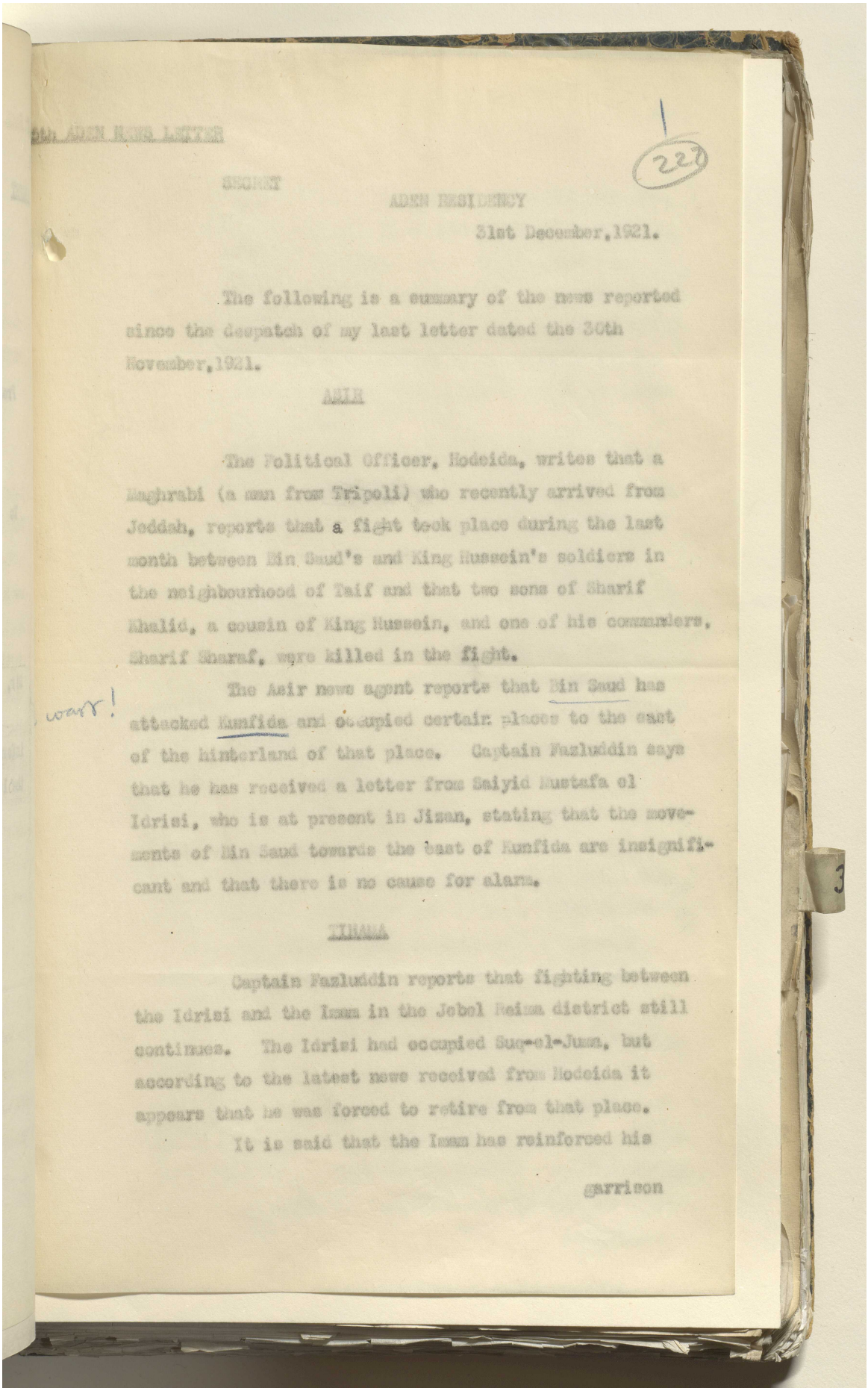

[illegible] ADEN NEWS LETTER

(227)

SECRET

ADEN RESIDENCY

31st December, 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated the 30th November, 1921.

ASIR

The Political Officer, Hodeida, writes that a Maghrabi (a man from Tripoli) who recently arrived from Jeddah, reports that a fight took place during the last month between Ibn Saud's and King Hussein's soldiers in the neighbourhood of Taif and that two sons of Sharif Khalid, a cousin of King Hussein, and one of his commanders, Sharif Sharaf, were killed in the fight.

The Asir news agent reports that Ibn Saud has attacked Kunfida and occupied certain places to the east of the hinterland of that place. Captain Fazluddin says that he has received a letter from Saiyid Mustafa el Idrisi, who is at present in Jizan, stating that the movements of Ibn Saud towards the east of Kunfida are insignificant and that there is no cause for alarm.

YEMAN

Captain Fazluddin reports that fighting between the Idrisi and the Imam in the Jebel Reima district still continues. The Idrisi had occupied Suq-el-Juma, but according to the latest news received from Hodeida it appears that he was forced to retire from that place.

It is said that the Imam has reinforced his

garrison

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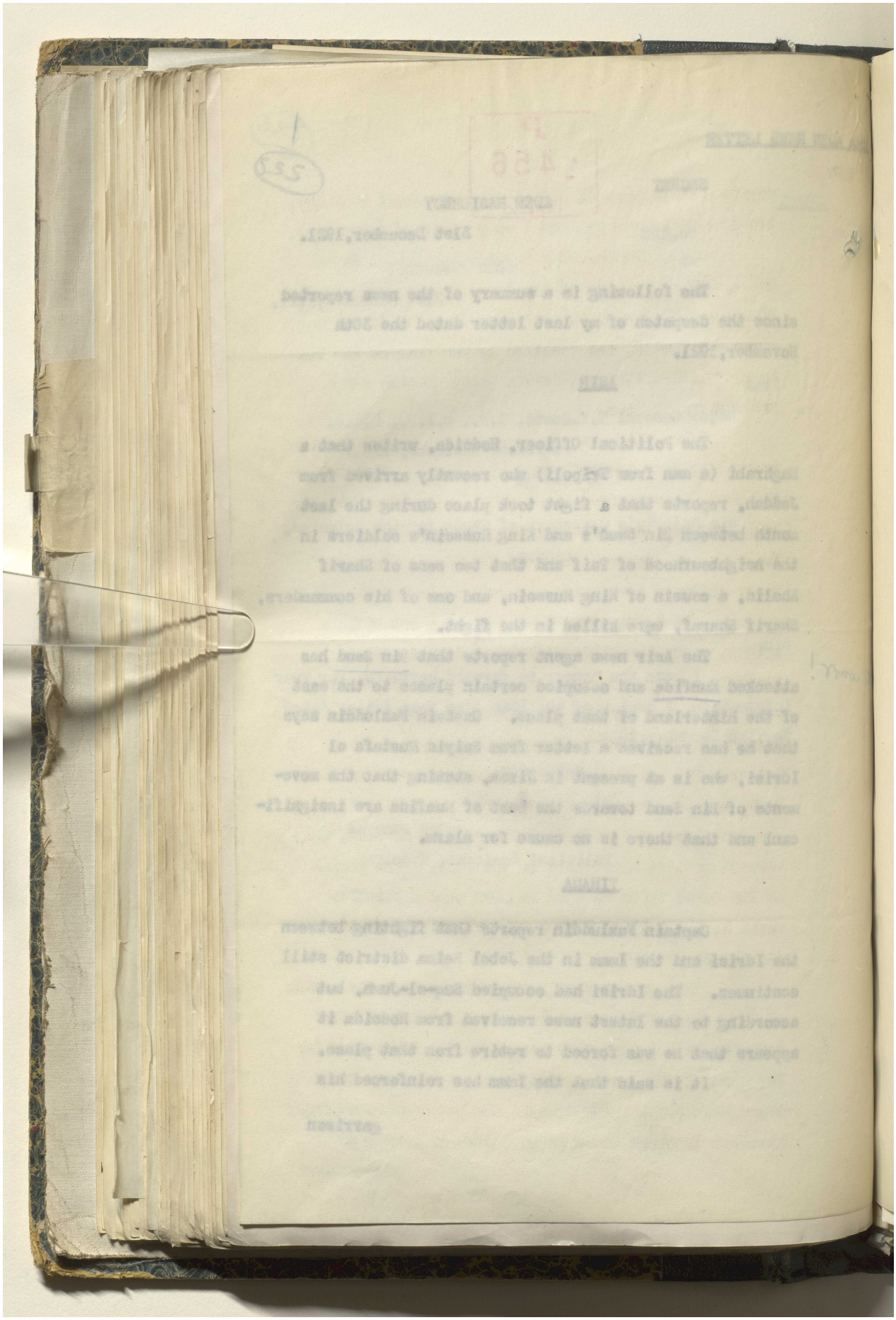

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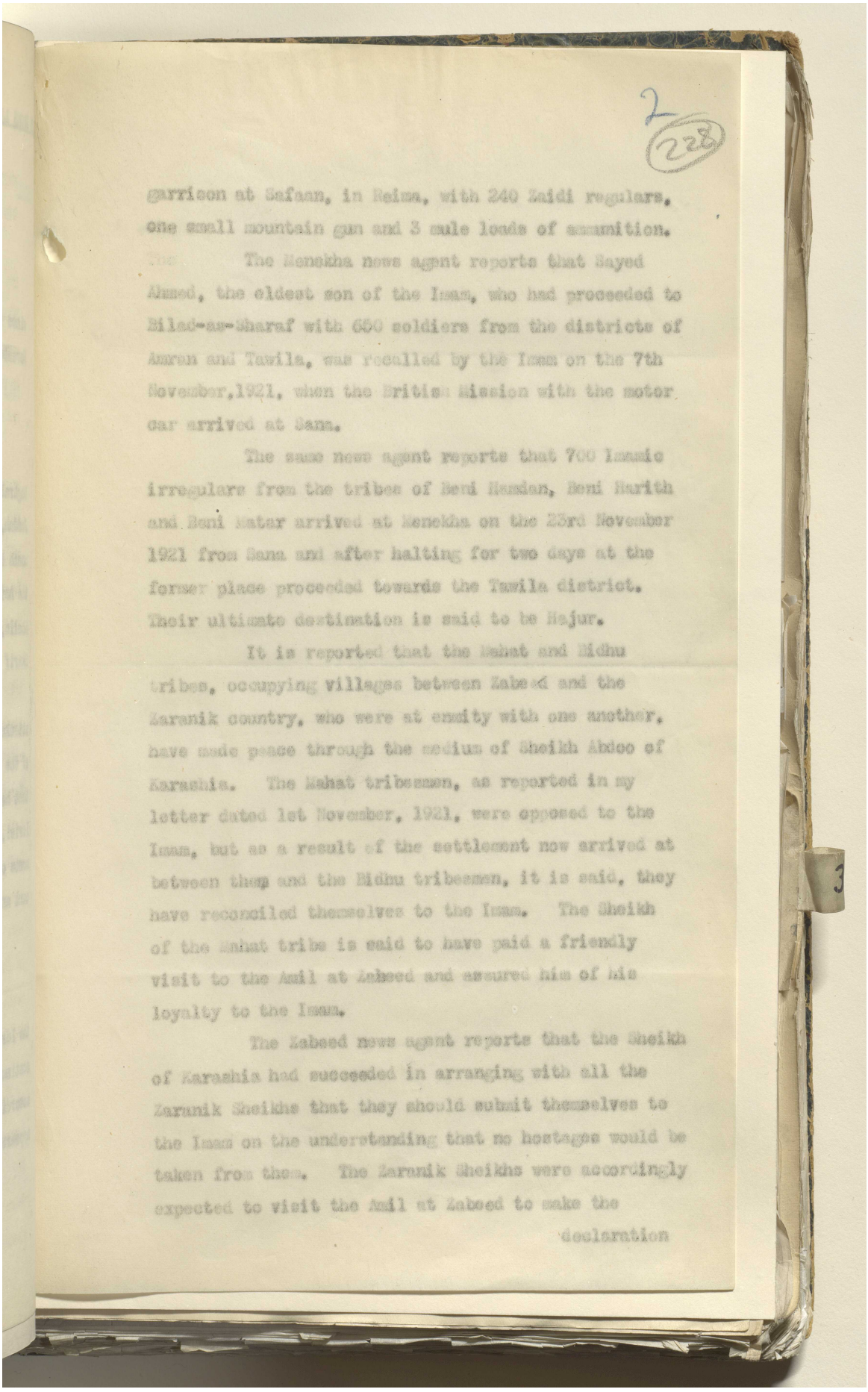

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garrison at Safaan, in Reima, with 240 Zaidi regulars, one small mountain gun and 3 mule loads of ammunition.

The Menekha news agent reports that Sayed Ahmed, the eldest son of the Imam, who had proceeded to Bilad-as-Sharaf with 600 soldiers from the districts of Amran and Tawila, was recalled by the Imam on the 7th November,1921, when the British Mission with the motor car arrived at Sana.

The same news agent reports that 700 Imamic irregulars from the tribes of Beni Hamdan, Beni Harith and Beni Mater arrived at Menekha on the 23rd November 1921 from Sana and after halting for two days at the former place proceeded towards the Tawila district. Their ultimate destination is said to be Hajur.

It is reported that the Mahat and Midhu tribes, occupying villages between Zabeed and the Zaranik country, who were at enmity with one another, have made peace through the medium of Sheikh Abdoo of Karashia. The Mahat tribesmen, as reported in my letter dated 1st November, 1921, were opposed to the Imam, but as a result of the settlement now arrived at between them and the Midhu tribesmen, it is said, they have reconciled themselves to the Imam. The Sheikh of the Mahat tribe is said to have paid a friendly visit to the Amil at Zabeed and assured him of his loyalty to the Imam.

The Zabeed news agent reports that the Sheikh of Karashia had succeeded in arranging with all the Zaranik Sheikhs that they should submit themselves to the Imam on the understanding that no hostages would be taken from them. The Zaranik Sheikhs were accordingly expected to visit the Amil at Zabeed to make the declaration

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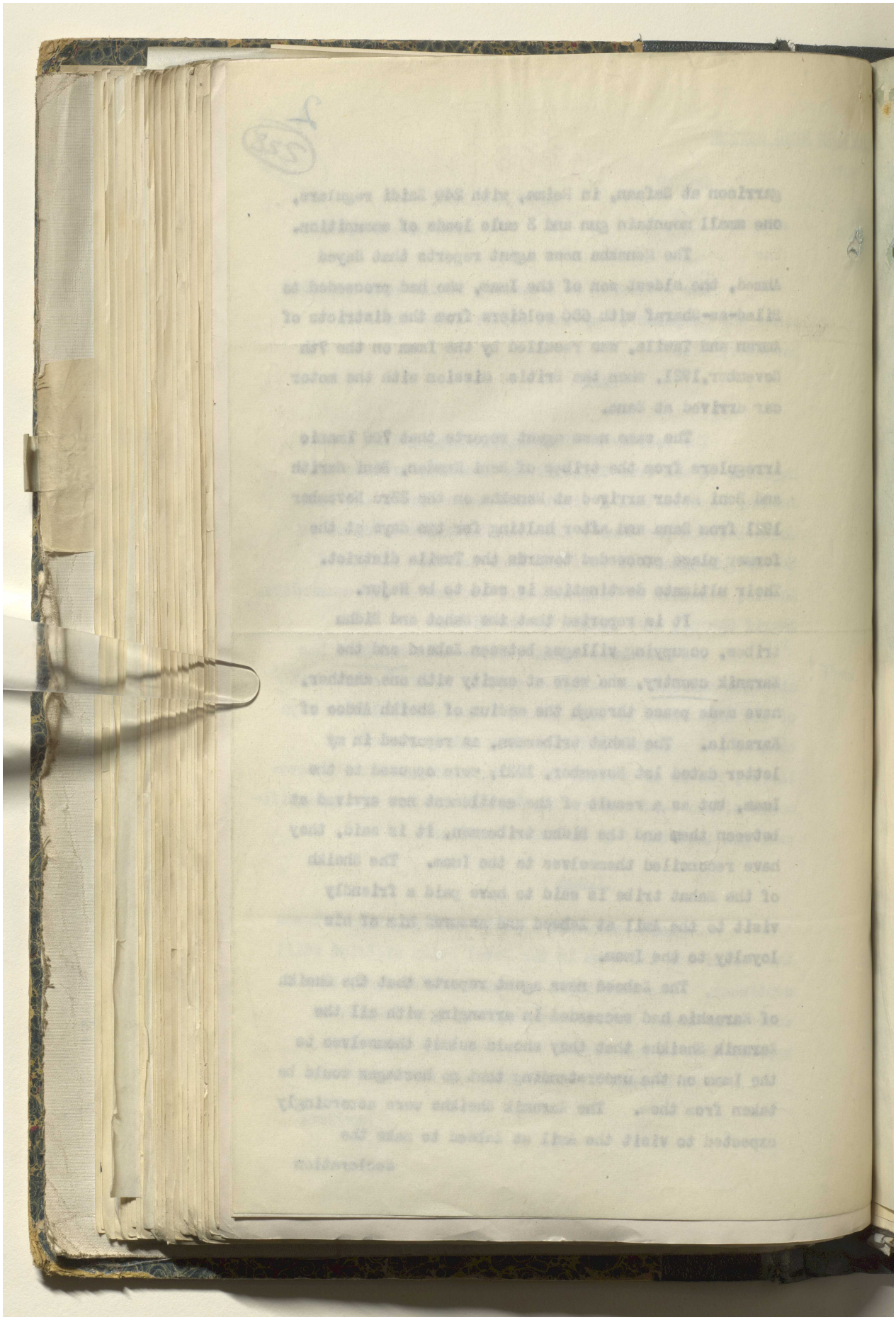

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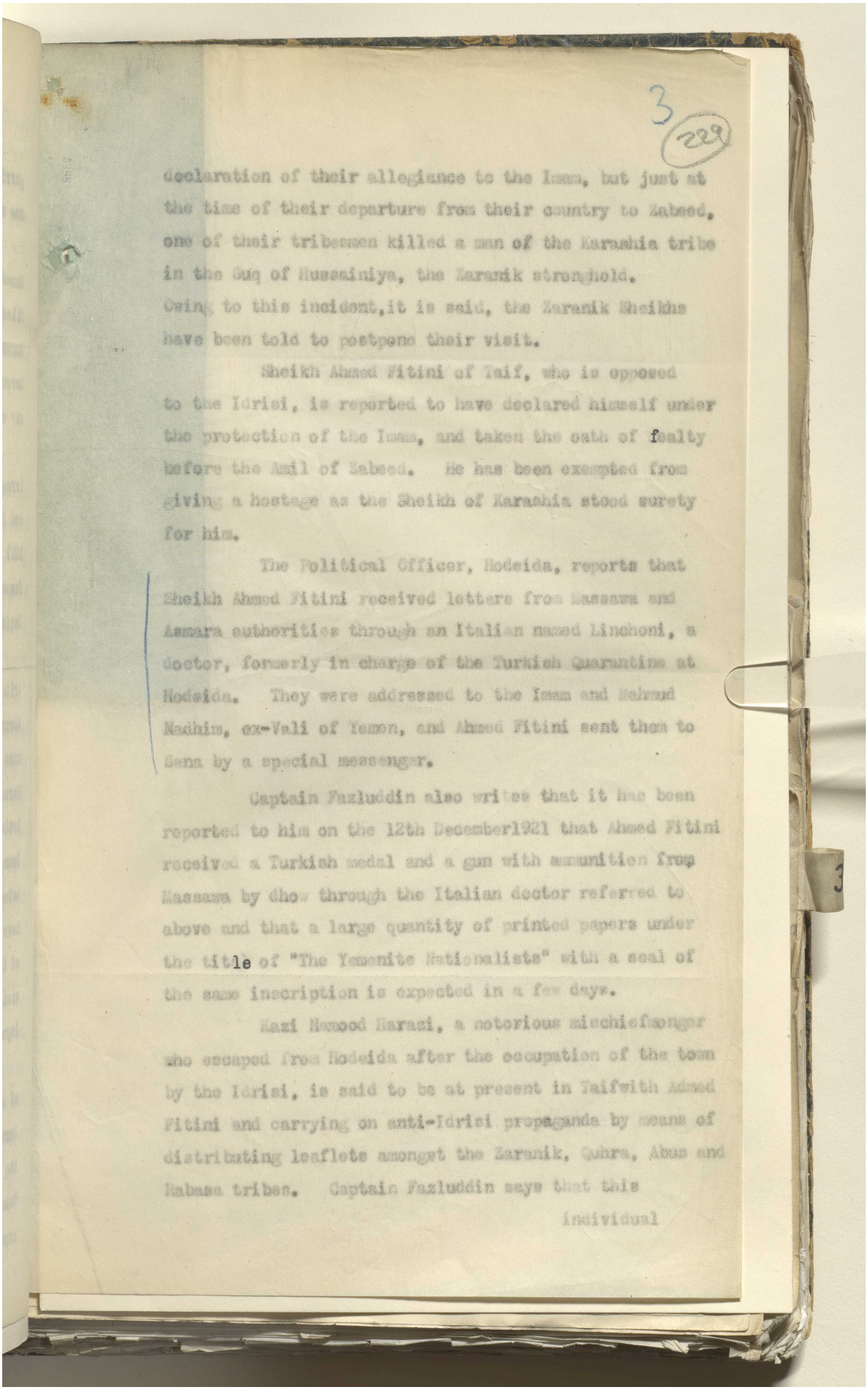

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declaration of their allegiance to the Imam, but just at the time of their departure from their country to Zabeed, one of their tribesmen killed a man of the Karashia tribe in the Suq of Hussainiya, the Zaranik stronghold. Owing to this incident, it is said, the Zaranik Sheikhs have been told to postpone their visit.

Sheikh Ahmed Fitini of Taif, who is opposed to the Idrisi, is reported to have declared himself under the protection of the Imam, and taken the oath of fealty before the Amil of Zabeed. He has been exempted from giving a hostage as the Sheikh of Karashia stood surety for him.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that Sheikh Ahmed Fitini received letters from Massawa and Asmara authorities through an Italian named Linchoni, a doctor, formerly in charge of the Turkish Quarantine at Hodeida. They were addressed to the Imam and Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen, and Ahmed Fitini sent them to Sana by a special messenger.

Captain Fazluddin also writes that it has been reported to him on the 12th December1921 that Ahmed Fitini received a Turkish medal and a gun with ammunition from Massawa by dhow through the Italian doctor referred to above and that a large quantity of printed papers under the title of "The Yemenite Nationalists" with a seal of the same inscription is expected in a few days.

Kazi Hamood Barazi, a notorious mischiefmonger who escaped from Hodeida after the occupation of the town by the Idrisi, is said to be at present in Taifwith Ahmed Fitini and carrying on anti-Idrisi propaganda by means of distributing leaflets amongst the Zaranik, Qahra, Abus and Rabaza tribes. Captain Fazluddin says that this

individual

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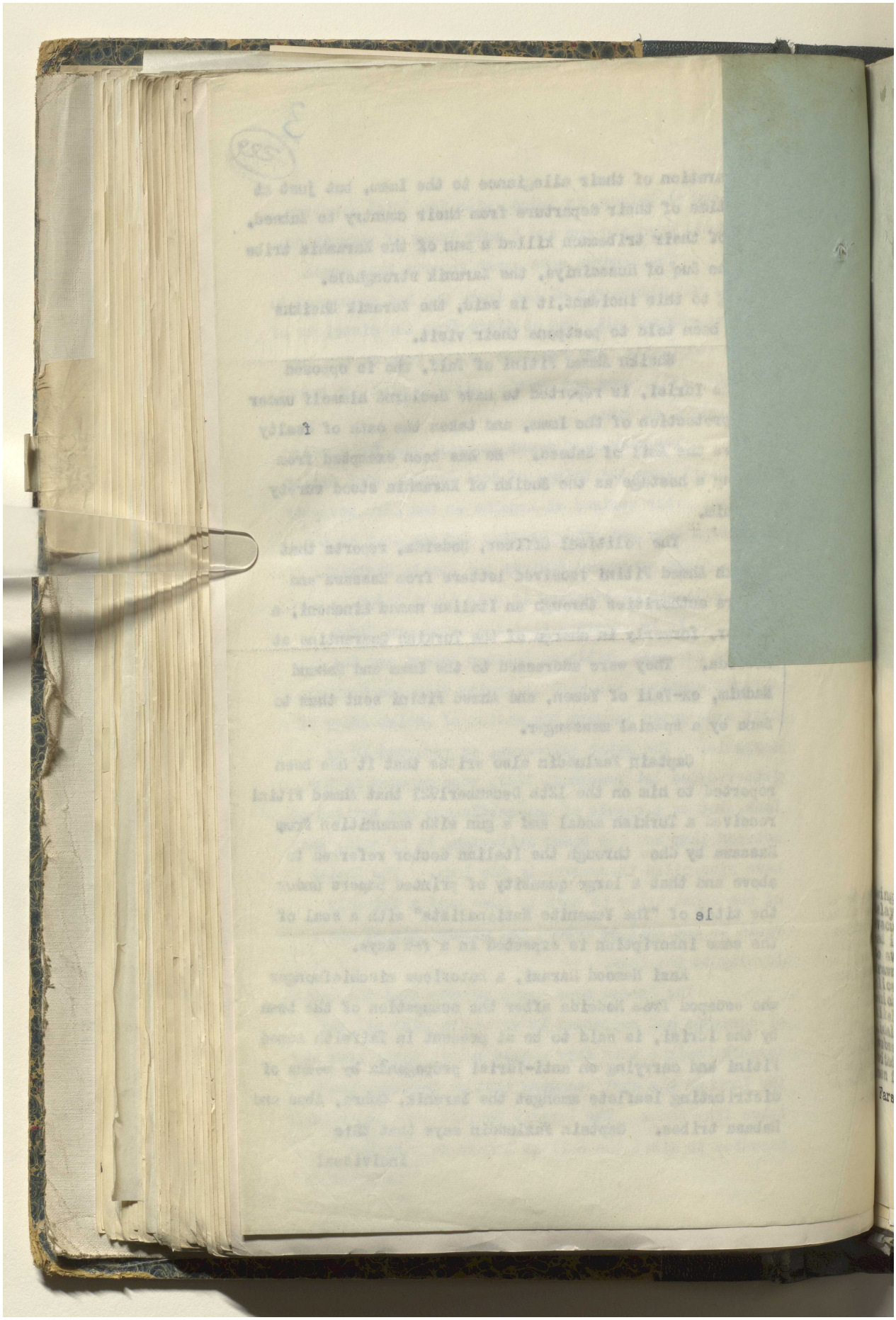

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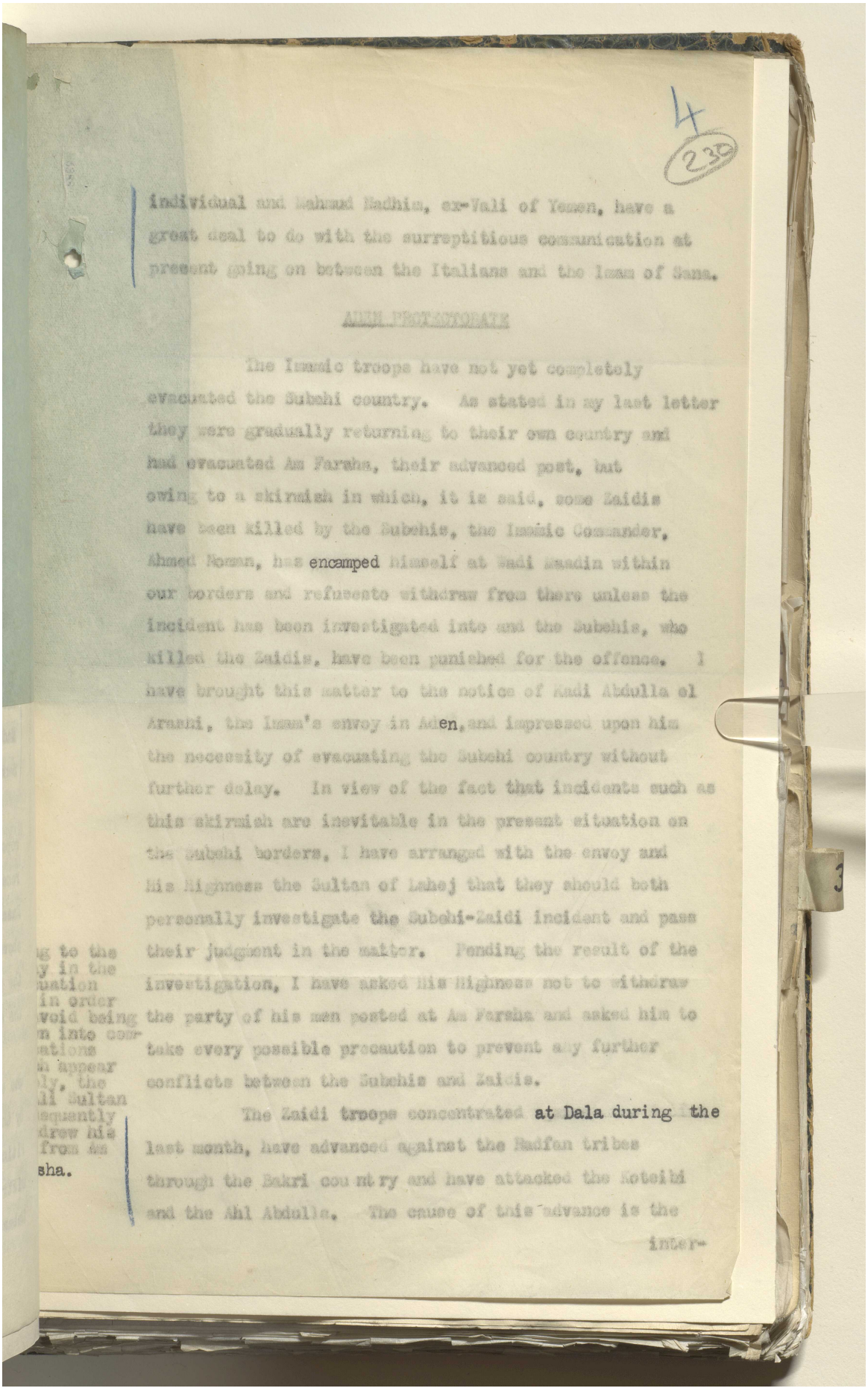

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individual and Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen, have a great deal to do with the surreptitious communication at present going on between the Italians and the Imam of Sana.

ASIR PROTECTORATE

The Imamic troops have not yet completely evacuated the Subehi country. As stated in my last letter they were gradually returning to their own country and had evacuated Am Farsha, their advanced post, but owing to a skirmish in which, it is said, some Zaidis have been killed by the Subehis, the Imamic Commander, Ahmed Noman, has encamped himself at Wadi Asadin within our borders and refuses to withdraw from there unless the incident has been investigated into and the Subehis, who killed the Zaidis, have been punished for the offence. I have brought this matter to the notice of Kadi Abdulla el Aranni, the Imam's envoy in Aden, and impressed upon him the necessity of evacuating the Subehi country without further delay. In view of the fact that incidents such as this skirmish are inevitable in the present situation on the Subehi borders, I have arranged with the envoy and His Highness the Sultan of Lahej that they should both personally investigate the Subehi-Zaidi incident and pass their judgment in the matter. Pending the result of the investigation, I have asked His Highness not to withdraw the party of his men posted at Am Farsha and asked him to take every possible precaution to prevent any further conflicts between the Subehis and Zaidis.

The Zaidi troops concentrated at Dala during the last month, have advanced against the Radfan tribes through the Bakri country and have attacked the Koteibi and the Ahl Abdulla. The cause of this advance is the

inter-

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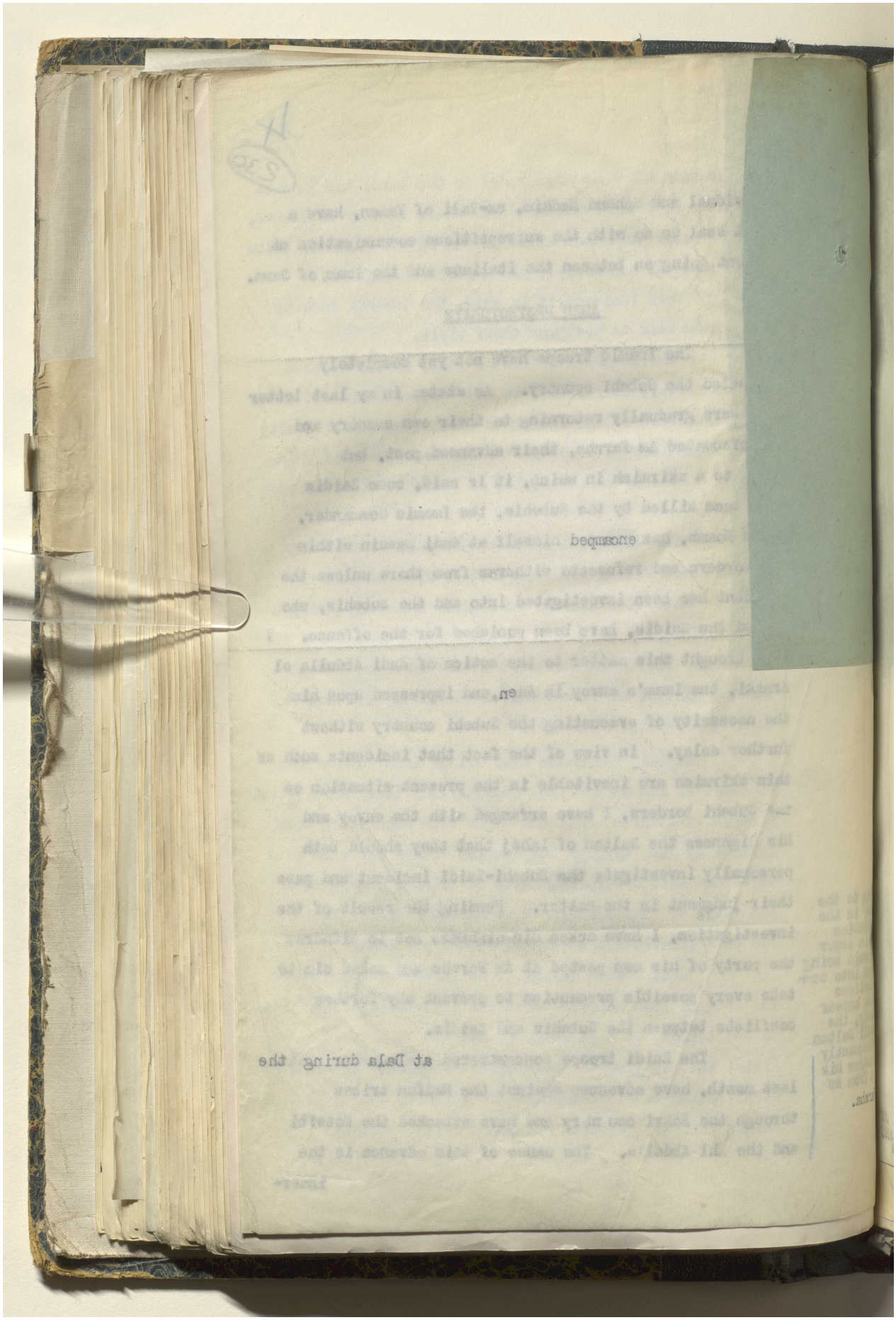

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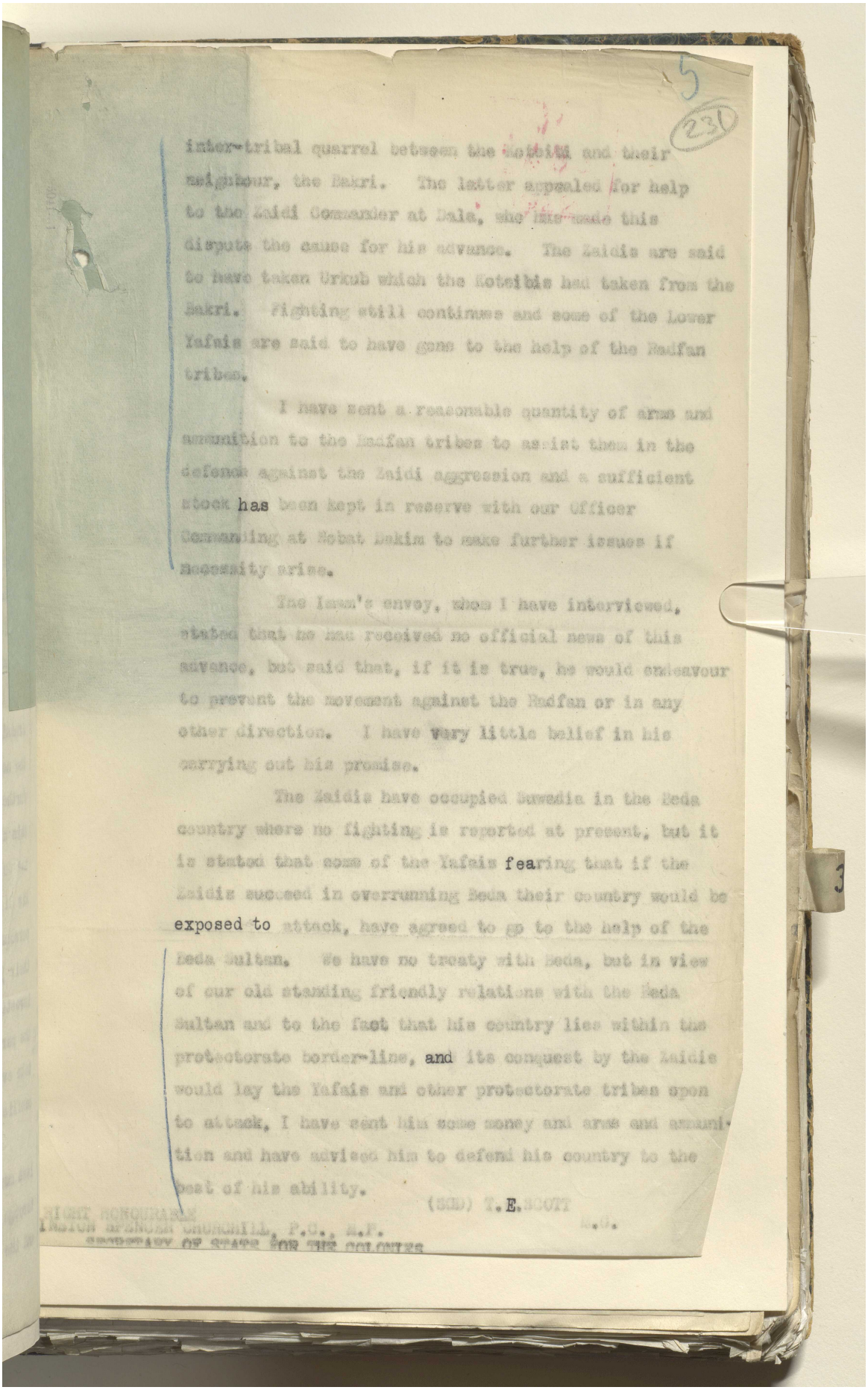


inter-tribal quarrel between the Kotaibi and their neighbour, the Bakri. The latter appealed for help to the Zaidi Commander at Dala, who has made this dispute the cause for his advance. The Zaidis are said to have taken Urkub which the Kotaibis had taken from the Bakri. Fighting still continues and some of the Lower Yafais are said to have gone to the help of the Radfan tribes.

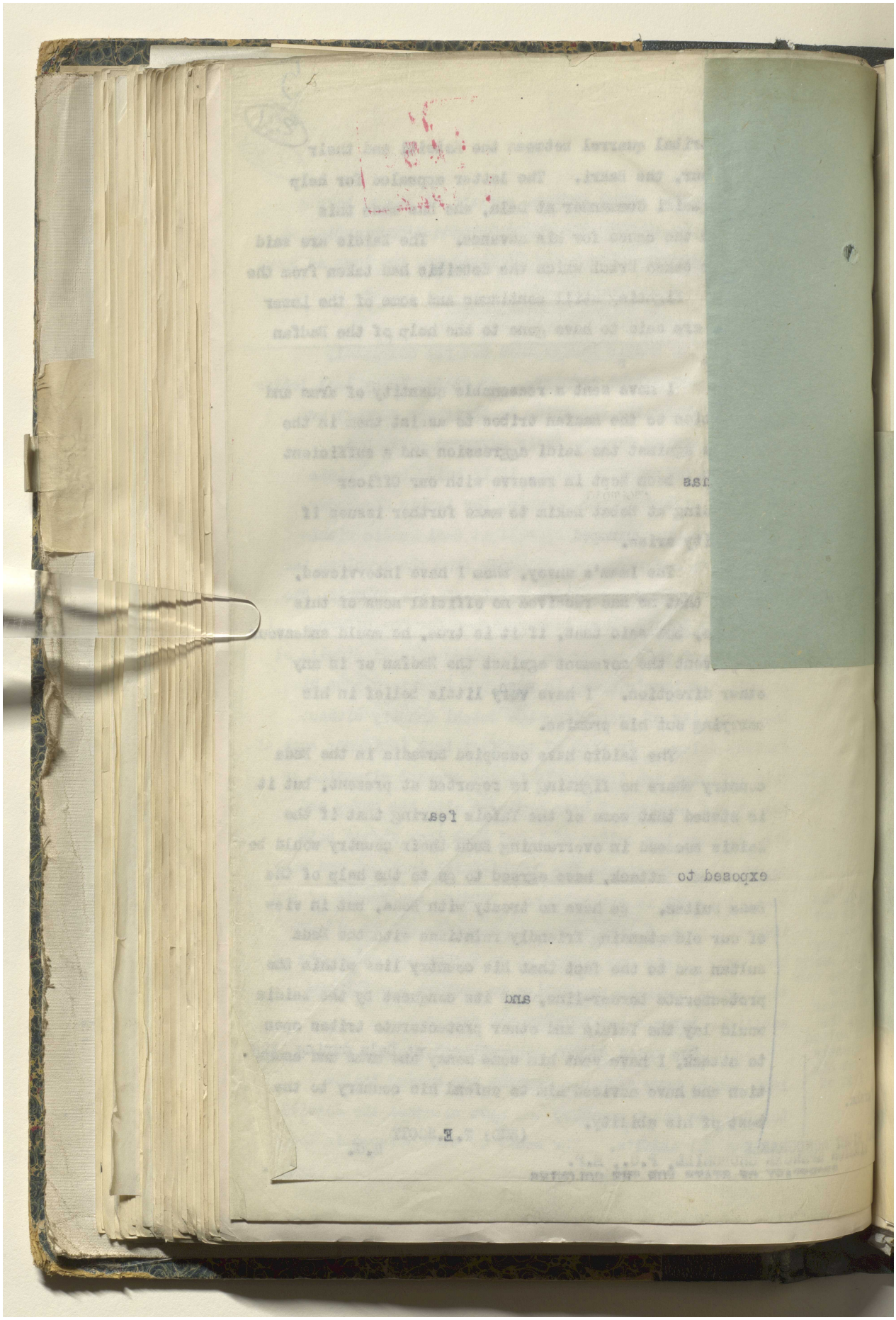
I have sent a reasonable quantity of arms and ammunition to the Radfan tribes to assist them in the defence against the Zaidi aggression and a sufficient stock has been kept in reserve with our Officer Commanding at Sobat Lakim to make further issues if necessity arise.

The Imam's envoy, whom I have interviewed, stated that he has received no official news of this advance, but said that, if it is true, he would endeavour to prevent the movement against the Radfan or in any other direction. I have very little belief in his carrying out his promise.

The Zaidis have occupied Suwedia in the Beda country where no fighting is reported at present, but it is stated that some of the Yafais fearing that if the Zaidis succeed in overrunning Beda their country would be exposed to attack, have agreed to go to the help of the Beda Sultan. We have no treaty with Beda, but in view of our old standing friendly relations with the Beda Sultan and to the fact that his country lies within the protectorate border-line, and its conquest by the Zaidis would lay the Yafais and other protectorate tribes open to attack, I have sent him some money and arms and ammunition and have advised him to defend his country to the best of his ability.

(SD) T.E.SCOTT

RIGHT HONOURABLE
WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL, P.C., M.P.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES



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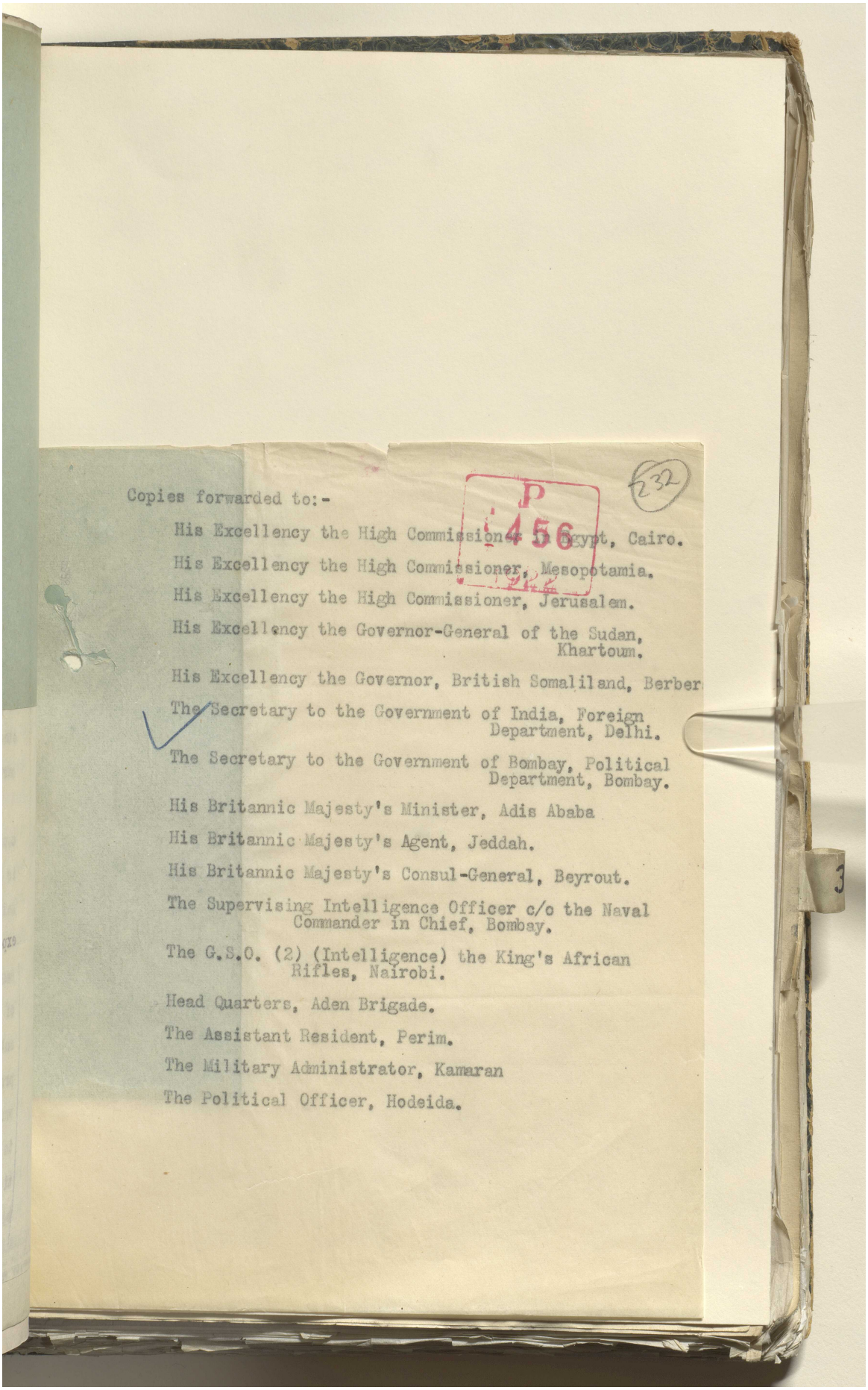

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His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berber

The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Delhi.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Beyrout.

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander in Chief, Bombay.

The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi.

Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.

The Assistant Resident, Perim.

The Military Administrator, Kamaran

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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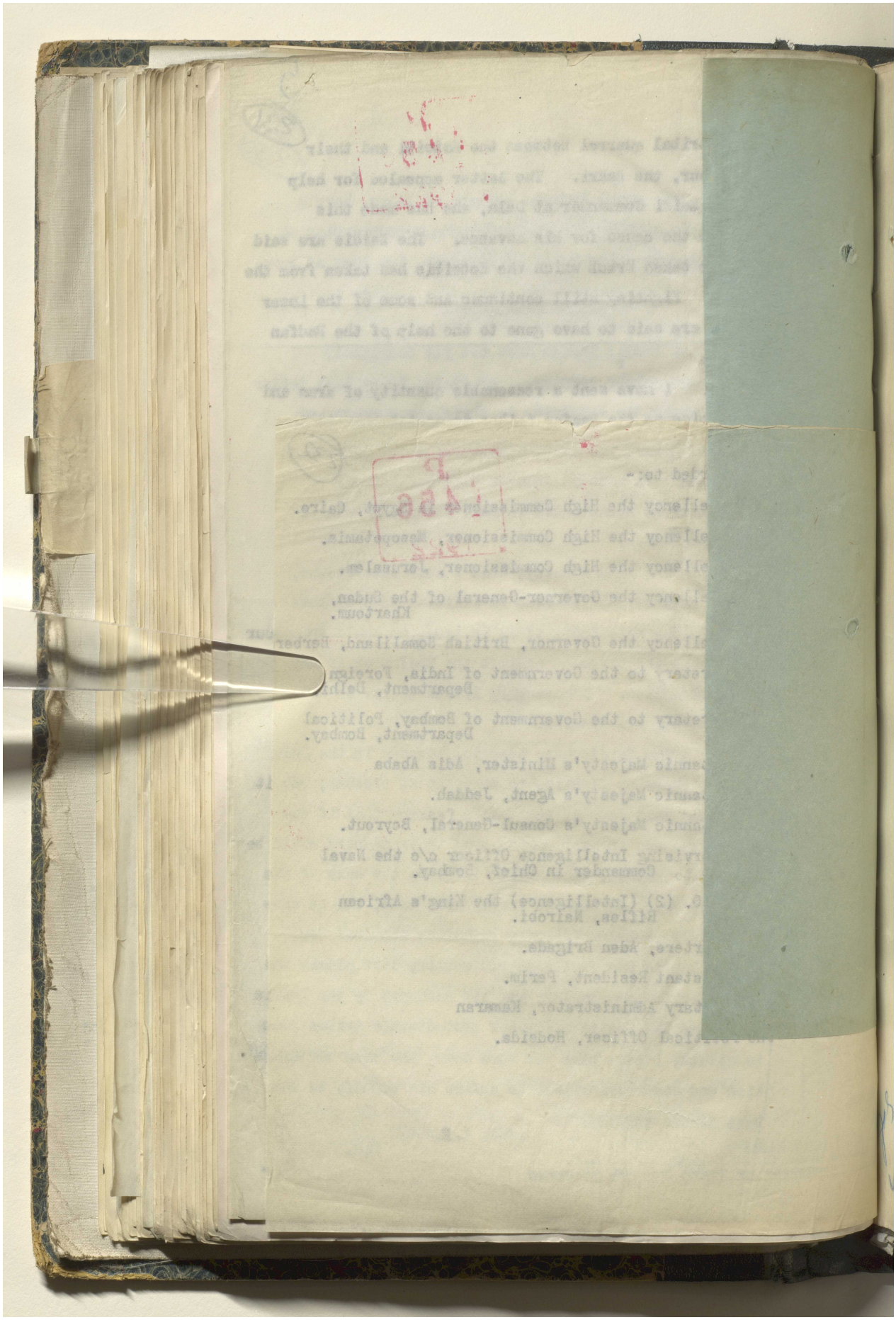

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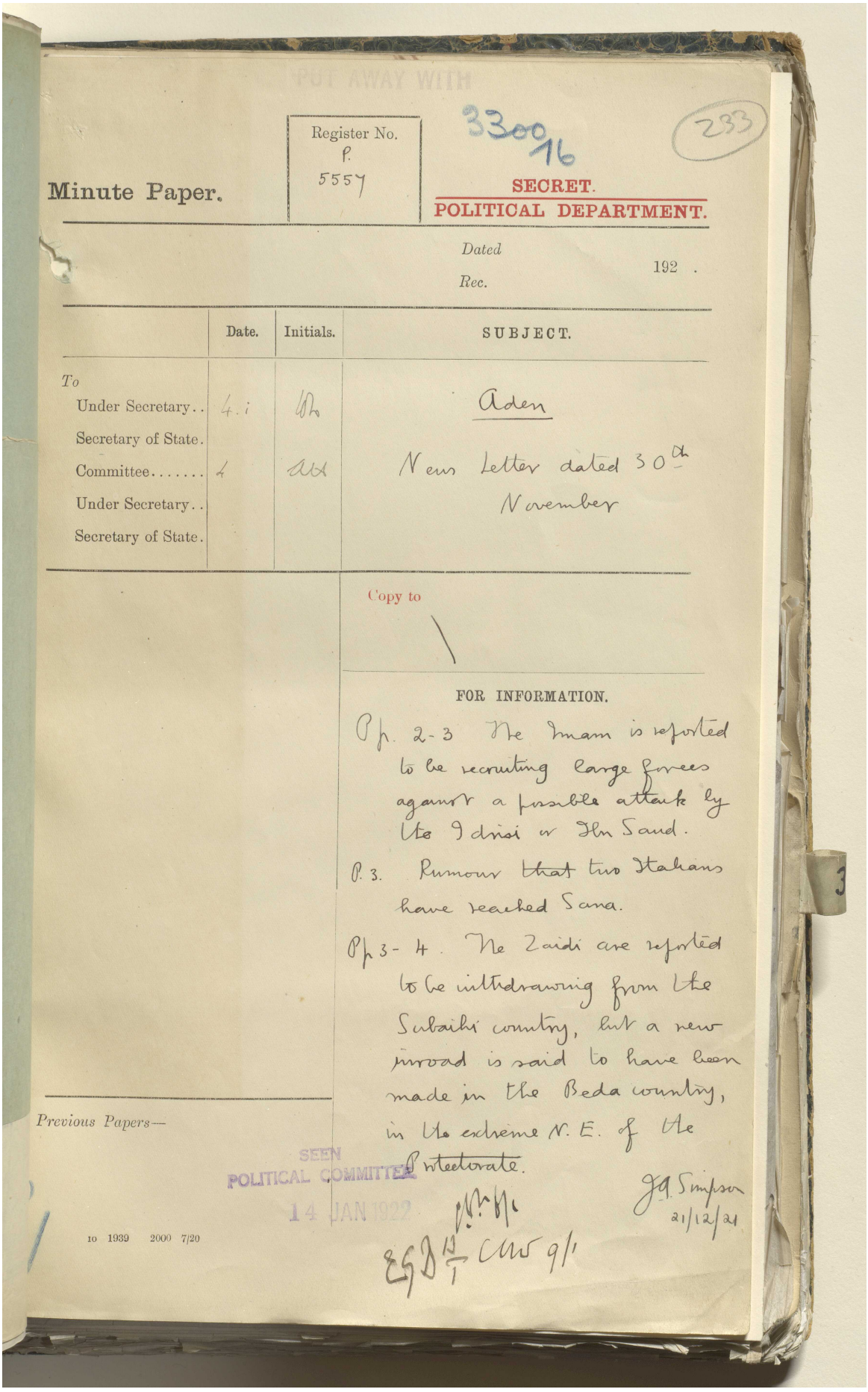

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Register No. P. 5557

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Dated

Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..	4.i		Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	4		News Letter dated 30th November
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

Pp. 2-3 The Imam is reported to be recruiting large forces against a possible attack by the Idrisi or Ibn Saud.

P. 3. Rumour that two Italians have reached Sana.

Pp 3-4. The Zaidi are reported to be withdrawing from the Subaihi country, but a new inroad is said to have been made in the Beda country, in the extreme N.E. of the Protectorate.

J.G. Simpson
21/12/21

Previous Papers—

SEEN
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14 JAN 1922

EGD 12/1 CWS 9/1

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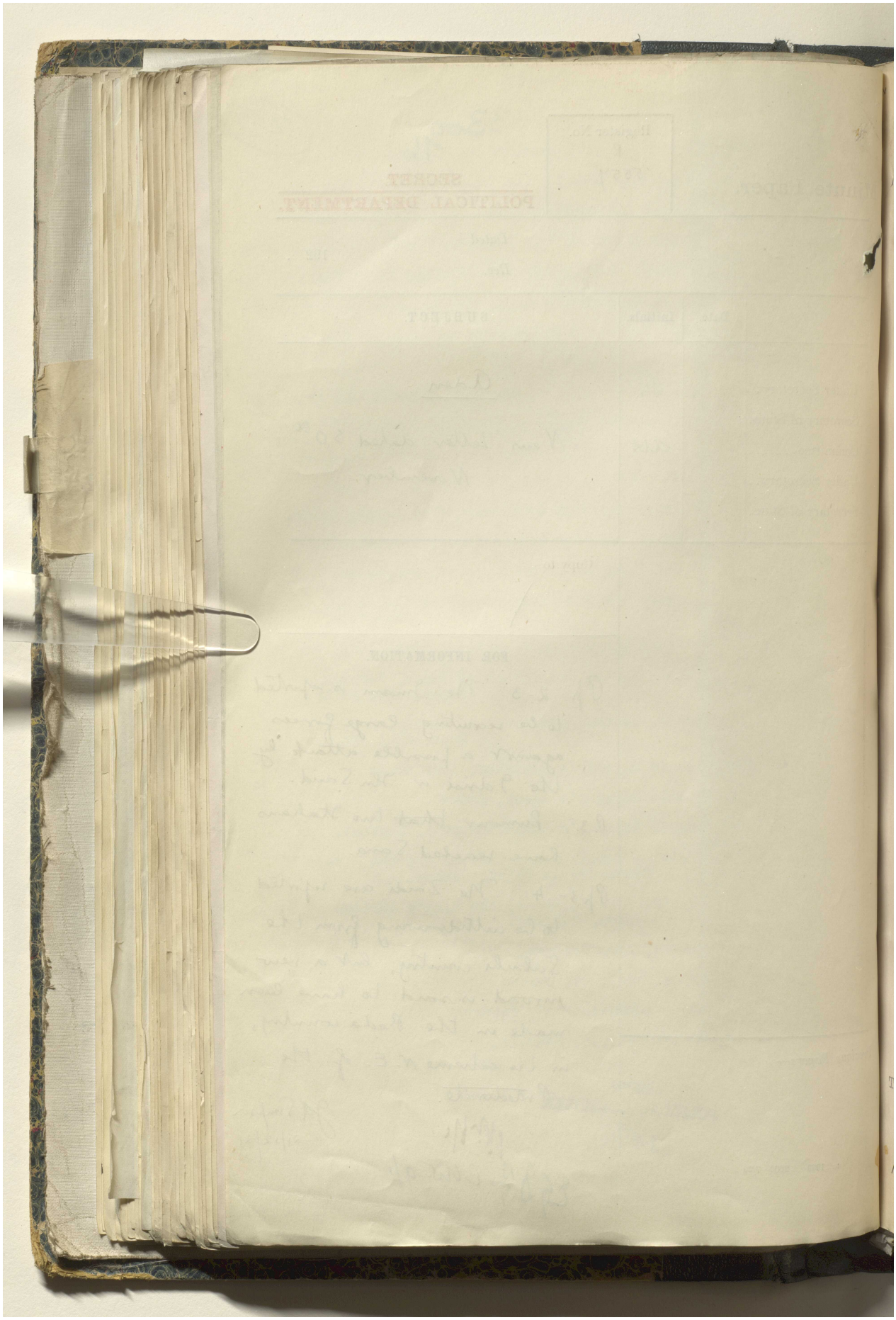

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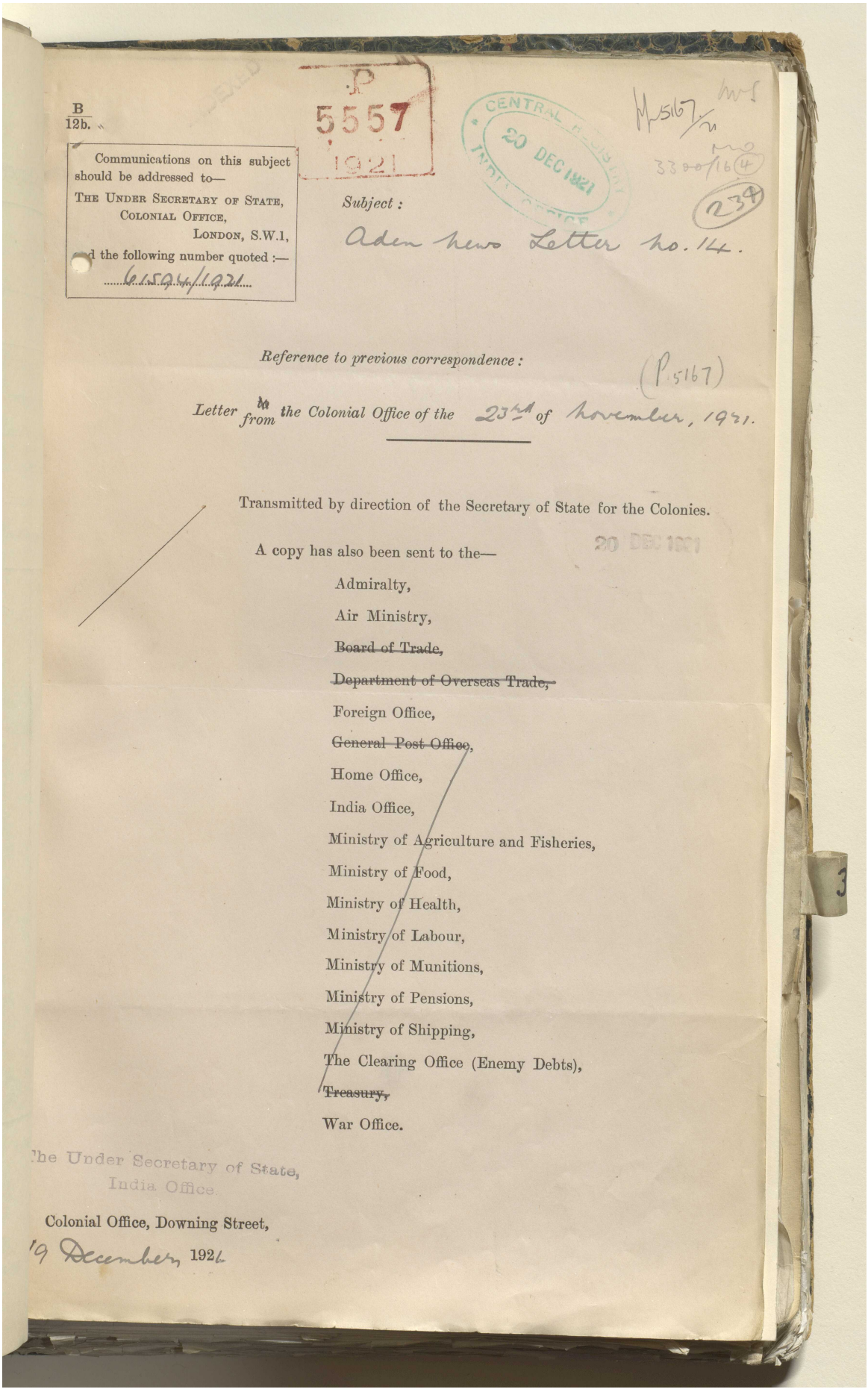

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LONDON, S.W.1,
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64504/1921

P 5557 1921

CENTRAL REGISTRY INDIA OFFICE 20 DEC 1921

P5167

3300/16 (4)

234

Subject : Aden News Letter No. 144.

Reference to previous correspondence :

(P 5167)

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 23rd *of* November, 1921.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

20 DEC 1921

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Ministry of Pensions,
Ministry of Shipping,
The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
~~Treasury,~~
War Office.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
19 December, 1921.

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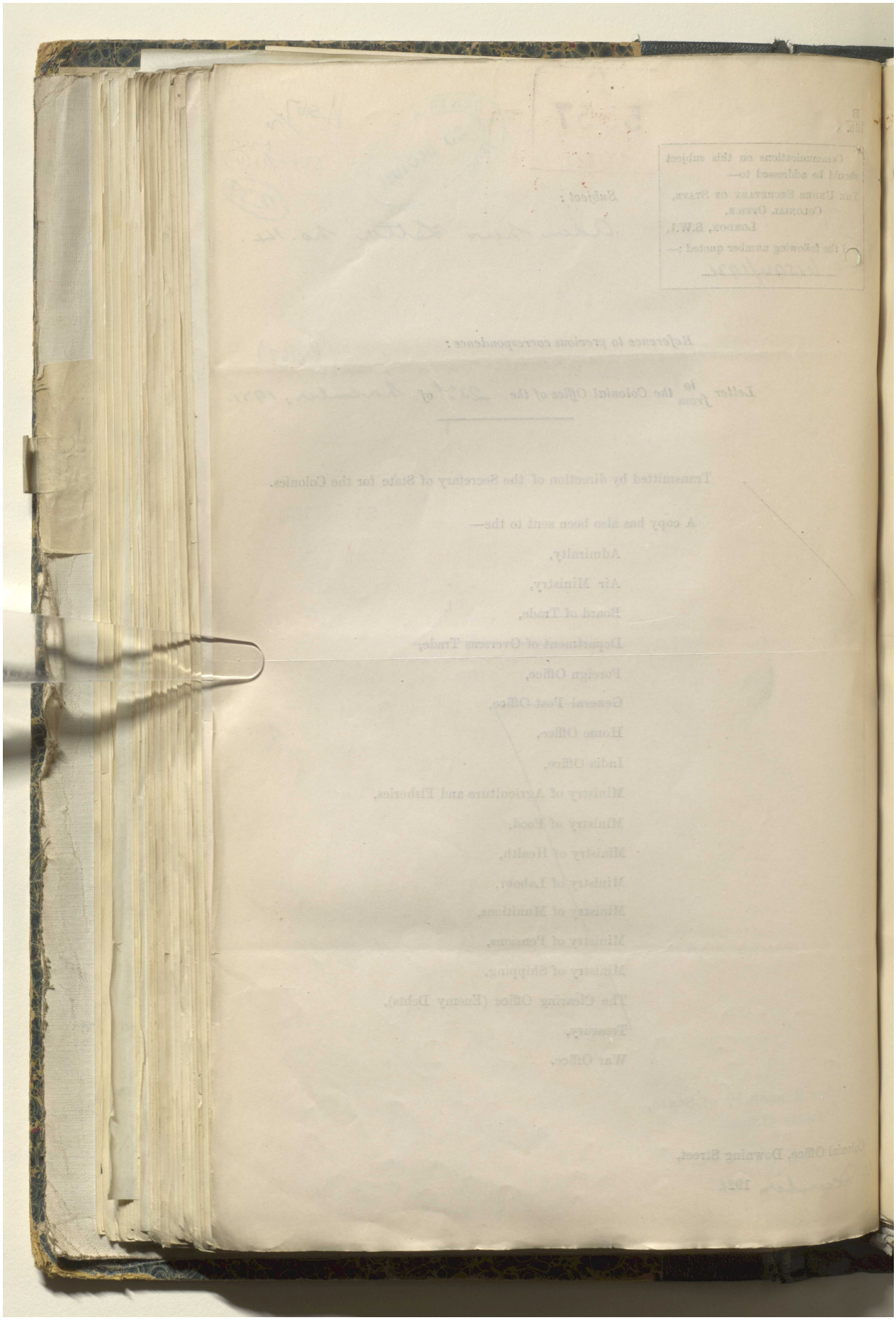

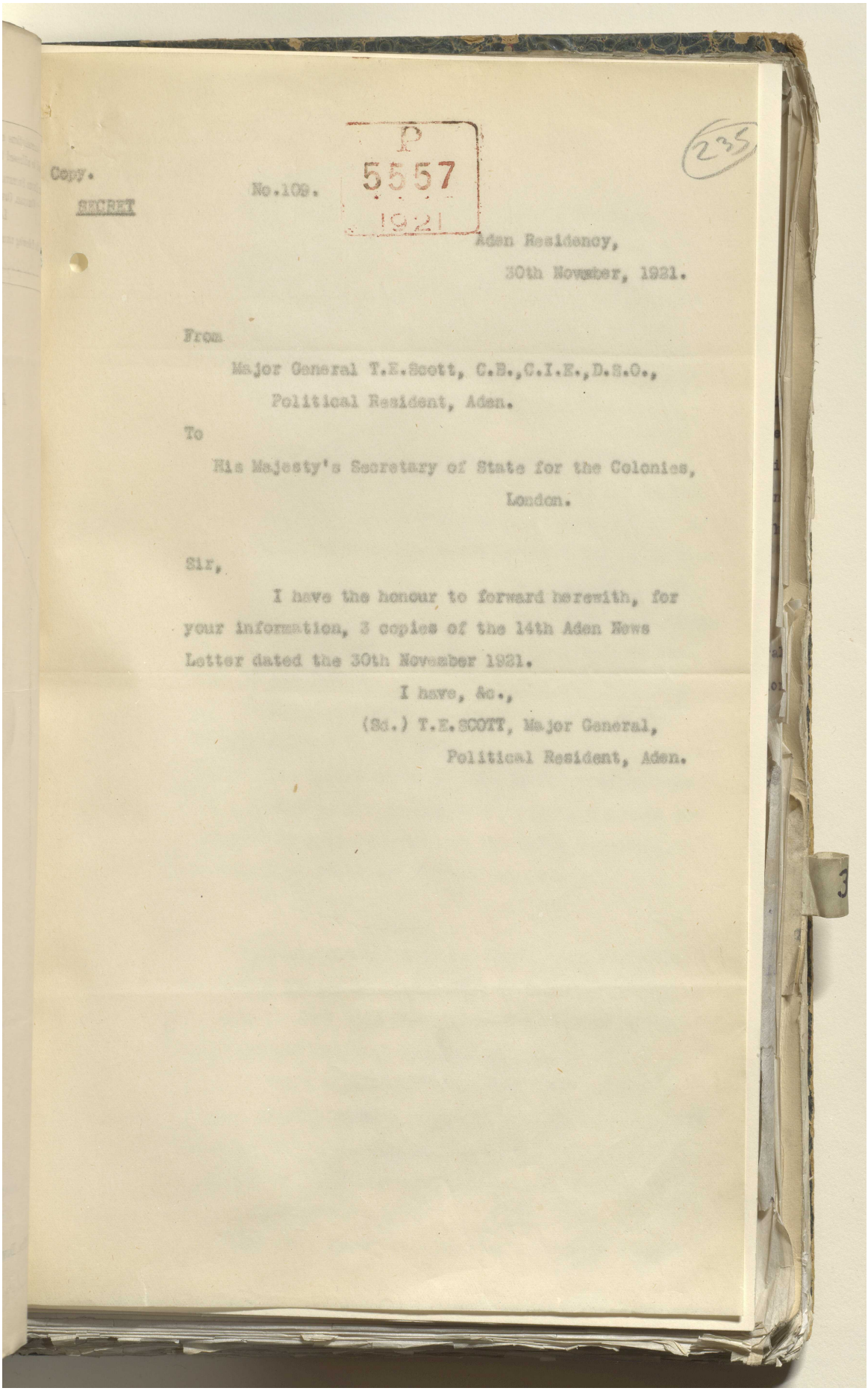

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SECRET

No.109.

P 5557 1921

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Aden Residency,
30th November, 1921.

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

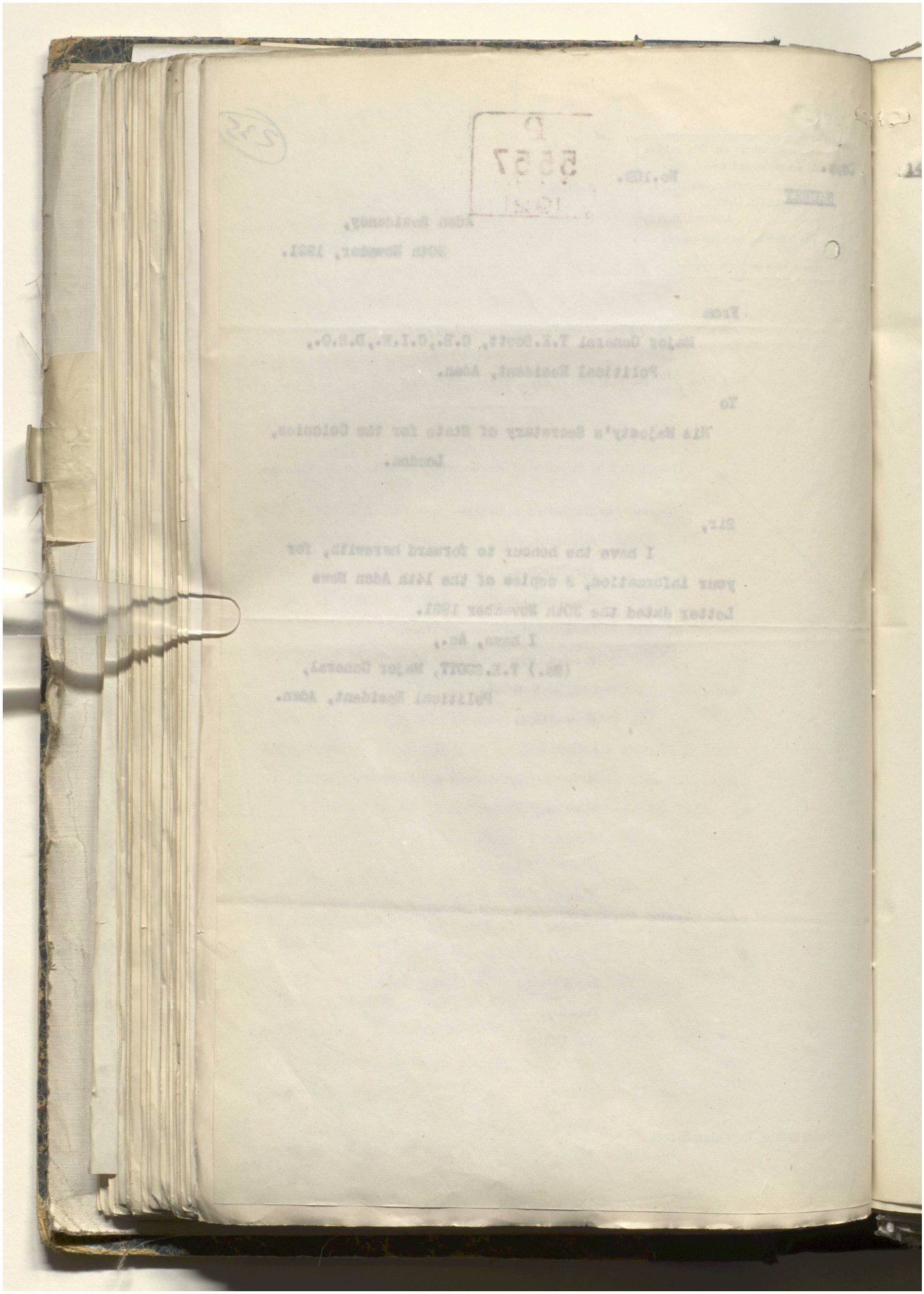
To

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, 3 copies of the 14th Aden News Letter dated the 30th November 1921.

I have, &c.,
(Sd.) T.E.SCOTT, Major General,
Political Resident, Aden.



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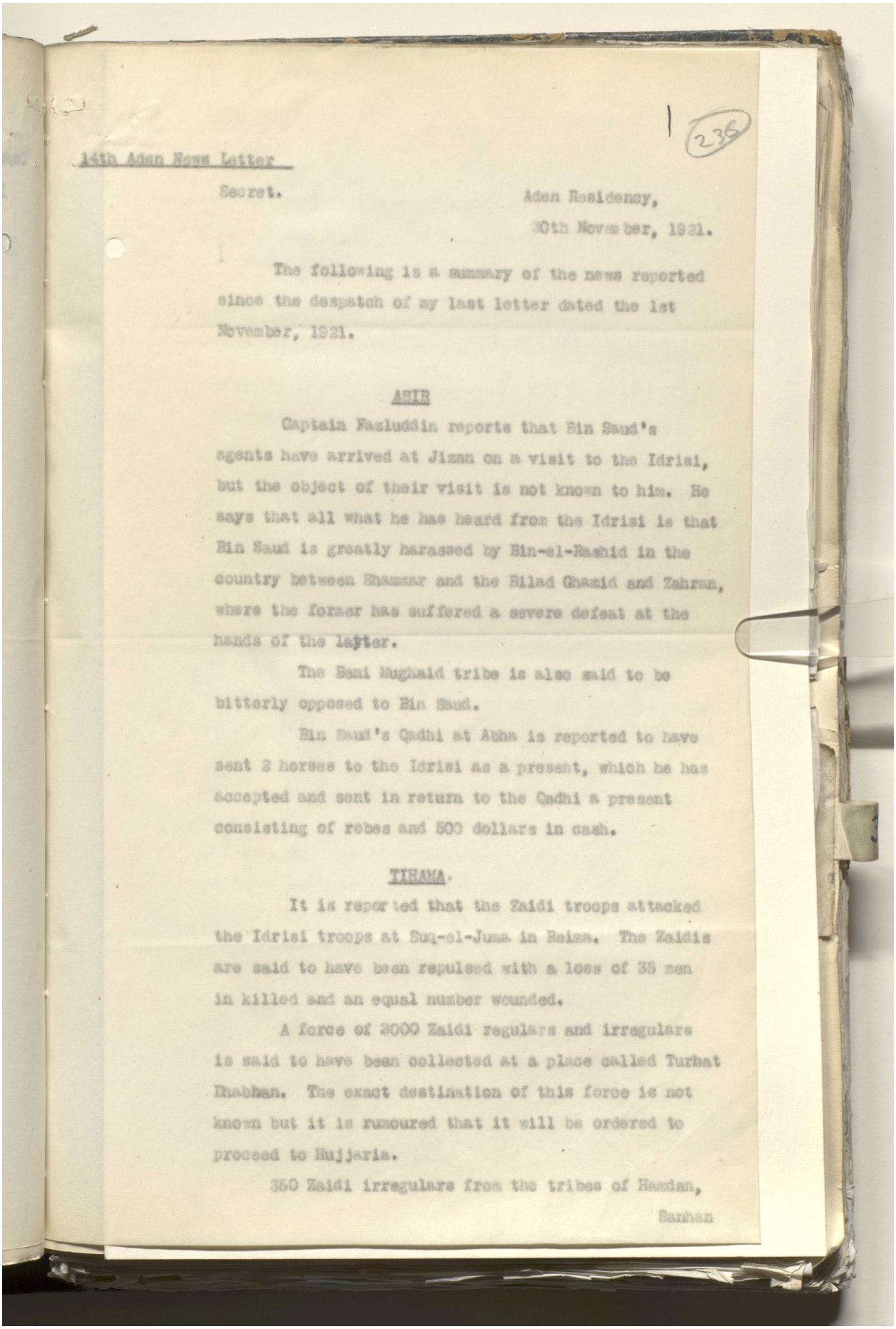

1 (235)

14th Aden News Letter

Secret.

Aden Residency,
30th November, 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated the 1st November, 1921.

ASIR

Captain Fazluddin reports that Bin Saud's agents have arrived at Jizan on a visit to the Idrisi, but the object of their visit is not known to him. He says that all what he has heard from the Idrisi is that Bin Saud is greatly harassed by Bin-el-Rashid in the country between Shammar and the Bilad Ghamid and Zahran, where the former has suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the latter.

The Beni Mughaid tribe is also said to be bitterly opposed to Bin Saud.

Bin Saud's Qadhi at Abha is reported to have sent 2 horses to the Idrisi as a present, which he has accepted and sent in return to the Qadhi a present consisting of robes and 500 dollars in cash.

TIHAMA.

It is reported that the Zaidi troops attacked the Idrisi troops at Suq-el-Juma in Reima. The Zaidis are said to have been repulsed with a loss of 35 men in killed and an equal number wounded.

A force of 2000 Zaidi regulars and irregulars is said to have been collected at a place called Turbat Dhabhan. The exact destination of this force is not known but it is rumoured that it will be ordered to proceed to Hujjaria.

350 Zaidi irregulars from the tribes of Hamdan,

Sanhan

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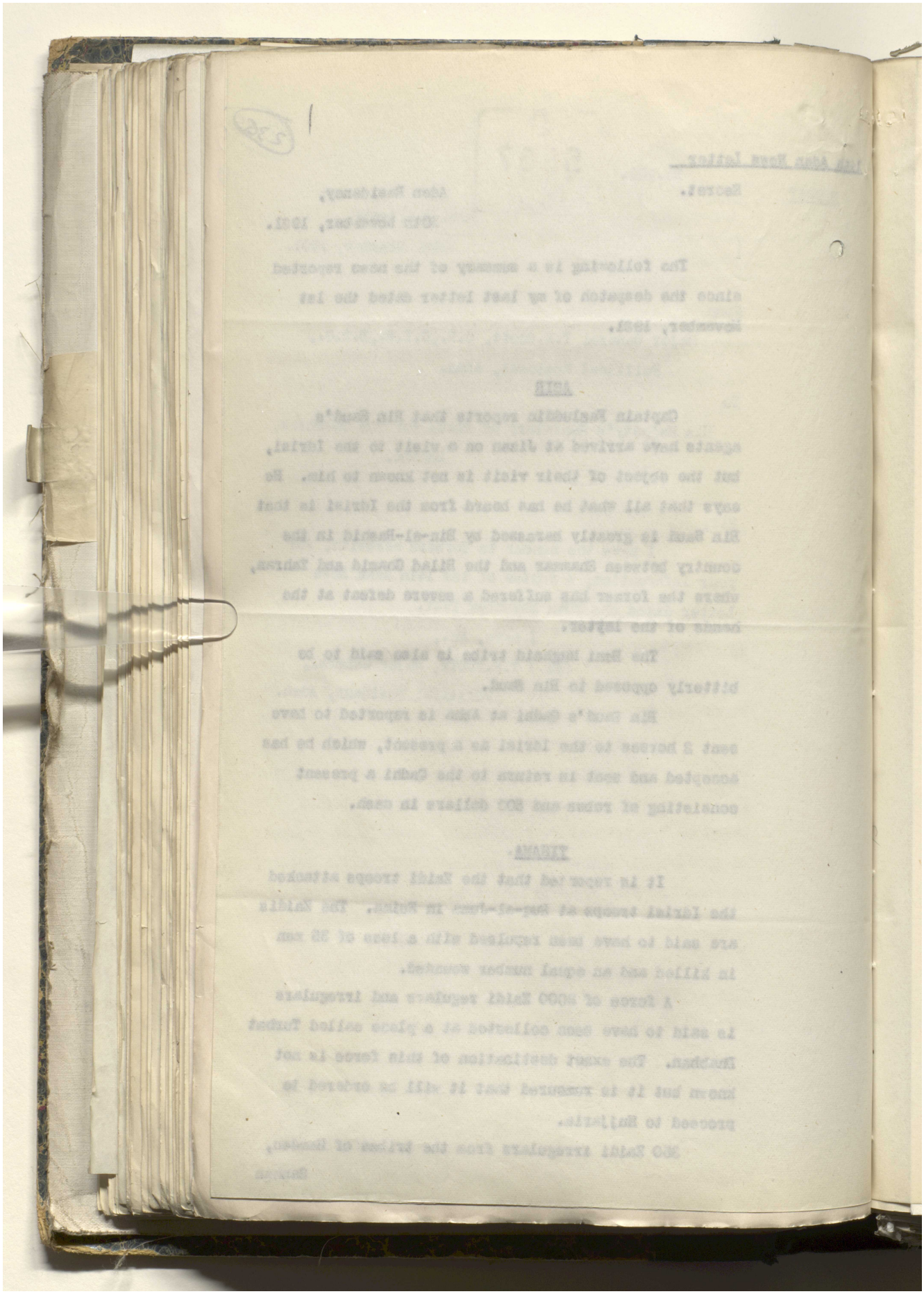

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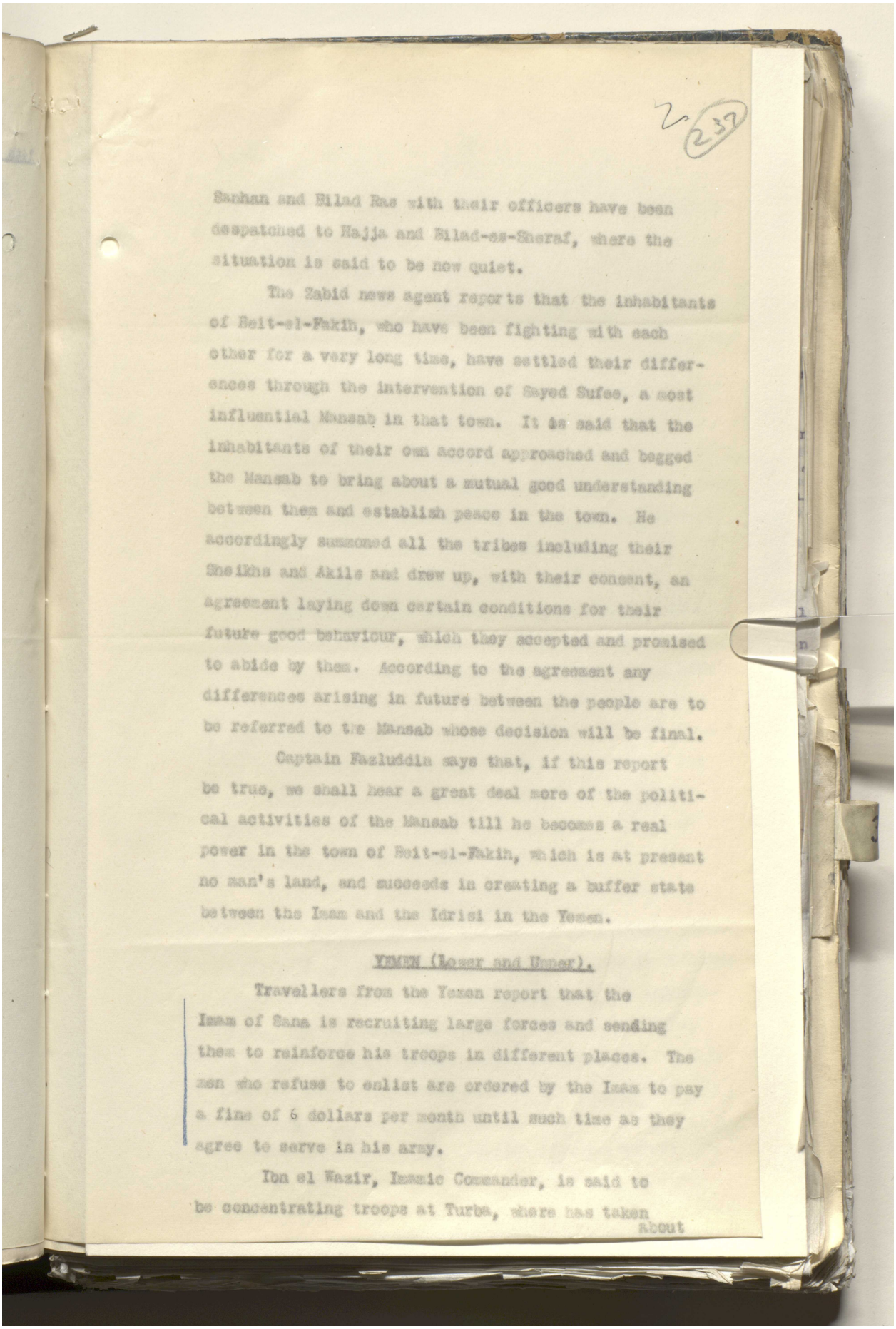

2. (237)

Sanhan and Bilad Ras with their officers have been despatched to Hajja and Bilad-es-Sheraf, where the situation is said to be now quiet.

The Zabid news agent reports that the inhabitants of Beit-el-Fakih, who have been fighting with each other for a very long time, have settled their differences through the intervention of Sayed Sufee, a most influential Mansab in that town. It is said that the inhabitants of their own accord approached and begged the Mansab to bring about a mutual good understanding between them and establish peace in the town. He accordingly summoned all the tribes including their Sheikhs and Akils and drew up, with their consent, an agreement laying down certain conditions for their future good behaviour, which they accepted and promised to abide by them. According to the agreement any differences arising in future between the people are to be referred to the Mansab whose decision will be final.

Captain Fazluddin says that, if this report be true, we shall hear a great deal more of the political activities of the Mansab till he becomes a real power in the town of Beit-el-Fakih, which is at present no man's land, and succeeds in creating a buffer state between the Imam and the Idrisi in the Yemen.

YEMEN (Lower and Upper).

Travellers from the Yemen report that the Imam of Sana is recruiting large forces and sending them to reinforce his troops in different places. The men who refuse to enlist are ordered by the Imam to pay a fine of 6 dollars per month until such time as they agree to serve in his army.

Ibn el Wazir, Imamic Commander, is said to be concentrating troops at Turba, where has taken about

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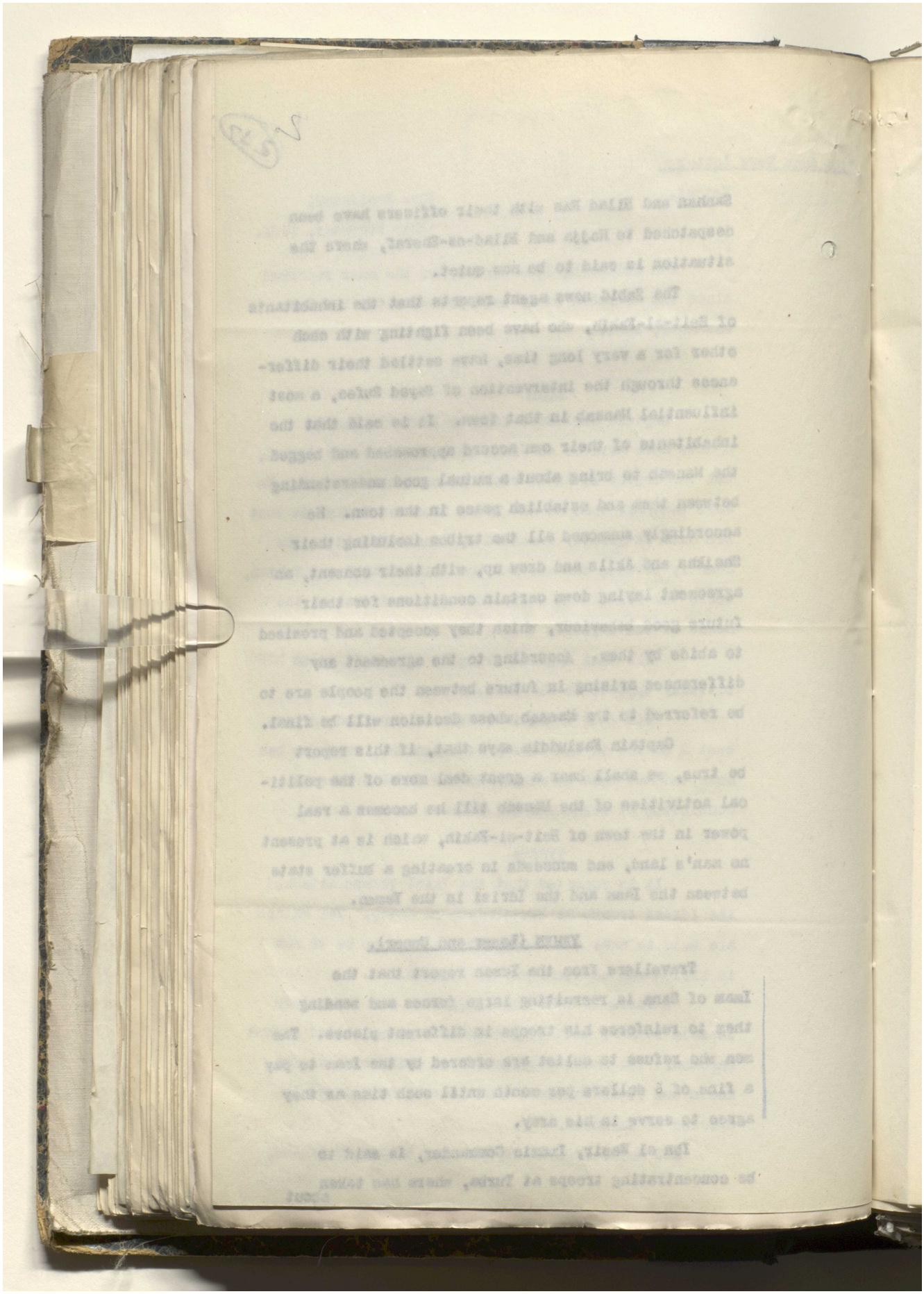

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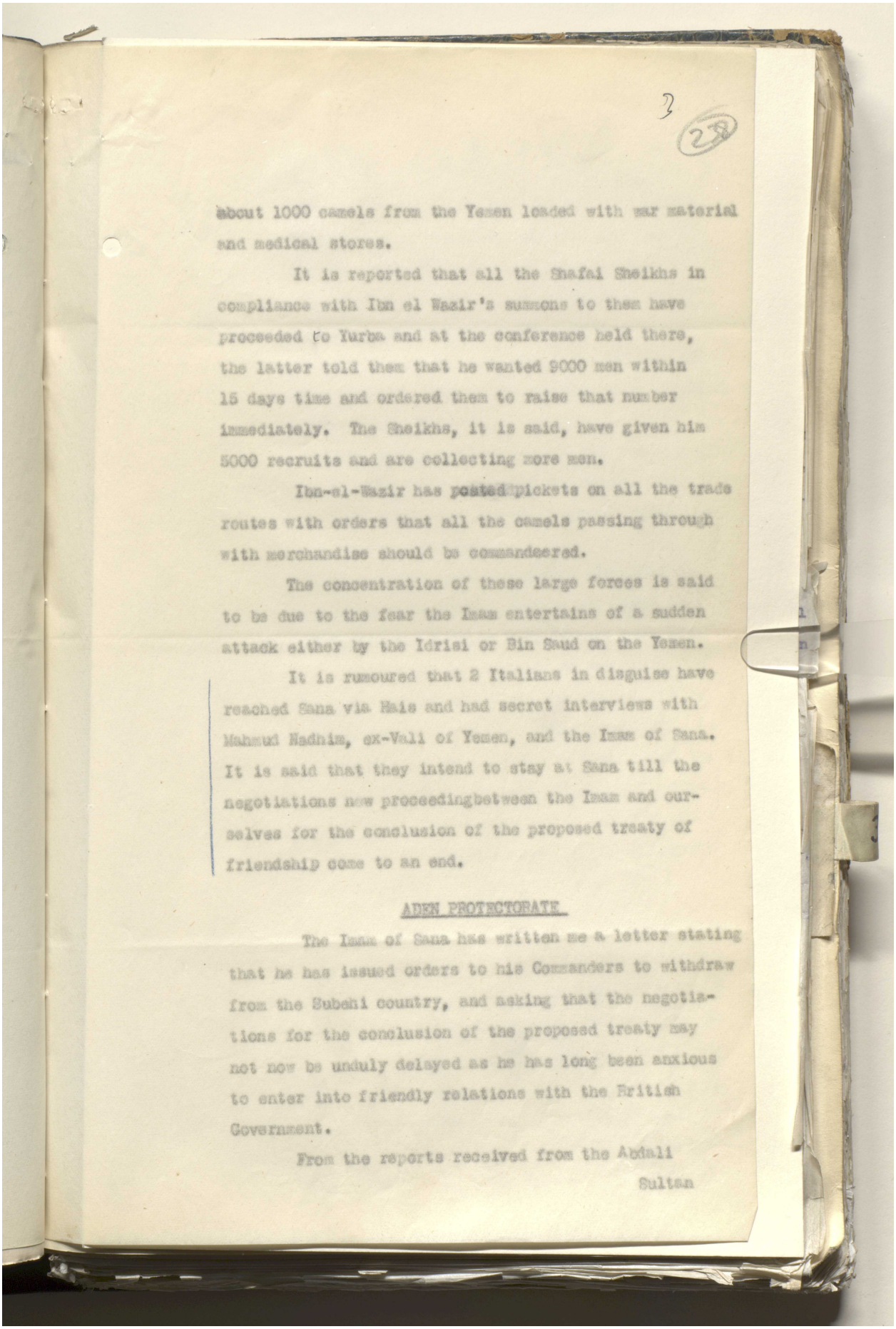

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about 1000 camels from the Yemen loaded with war material and medical stores.

It is reported that all the Shafai Sheikhs in compliance with Ibn el Wazir's summons to them have proceeded to Yurba and at the conference held there, the latter told them that he wanted 9000 men within 15 days time and ordered them to raise that number immediately. The Sheikhs, it is said, have given him 5000 recruits and are collecting more men.

Ibn-el-Wazir has posted pickets on all the trade routes with orders that all the camels passing through with merchandise should be commandeered.

The concentration of these large forces is said to be due to the fear the Imam entertains of a sudden attack either by the Idrisi or Bin Saud on the Yemen.

It is rumoured that 2 Italians in disguise have reached Sana via Hais and had secret interviews with Mahmud Nadhim, ex-Vali of Yemen, and the Imam of Sana. It is said that they intend to stay at Sana till the negotiations now proceedingbetween the Imam and ourselves for the conclusion of the proposed treaty of friendship come to an end.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Imam of Sana has written me a letter stating that he has issued orders to his Commanders to withdraw from the Subehi country, and asking that the negotiations for the conclusion of the proposed treaty may not now be unduly delayed as he has long been anxious to enter into friendly relations with the British Government.

From the reports received from the Abdali Sultan

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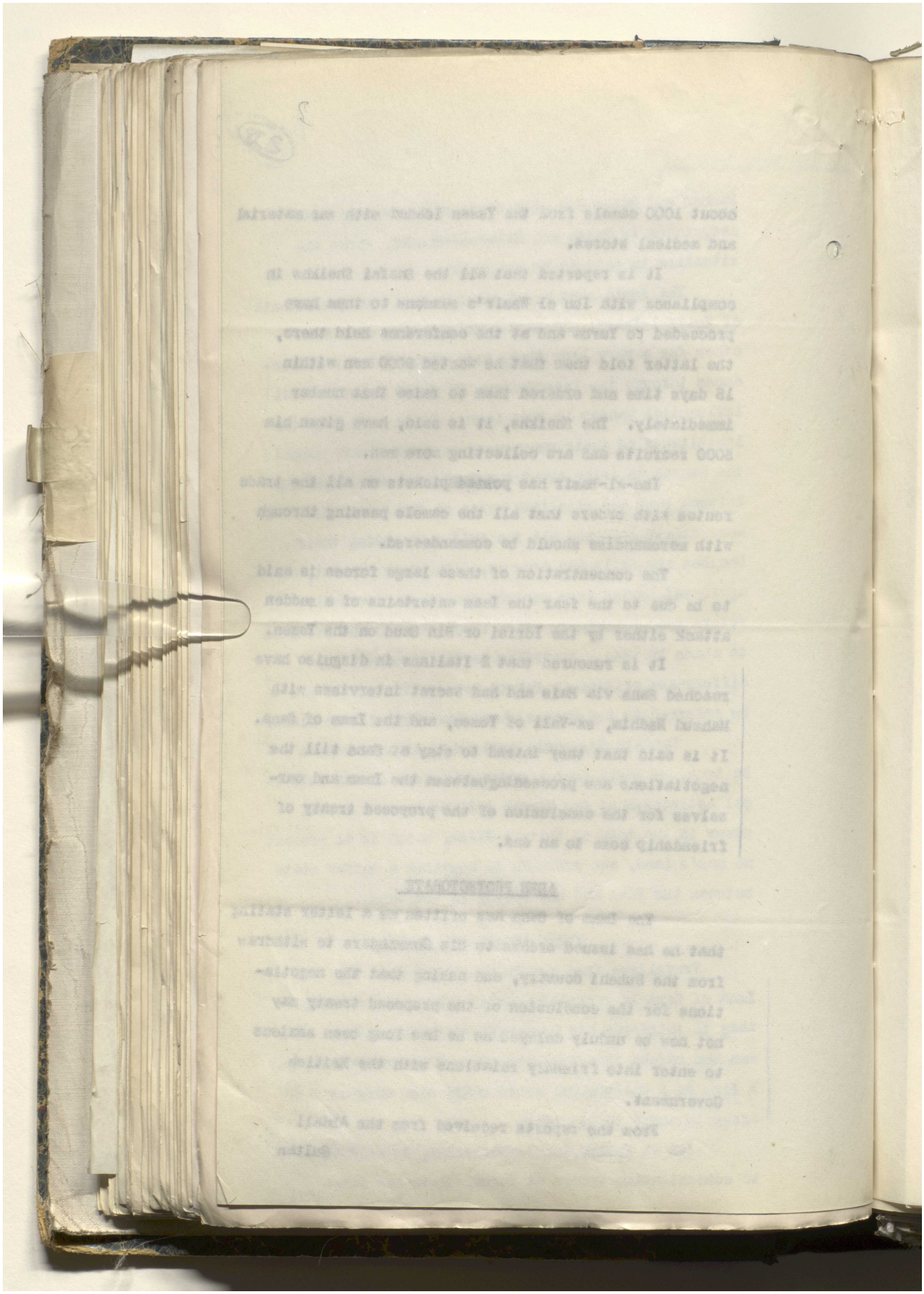

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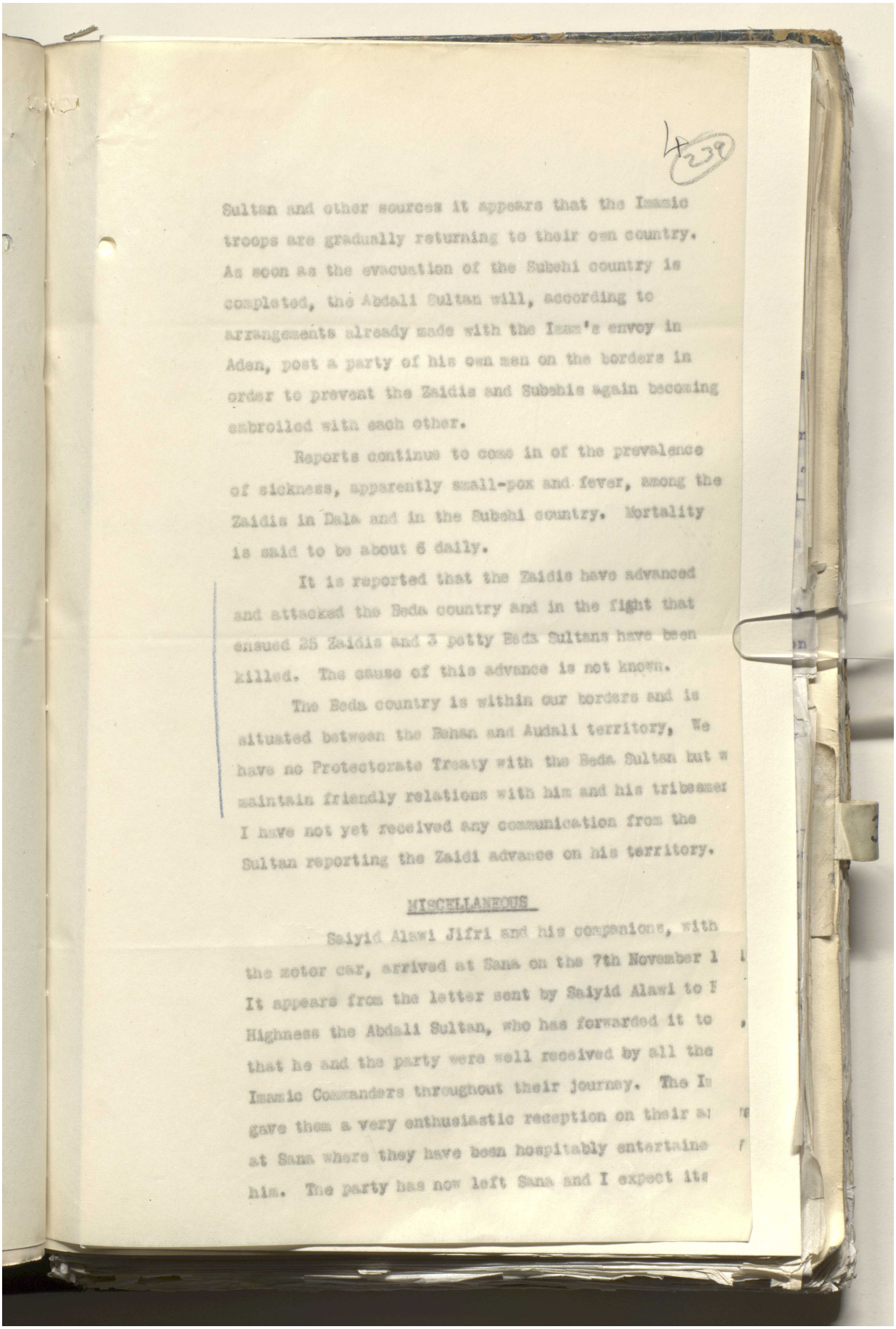

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Sultan and other sources it appears that the Imamic troops are gradually returning to their own country. As soon as the evacuation of the Subehi country is completed, the Abdali Sultan will, according to arrangements already made with the Imam's envoy in Aden, post a party of his own men on the borders in order to prevent the Zaidis and Subehis again becoming embroiled with each other.

Reports continue to come in of the prevalence of sickness, apparently small-pox and fever, among the Zaidis in Dala and in the Subehi country. Mortality is said to be about 6 daily.

It is reported that the Zaidis have advanced and attacked the Beda country and in the fight that ensued 25 Zaidis and 3 petty Beda Sultans have been killed. The cause of this advance is not known.

The Beda country is within our borders and is situated between the Behan and Audali territory. We have no Protectorate Treaty with the Beda Sultan but w maintain friendly relations with him and his tribesmen I have not yet received any communication from the Sultan reporting the Zaidi advance on his territory.

MISCELLANEOUS

Saiyid Alawi Jifri and his companions, with the motor car, arrived at Sana on the 7th November l It appears from the letter sent by Saiyid Alawi to H Highness the Abdali Sultan, who has forwarded it to that he and the party were well received by all the Imamic Commanders throughout their journey. The Im gave them a very enthusiastic reception on their a at Sana where they have been hospitably entertaine him. The party has now left Sana and I expect its

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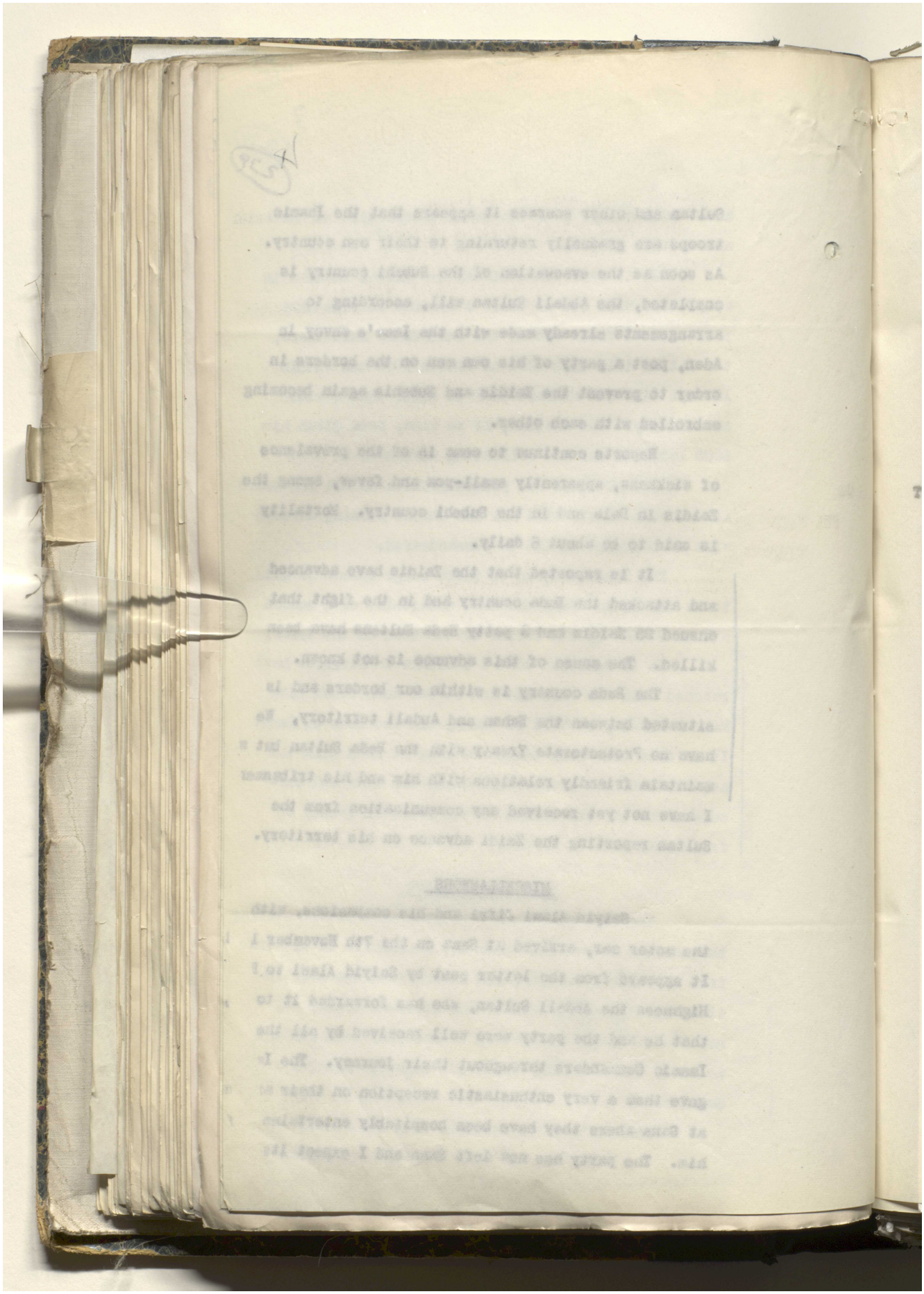

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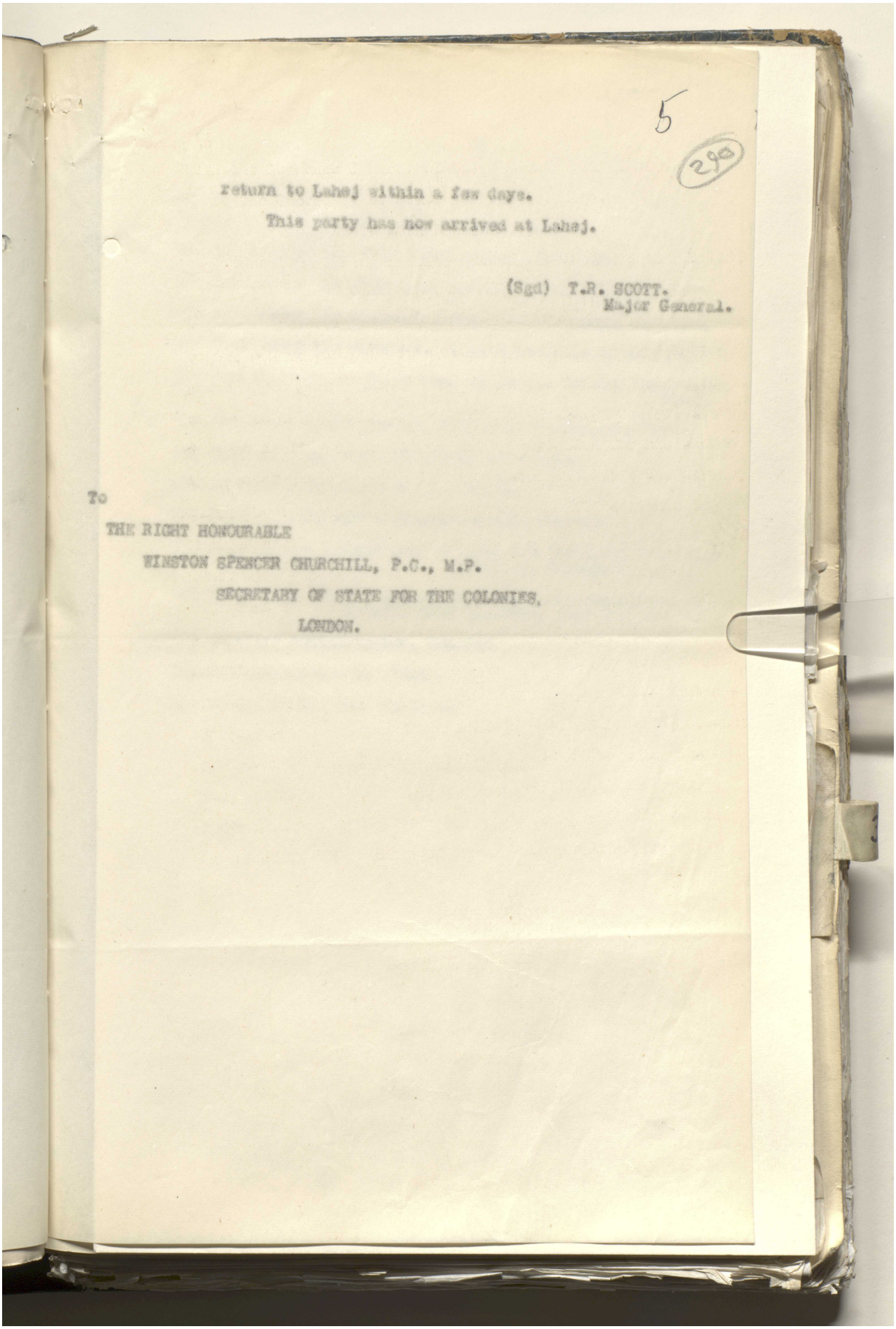

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return to Lahej within a few days.

This party has now arrived at Lahej.

(Sgd) T.R. SCOTT.
Major General.

To

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL, P.C., M.P.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
LONDON.

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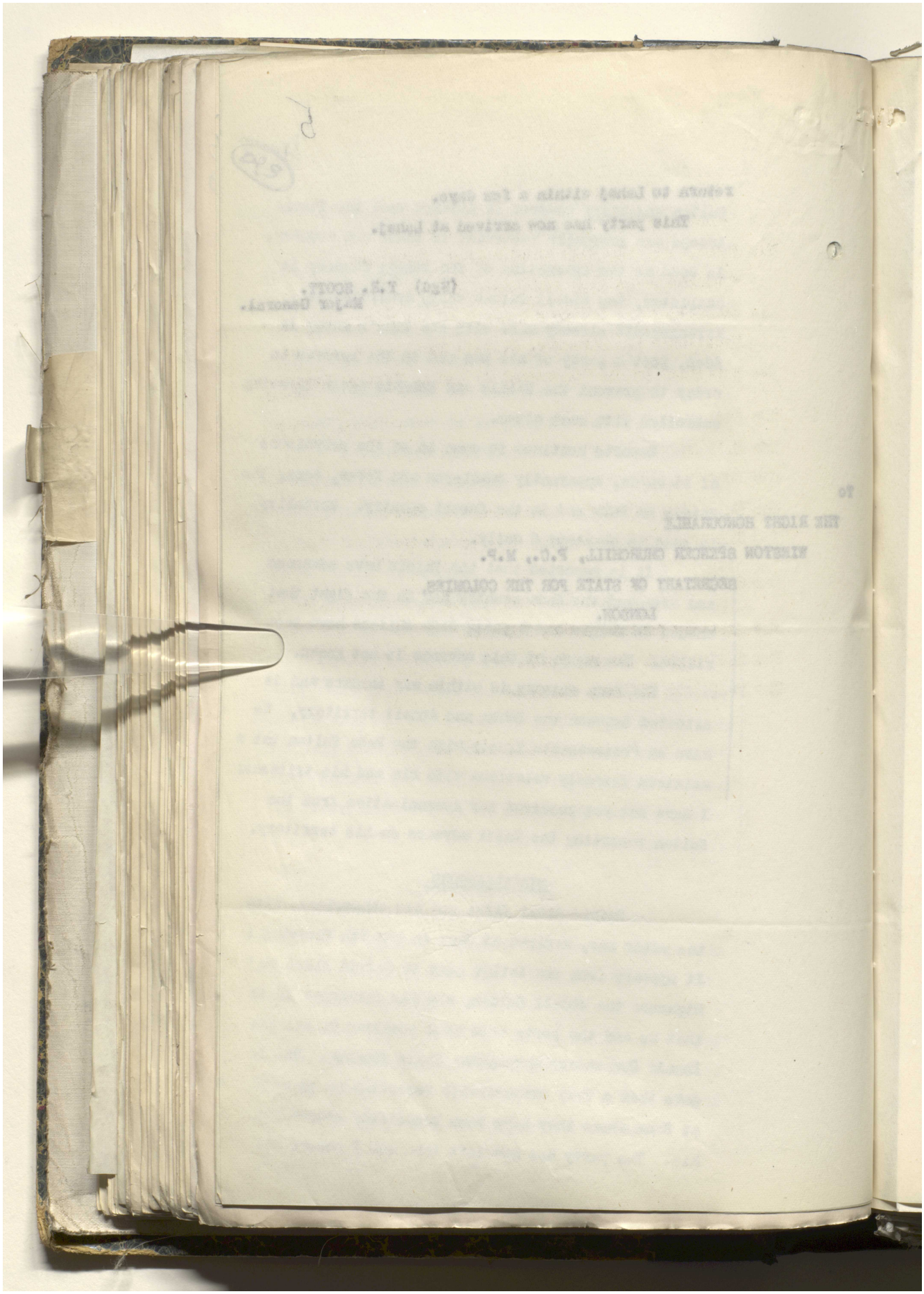

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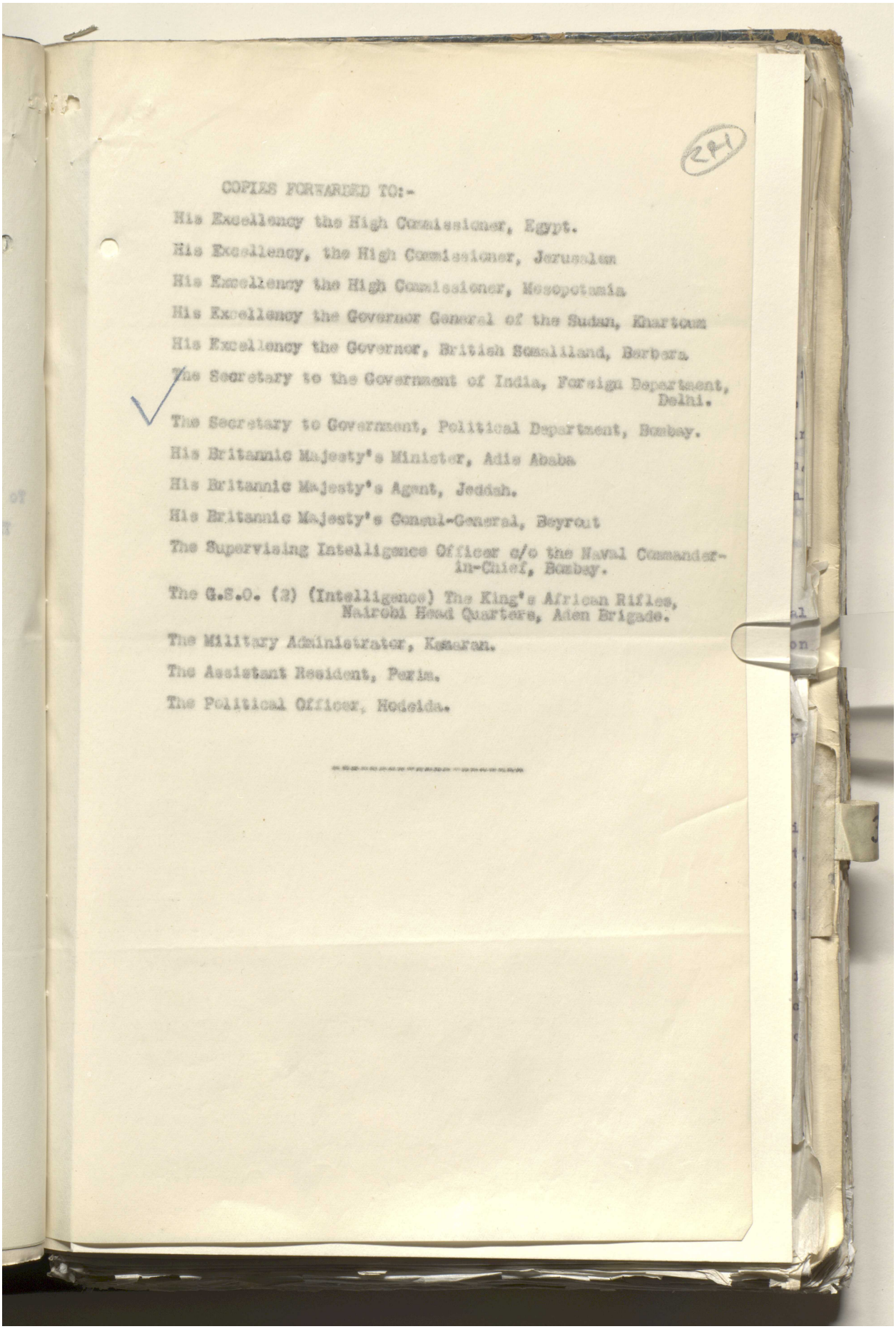

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His Excellency, the High Commissioner, Jerusalem

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia

His Excellency the Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera

The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Delhi.

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Beyrout

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.

The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) The King's African Rifles, Nairobi Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.

The Military Administrator, Kamaran.

The Assistant Resident, Perim.

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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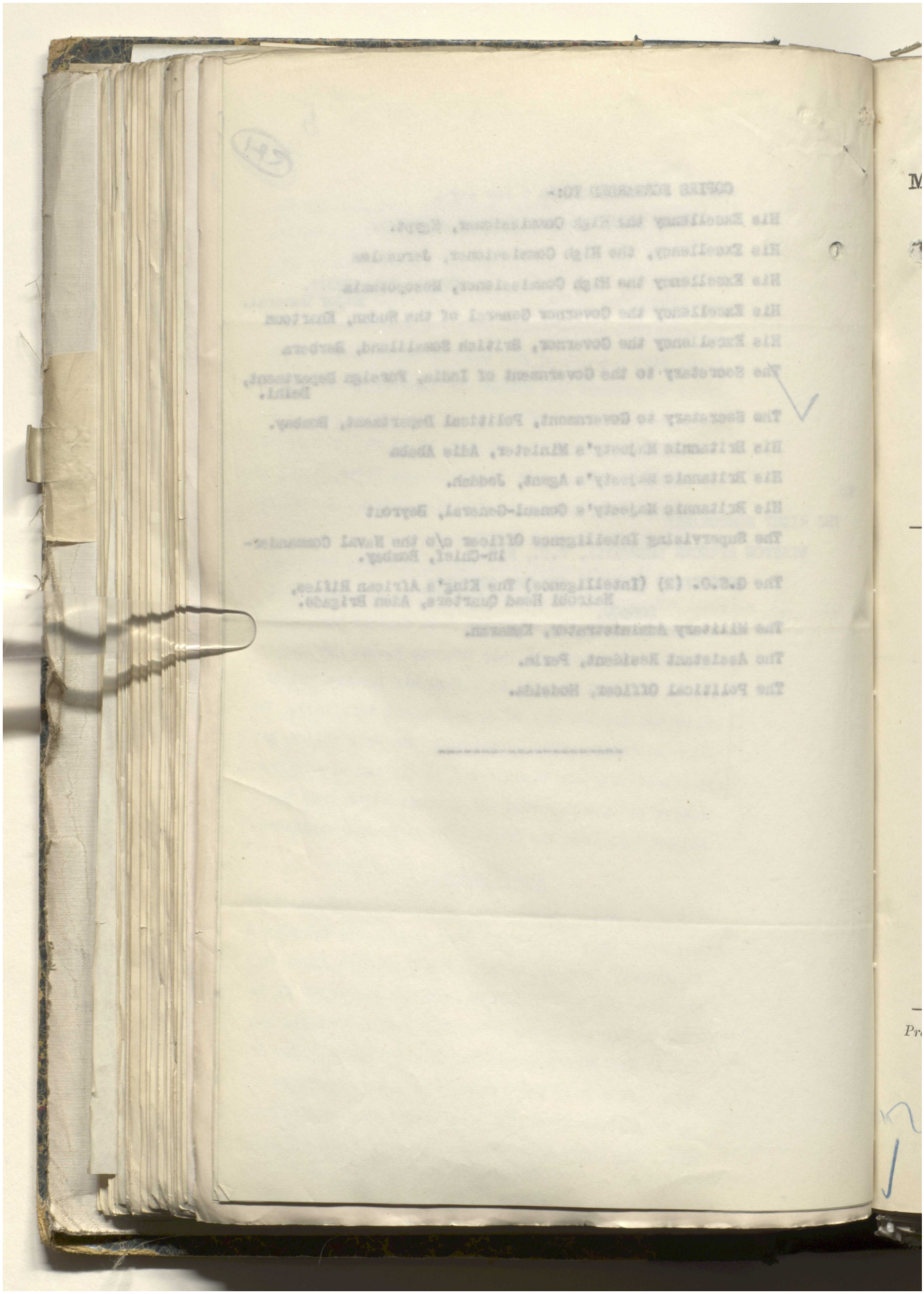

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 5164.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..	11. xii	WLs	Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	12	AAA	News letter dated 1st Nov. 1921.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 1 The Idrisi hopes that the proposed treaty with the Imam will not contain any clause to his detriment

p. 3 Italian intrigues with the Imam.

Major Bray
For information 1.58 25.11.21
J.G. Simpson
24/11/21

P.I. 15/12 SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE. 20 DEC 1921

14/12
CMS 16/12
EGS 19/12

Previous Papers—

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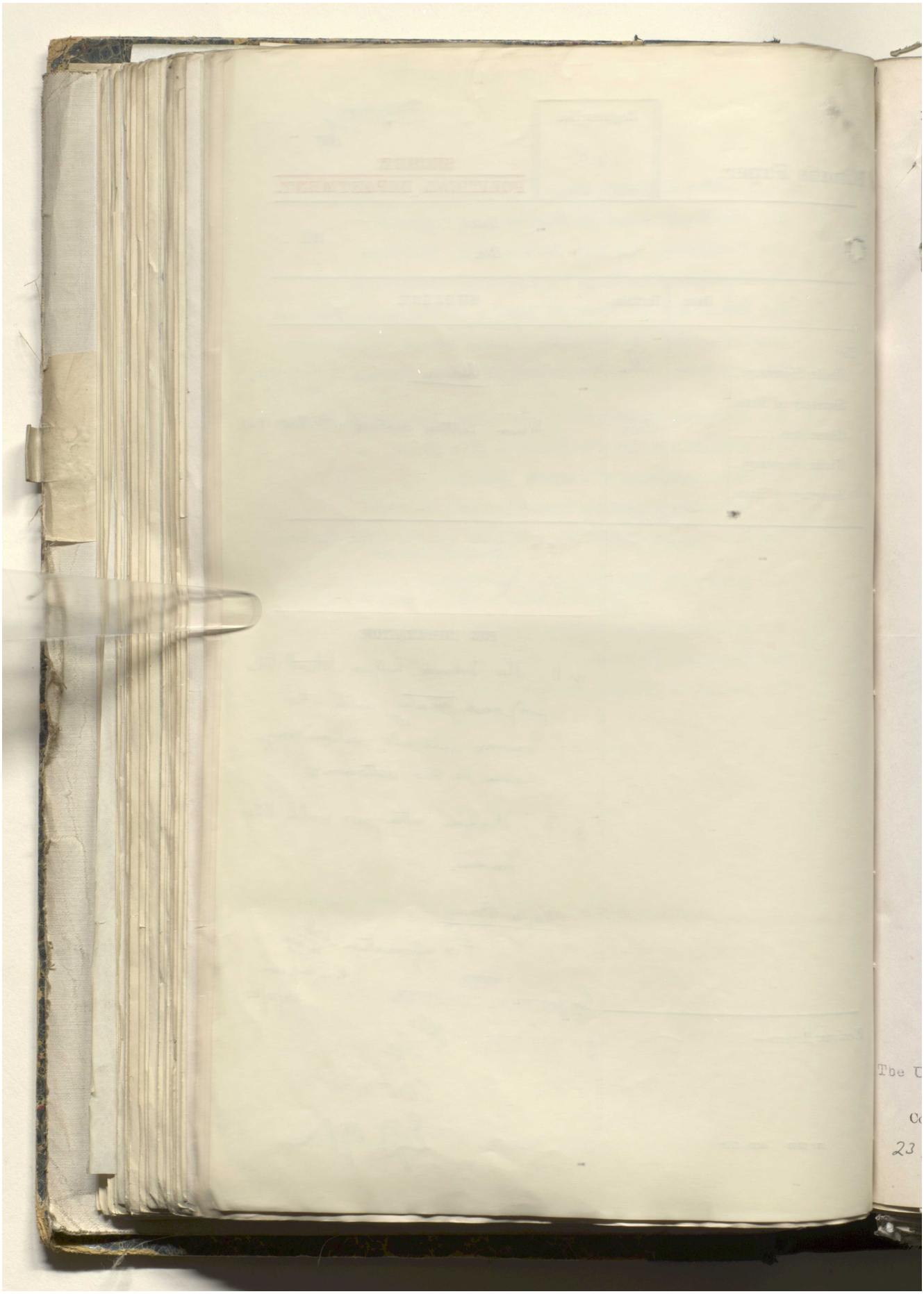

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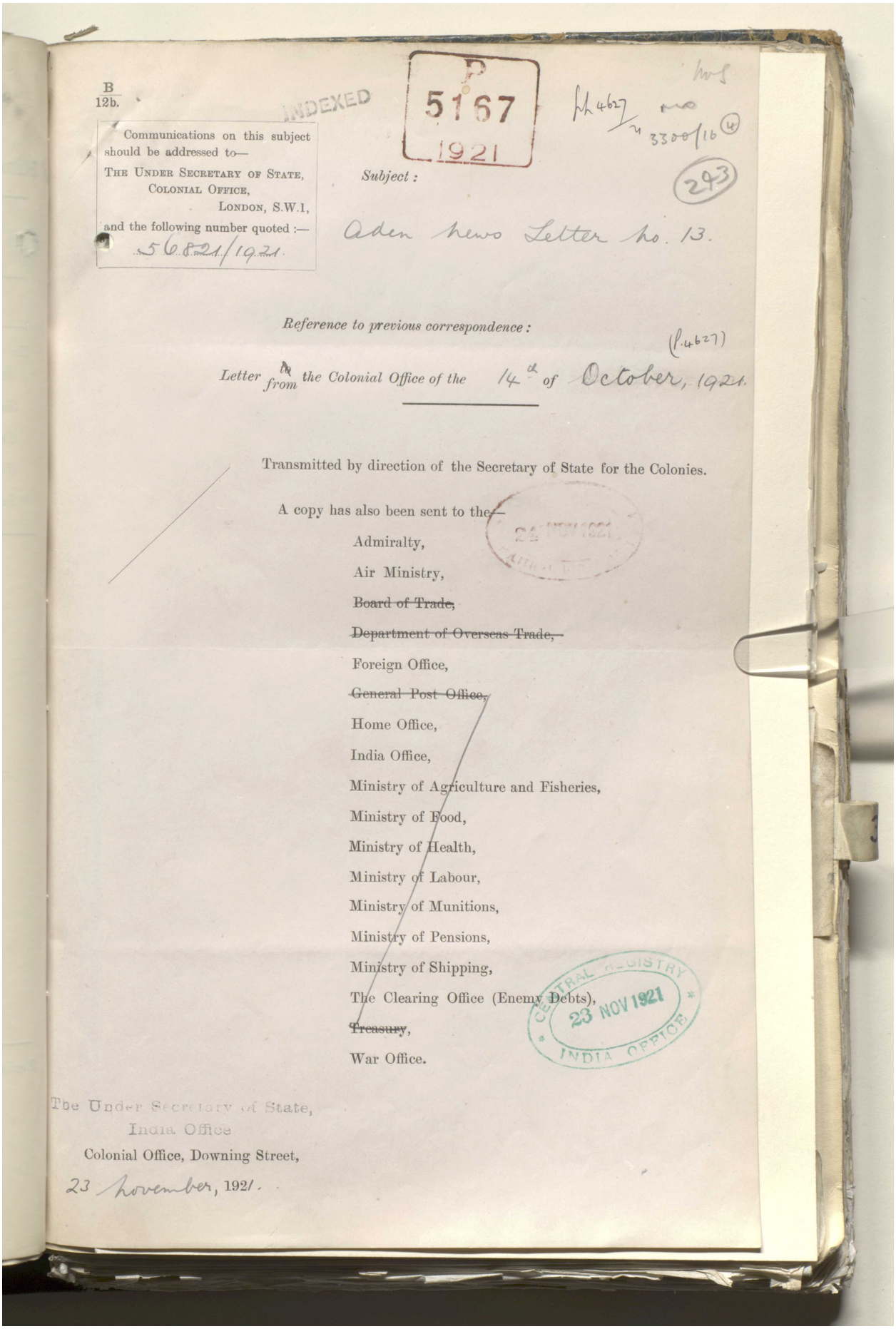

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INDEXED

5167
1921

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
56821/1921.

Subject :

Aden News Letter No. 13.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 14th *of* October, 1921.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the—

Admiralty,
Air Ministry,
~~Board of Trade,~~
~~Department of Overseas Trade,~~
Foreign Office,
~~General Post Office,~~
Home Office,
India Office,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Ministry of Food,
Ministry of Health,
Ministry of Labour,
Ministry of Munitions,
Ministry of Pensions,
Ministry of Shipping,
The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
~~Treasury~~,
War Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
23 NOV 1921
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office
Colonial Office, Downing Street,
23 November, 1921.

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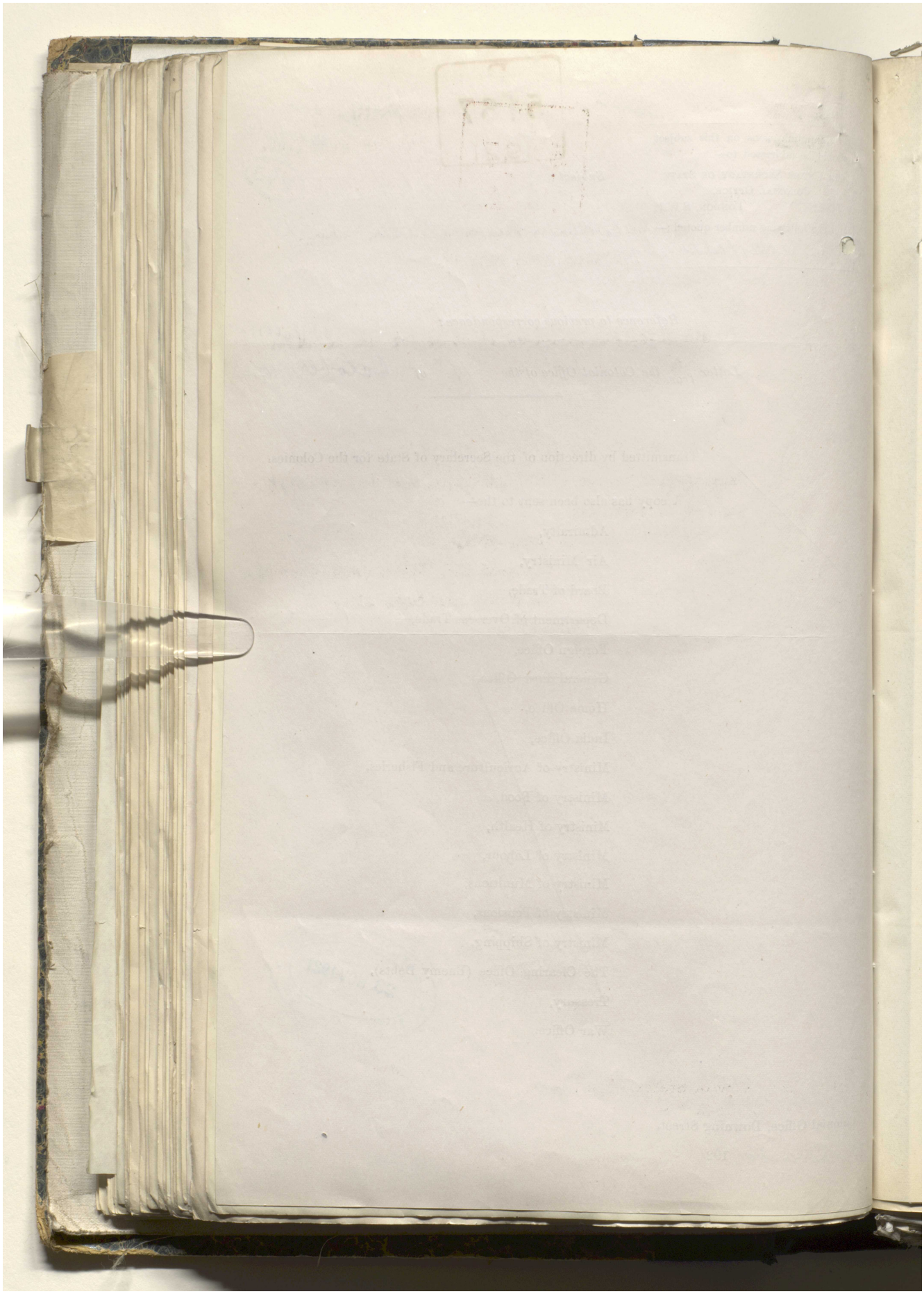

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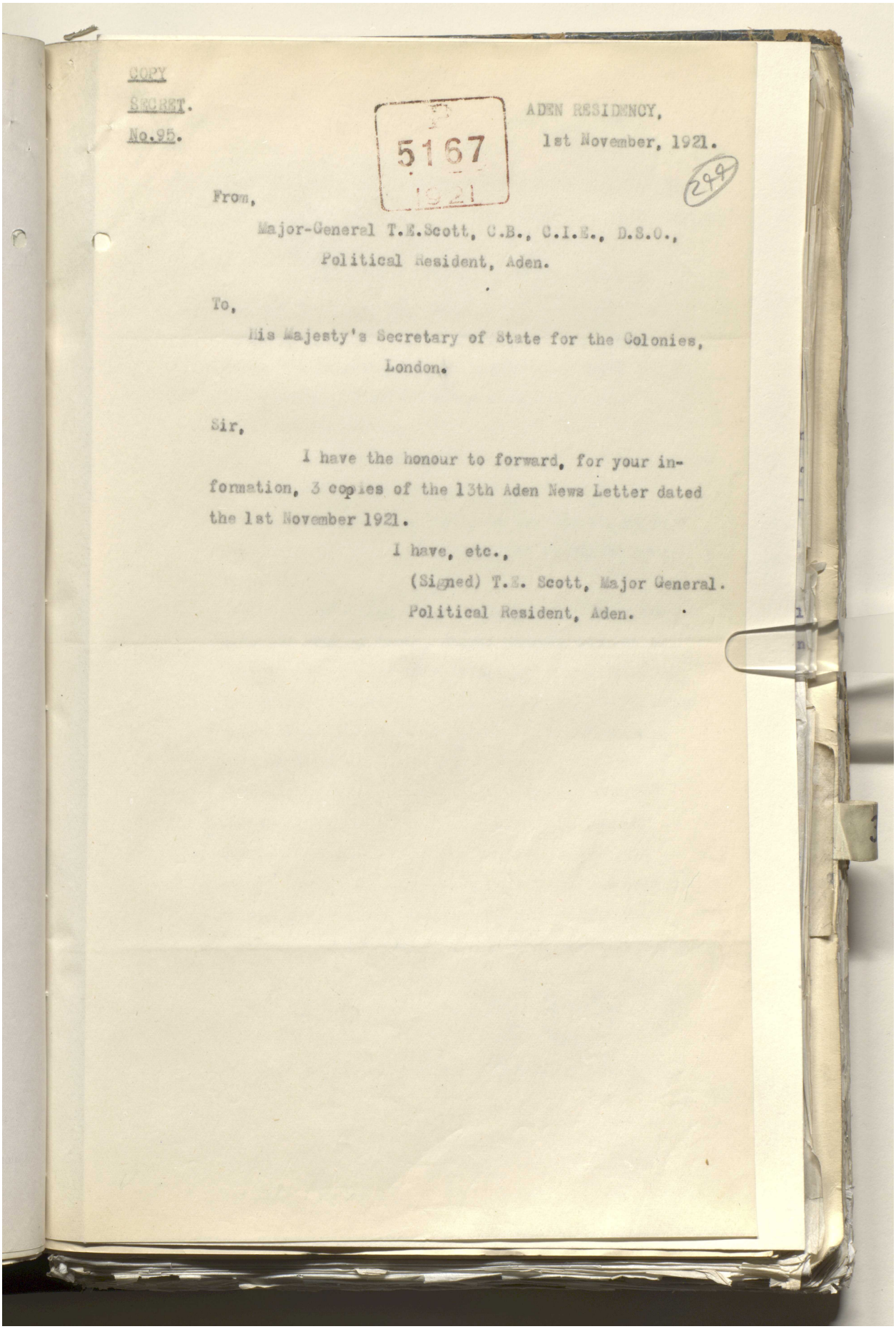

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SECRET.

No.95.

P 5167 1921

ADEN RESIDENCY,
1st November, 1921.

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From,

Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, 3 copies of the 13th Aden News Letter dated the 1st November 1921.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) T.E. Scott, Major General.
Political Resident, Aden.

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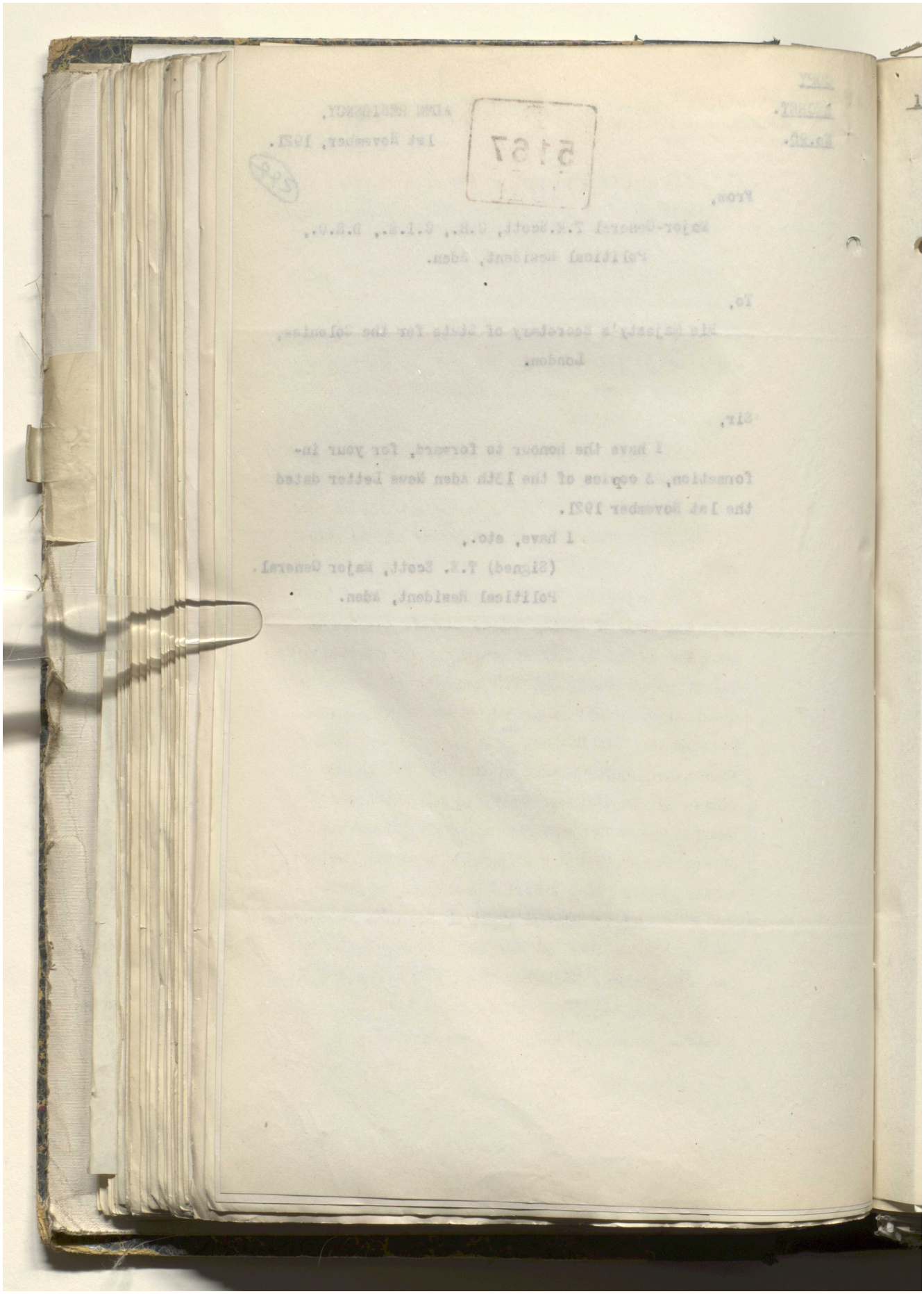

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13th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
1st November, 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 28th September 1921.

ASIR.

Saiyid Mustafa el Idrisi accompanied by Captain M. Fazluddin, I.M.S., Political Officer, Hodeida, arrived at Aden on the 27th September last. He is proceeding to his home in Egypt where he intends to stay for about 4 months for the benefit of his health.

In the course of an interview he represented to me certain requests made by the Idrisi and I informed him that they will, in due course, be submitted to His Majesty's Government as may be necessary.

Referring to our negotiations for a treaty with the Imam of Sanaa, Saiyid Mustafa assured me that the Idrisi has no objection to our concluding the proposed treaty and that he will not do anything which might impede or prejudice our negotiations. He said that the Idrisi, as a faithful ally of Government, expects that we will not put in any clause in the proposed treaty to his detriment and that he also hopes that we shall inform him of any terms which may affect his interests before arriving at a final decision in regard to them.

Saiyid Mohamed Alawi el Saggoff, representative of the King of the Hedjaz, referred to in my letter dated 8th September last, arrived here from Jizan with a letter of introduction from the Idrisi. He stated that he is proceeding to Sanaa at

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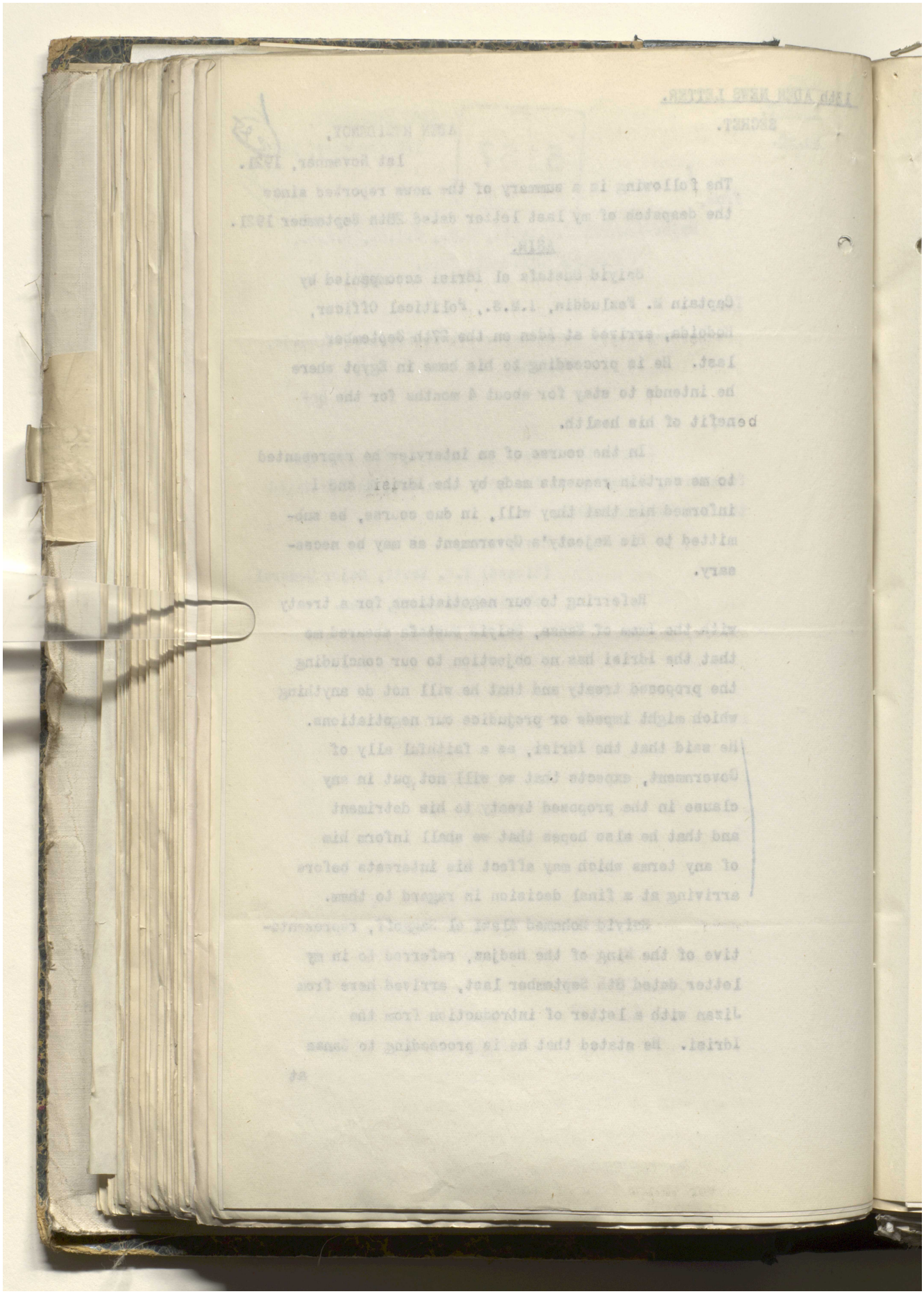

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at the invitation of the Imam to discuss with him the subject of bringing about an amicable settlement between the Idrisi and the Imam. He left for Sanaa on the 22nd ultimo.

Captain Fazluddin has sent to me copies of the correspondence which passed between the Idrisi and the King of the Hedjaz on the subject of their proposed treaty. These documents are very interesting and copies are being sent to the Colonial Office separately.

TIHAMA.

According to the news received by Captain Fazluddin, Political Officer, Hodeida, from his news agents, it appears that the situation on the Bajil front is quiet.

Our Menekha agent reports that Sayed Ahmed, son of the Imam of Sanaa, with 360 Zaidi regulars, has proceeded to the Kaza of Hajja for the purpose of recruiting soldiers there as well as from the Kaza of Amran. Sheikh Mahomed Hassan-el-Kanifi, the chief Sheikh of Bilad Rous and Beni Bahlol, is said to be expected shortly at Hajja with 460 men of the tribes under him to join Sayed Ahmed. It is said that these recruits will be sent to Bilad-es-Sheraf to punish the inhabitants of that place who have revolted against the Imam.

The same agent reports that Sayed Ahmed Jahhaf, Imamic Commander, has succeeded in capturing Sayed Ali Nami, Amil of Kahlan, who has raised the revolt in the Bilad-es-Sheraf.

A fight is reported to have taken place between the tribes of Al-Ashur, under the Amil of Zabid, and the tribe of Ahmul, subject to the control of the Amil of Odein, resulting in 14 men killed on both sides. Both the Amils are said to be blaming each other for the incident and have reported the matter to the Imam of Sanaa.

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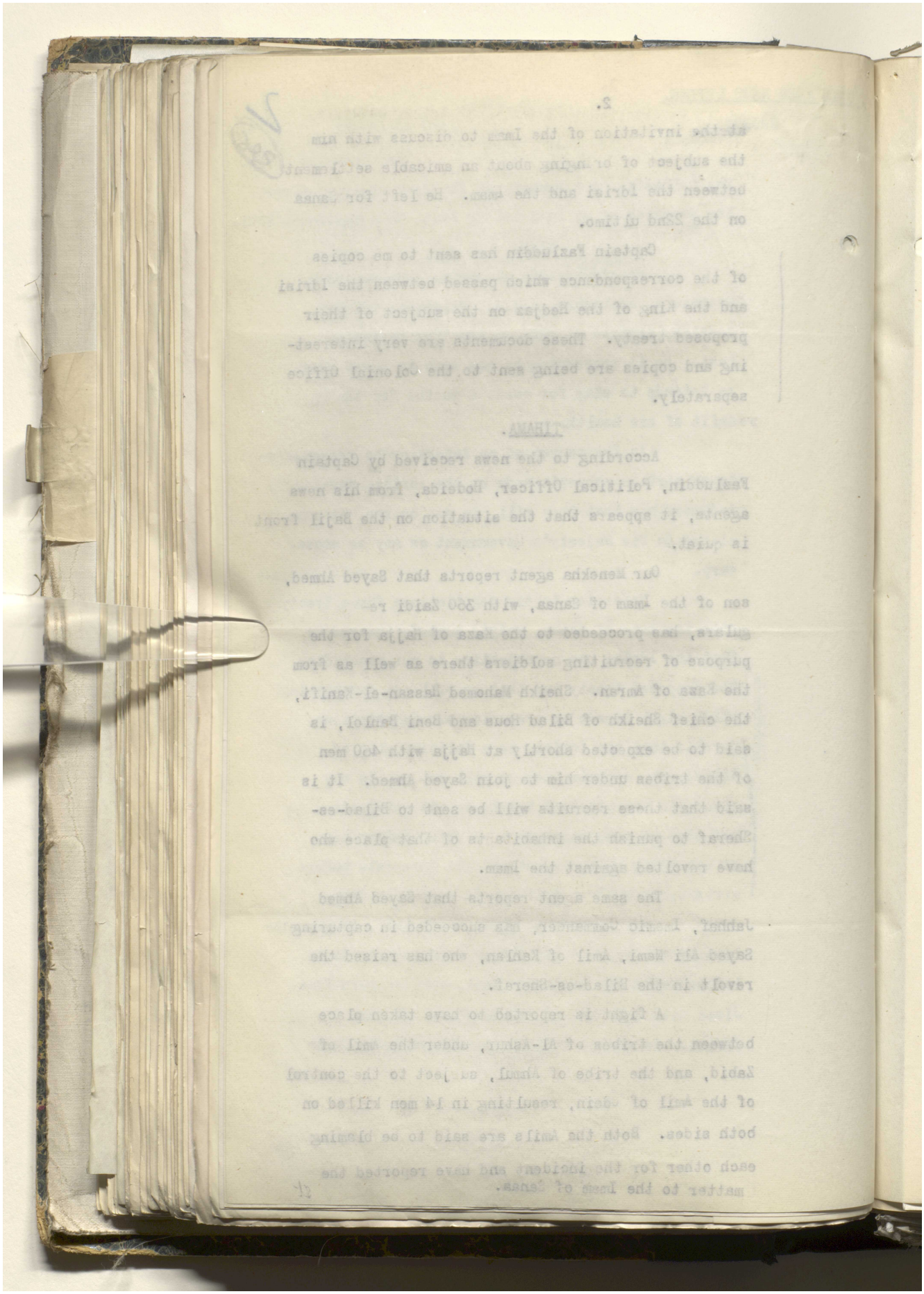

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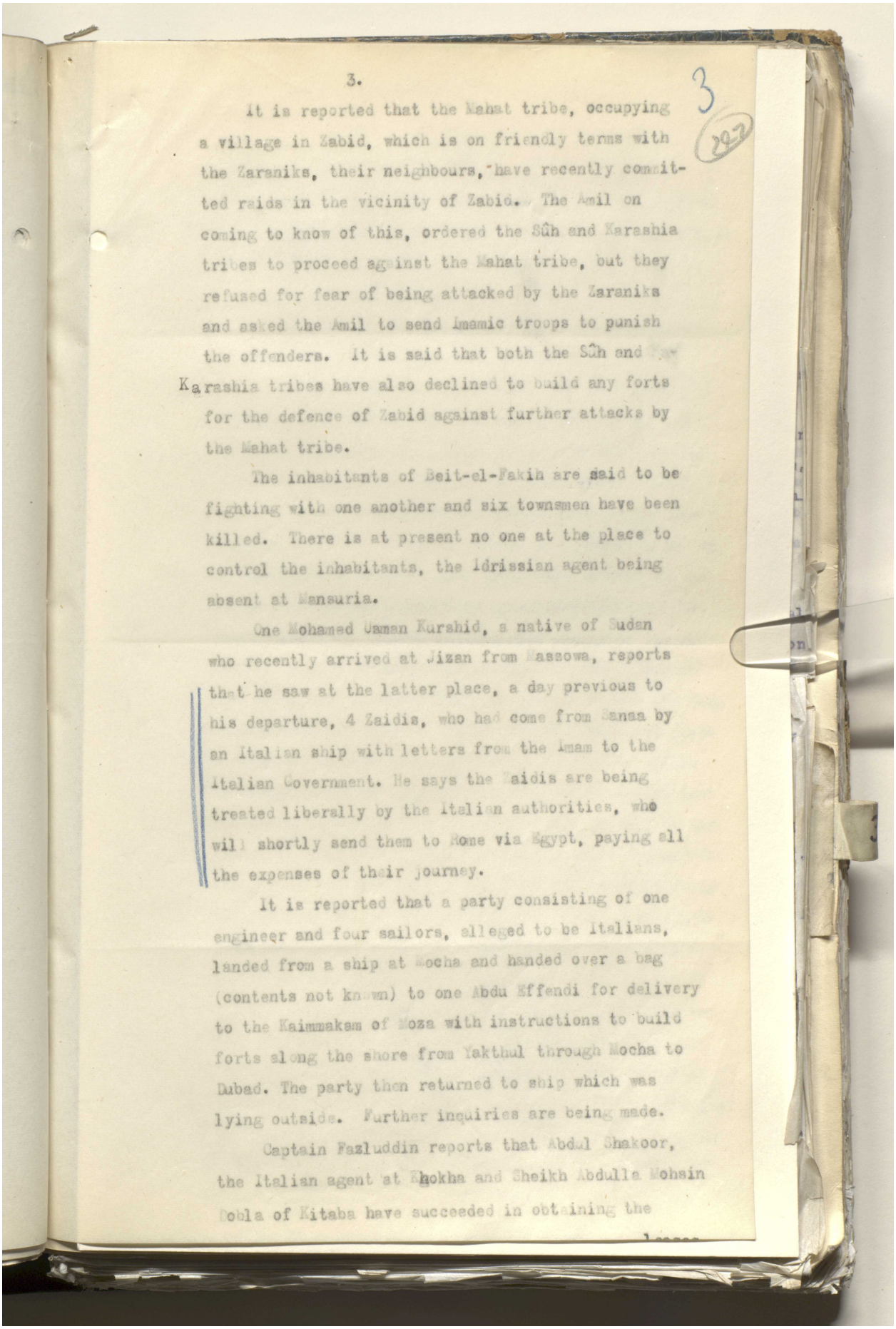

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It is reported that the Mahat tribe, occupying a village in Zabid, which is on friendly terms with the Zaraniks, their neighbours, have recently committed raids in the vicinity of Zabid. The Amil on coming to know of this, ordered the Sûh and Karashia tribes to proceed against the Mahat tribe, but they refused for fear of being attacked by the Zaraniks and asked the Amil to send Imamic troops to punish the offenders. It is said that both the Sûh and Karashia tribes have also declined to build any forts for the defence of Zabid against further attacks by the Mahat tribe.

The inhabitants of Beit-el-Fakih are said to be fighting with one another and six townsmen have been killed. There is at present no one at the place to control the inhabitants, the Idrissian agent being absent at Mansuria.

One Mohamed Uaman Kurshid, a native of Sudan who recently arrived at Jizan from Massowa, reports that he saw at the latter place, a day previous to his departure, 4 Zaidis, who had come from Sanaa by an Italian ship with letters from the Imam to the Italian Government. He says the Zaidis are being treated liberally by the Italian authorities, who will shortly send them to Rome via Egypt, paying all the expenses of their journey.

It is reported that a party consisting of one engineer and four sailors, alleged to be Italians, landed from a ship at Mocha and handed over a bag (contents not known) to one Abdu Effendi for delivery to the Kaimmakam of Moza with instructions to build forts along the shore from Yakthul through Mocha to Dubad. The party then returned to ship which was lying outside. Further inquiries are being made.

Captain Fazluddin reports that Abdul Shakoor, the Italian agent at Mokha and Sheikh Abdulla Mohsin Dobla of Kitaba have succeeded in obtaining the

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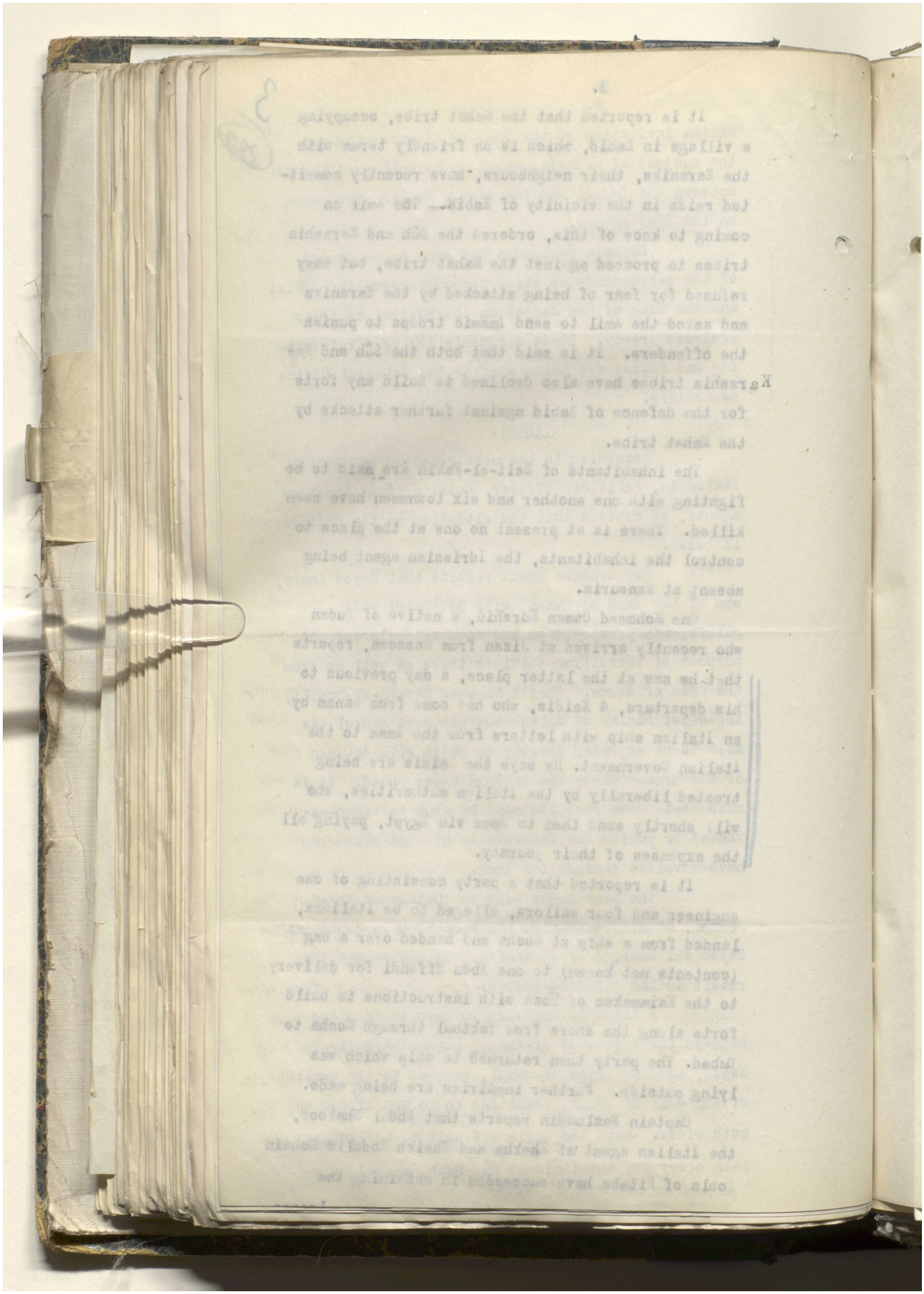

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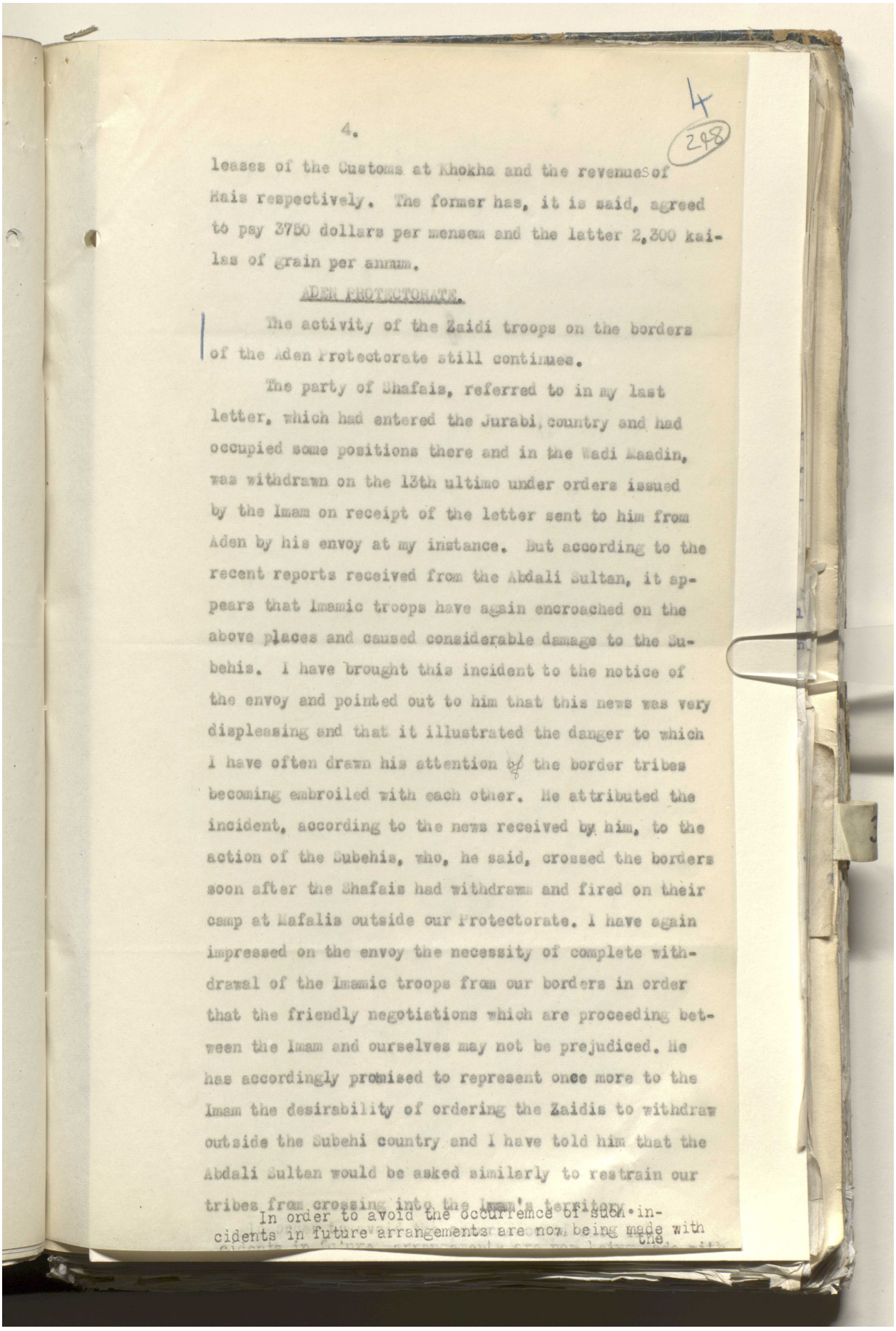

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leases of the Customs at Khokha and the revenues of Hais respectively. The former has, it is said, agreed to pay 3750 dollars per mensem and the latter 2,300 kailas of grain per annum.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The activity of the Zaidi troops on the borders of the Aden Protectorate still continues.

The party of Shafais, referred to in my last letter, which had entered the Jurabi country and had occupied some positions there and in the Wadi Maadin, was withdrawn on the 13th ultimo under orders issued by the Imam on receipt of the letter sent to him from Aden by his envoy at my instance. But according to the recent reports received from the Abdali Sultan, it appears that Imamic troops have again encroached on the above places and caused considerable damage to the Subehis. I have brought this incident to the notice of the envoy and pointed out to him that this news was very displeasing and that it illustrated the danger to which I have often drawn his attention of the border tribes becoming embroiled with each other. He attributed the incident, according to the news received by him, to the action of the Subehis, who, he said, crossed the borders soon after the Shafais had withdrawn and fired on their camp at Mafalis outside our Protectorate. I have again impressed on the envoy the necessity of complete withdrawal of the Imamic troops from our borders in order that the friendly negotiations which are proceeding between the Imam and ourselves may not be prejudiced. He has accordingly promised to represent once more to the Imam the desirability of ordering the Zaidis to withdraw outside the Subehi country and I have told him that the Abdali Sultan would be asked similarly to restrain our tribes from crossing into the Imam's territory.

In order to avoid the occurrence of such incidents in future arrangements are now being made with the

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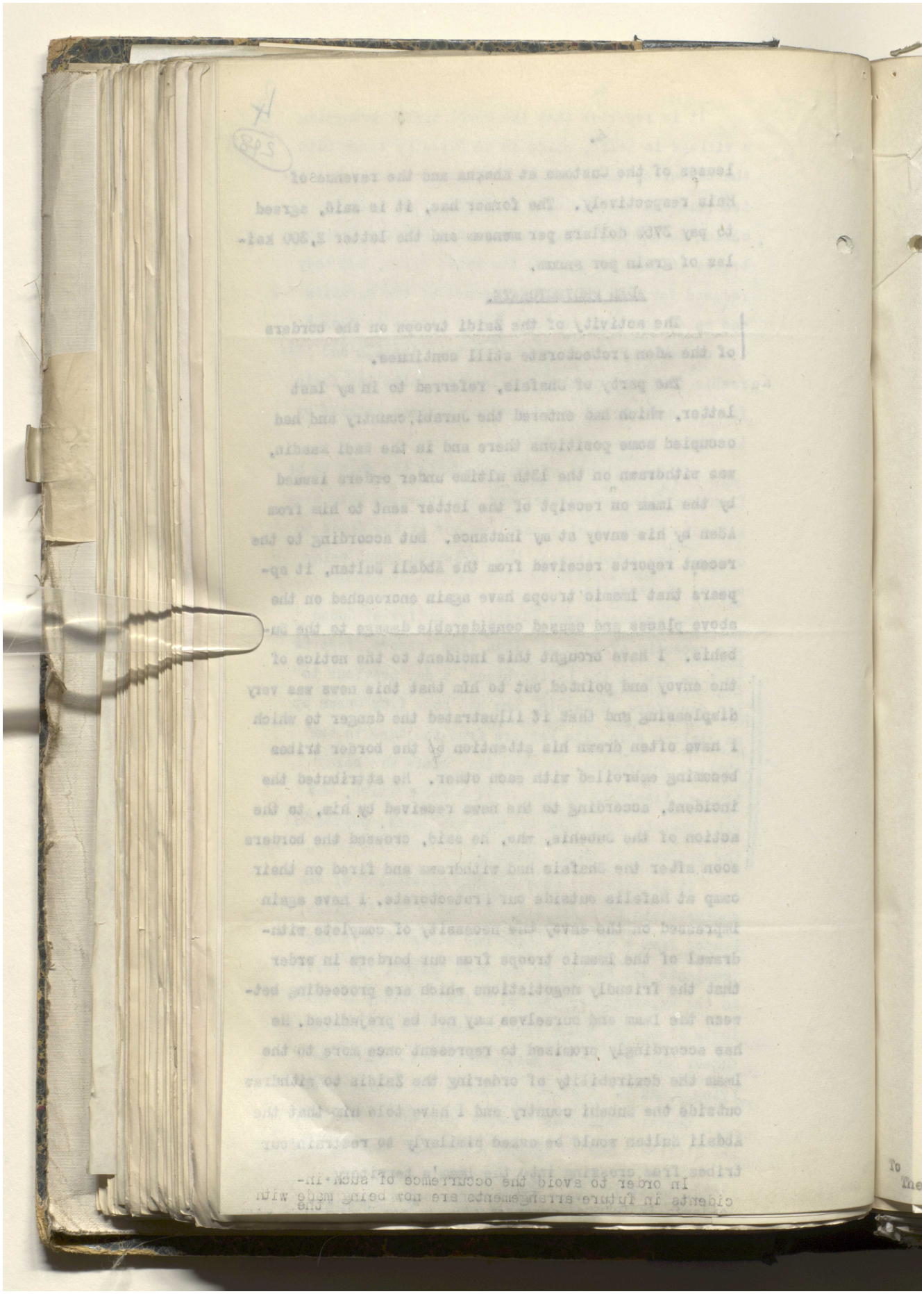

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the envoy that as soon as the Zaidis evacuate our borders, the Abdali Sultan should post a party of his own men on the Subehi borders under a trustworthy commander, who should restrain the Subehis from going beyond their proper limits and send to the Sultan early and reliable information in the event of any infraction of the borders by either party.

The envoy has given me personally a solemn undertaking that he will carry out what he has promised to do and that he will do his utmost to ensure that no untoward incident occurs again.

Five principal Sheikhs of Upper Yafa have come in to Aden to pay a friendly visit to this Residency. They complain bitterly of the Zaidi encroachment upon Shaib, Nawa and Rubeatein and say that owing to this they are losing a good deal of their revenues which they derive from these places according to the tribal custom. They urge us to take immediate steps to turn out the Zaidis by force of arms. It has been explained to them that such a method if resorted to would only aggravate the situation and that therefore it is necessary to secure the withdrawal of the Zaidis by means of diplomacy. The Sheikhs agreed and appreciated the policy of Government in this matter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Saiyid Alawi Jifri, Chief Minister of His Highness the Abdali Sultan, left Lahej for Sanaa on the 24th October 1921 accompanied by a party of 12 companions under an escort of 20 men, with the motor car which is being presented to the Imam by His Majesty's Government. The party includes Kadi Mahomed bin Husein nephew of Kadi Abdulla bin Ahmed el Arashi, Imam's envoy in Aden.

(Sgd.) T.E. Scott M.G.

To
The Right Honourable, Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for the Colonies, London.

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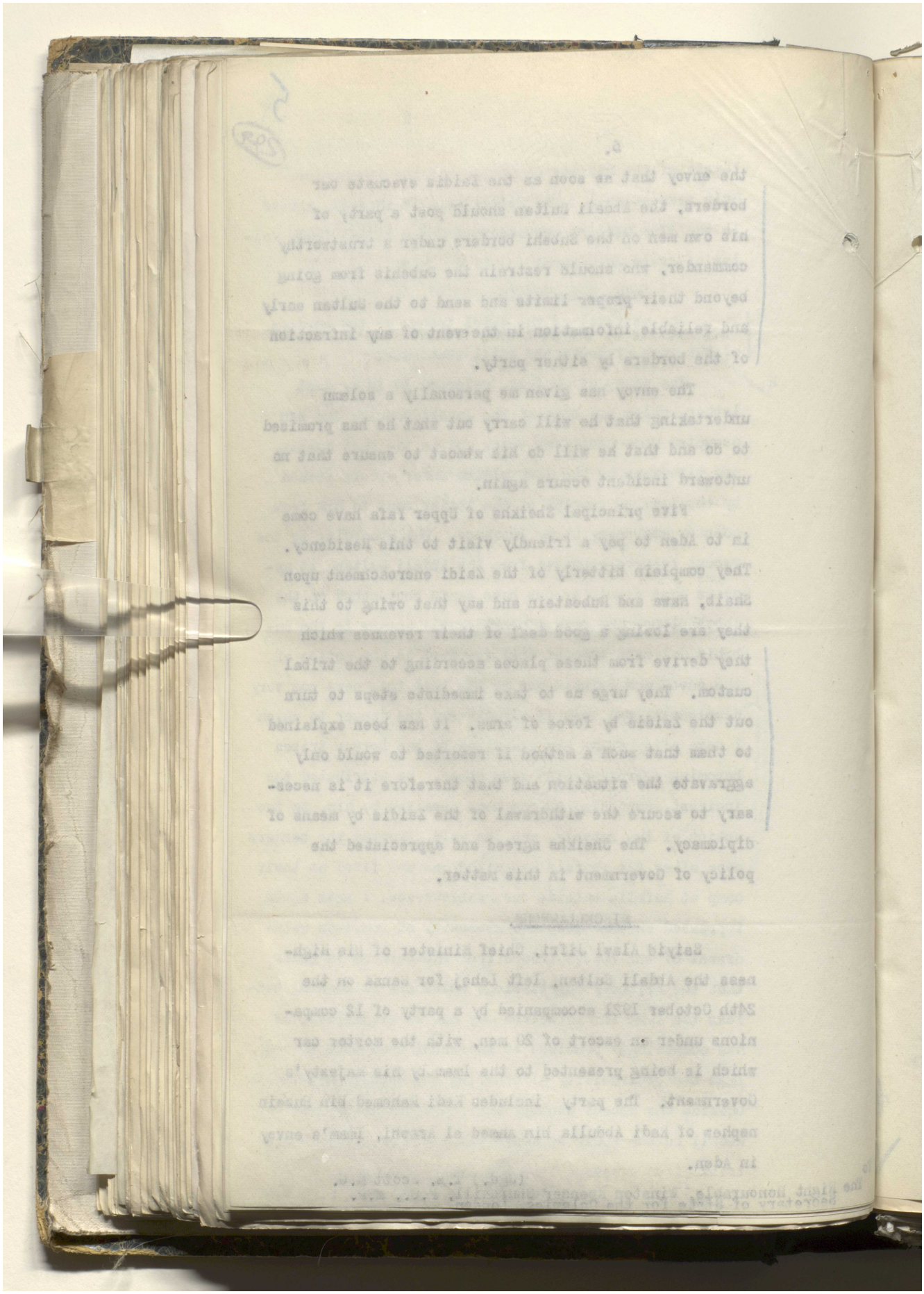

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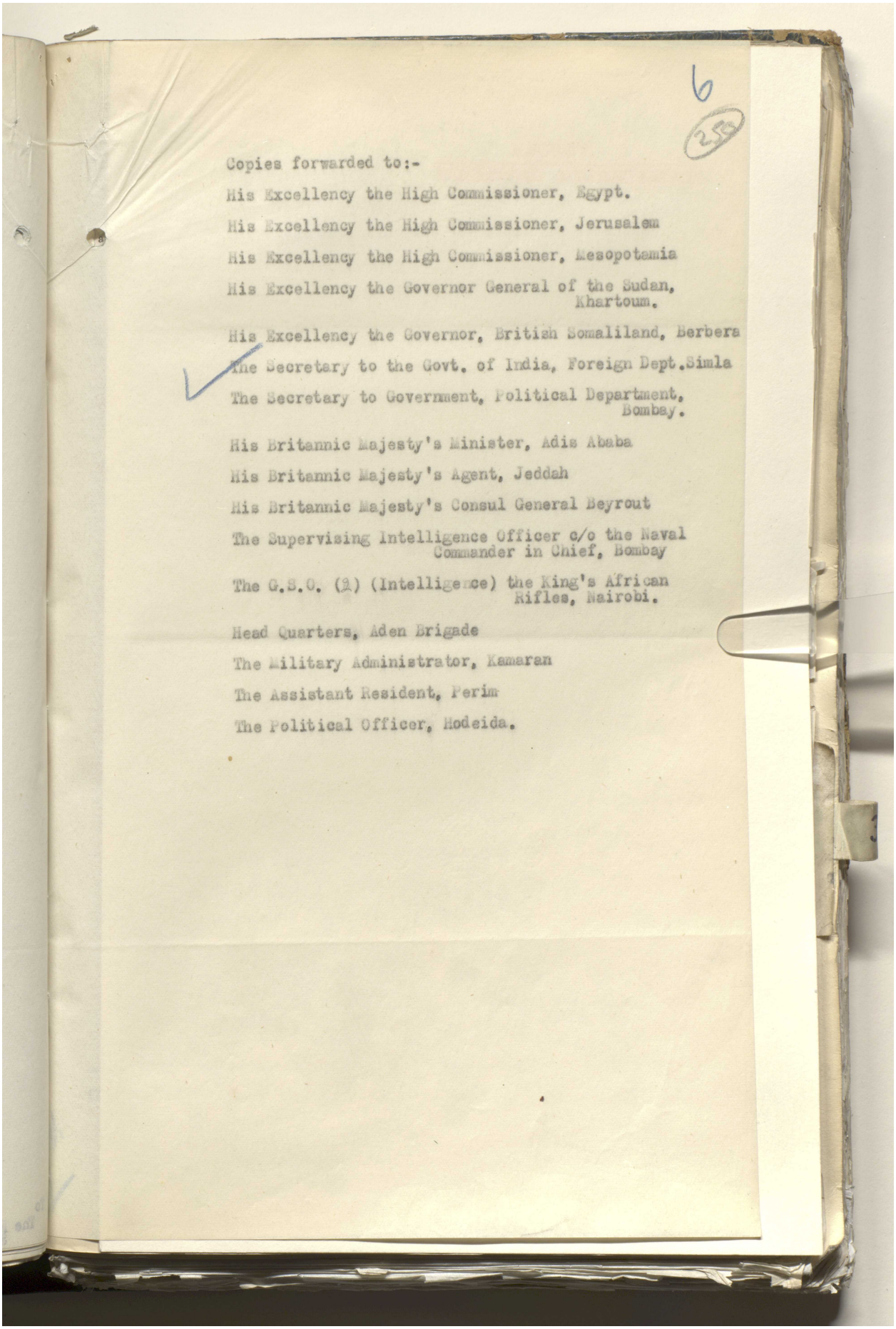

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His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia

His Excellency the Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum.

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera

The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.Simla

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General Beyrout

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander in Chief, Bombay

The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi.

Head Quarters, Aden Brigade

The Military Administrator, Kamaran

The Assistant Resident, Perim

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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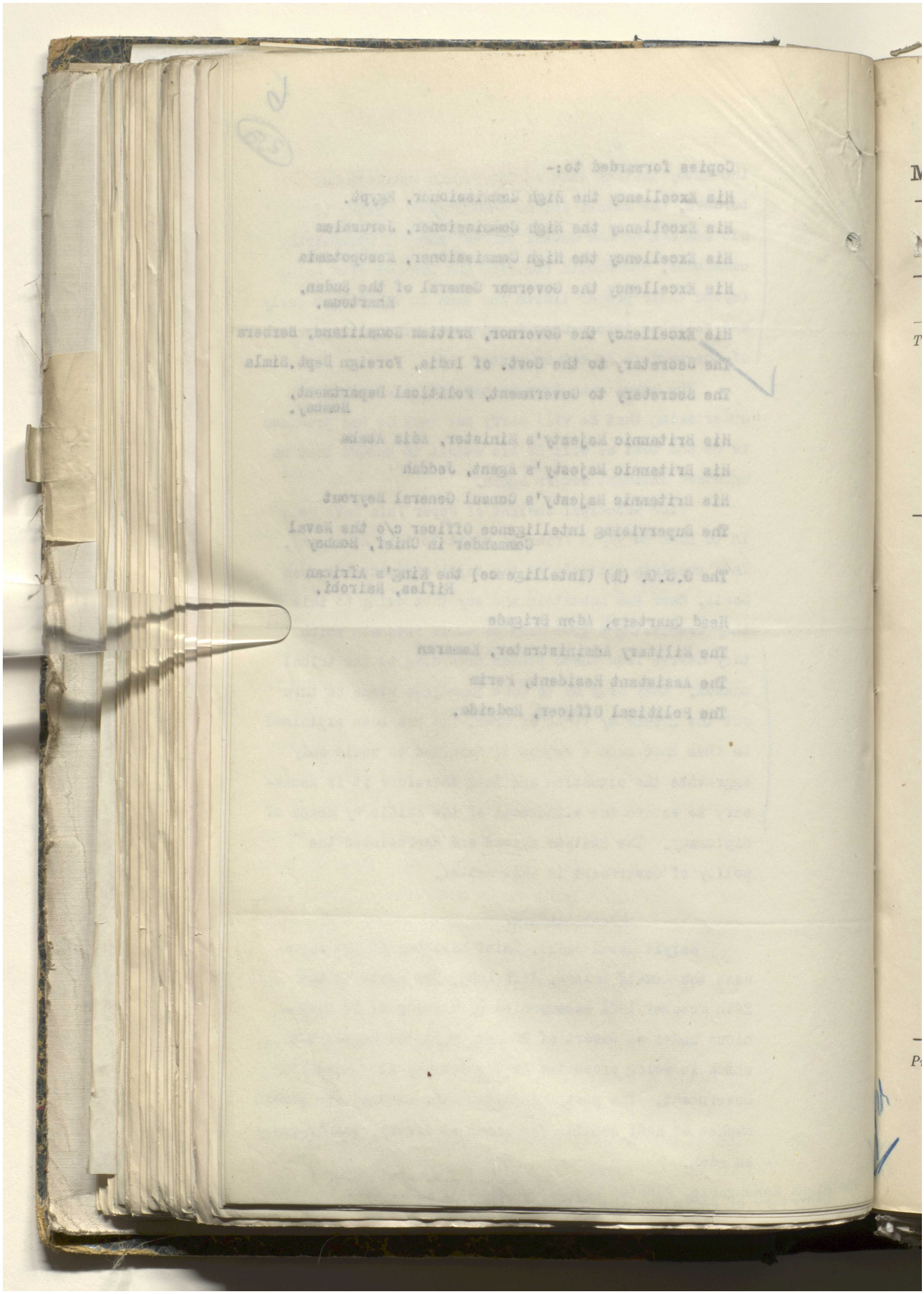

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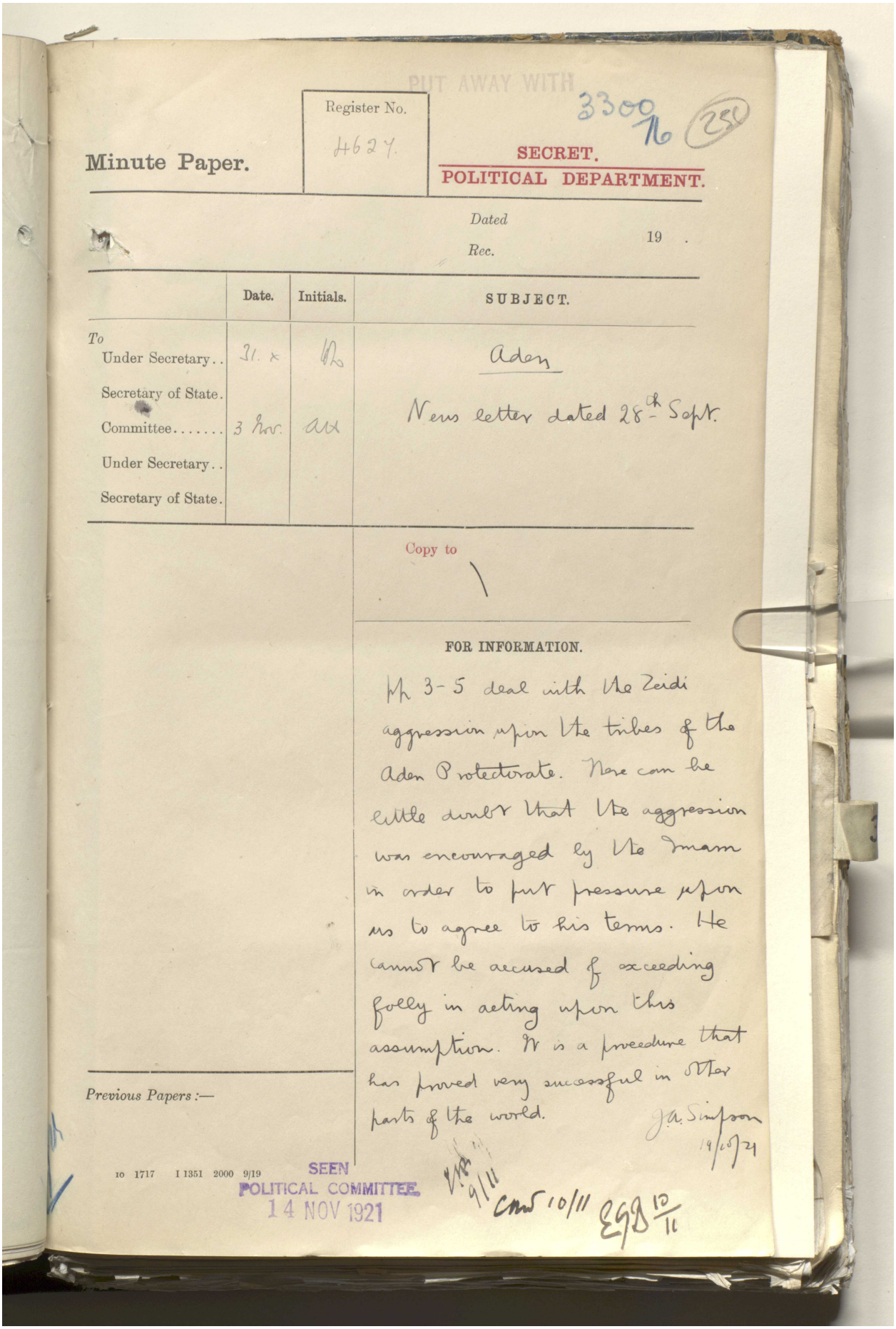

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 4627.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..	31. x	[illegible]	Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	3 Nov.	[illegible]	News letter dated 28th Sept.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

Mr 3-5 deal with the Zaidi aggression upon the tribes of the Aden Protectorate. Here can be little doubt that the aggression was encouraged by the Imam in order to put pressure upon us to agree to his terms. He cannot be accused of exceeding folly in acting upon this assumption. It is a procedure that has proved very successful in other parts of the world.

J.A. Simpson
19/10/21

Previous Papers :—

10 1717 I 1351 2000 9/19

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
14 NOV 1921

9/11 Cons 10/11 EGB 10/11

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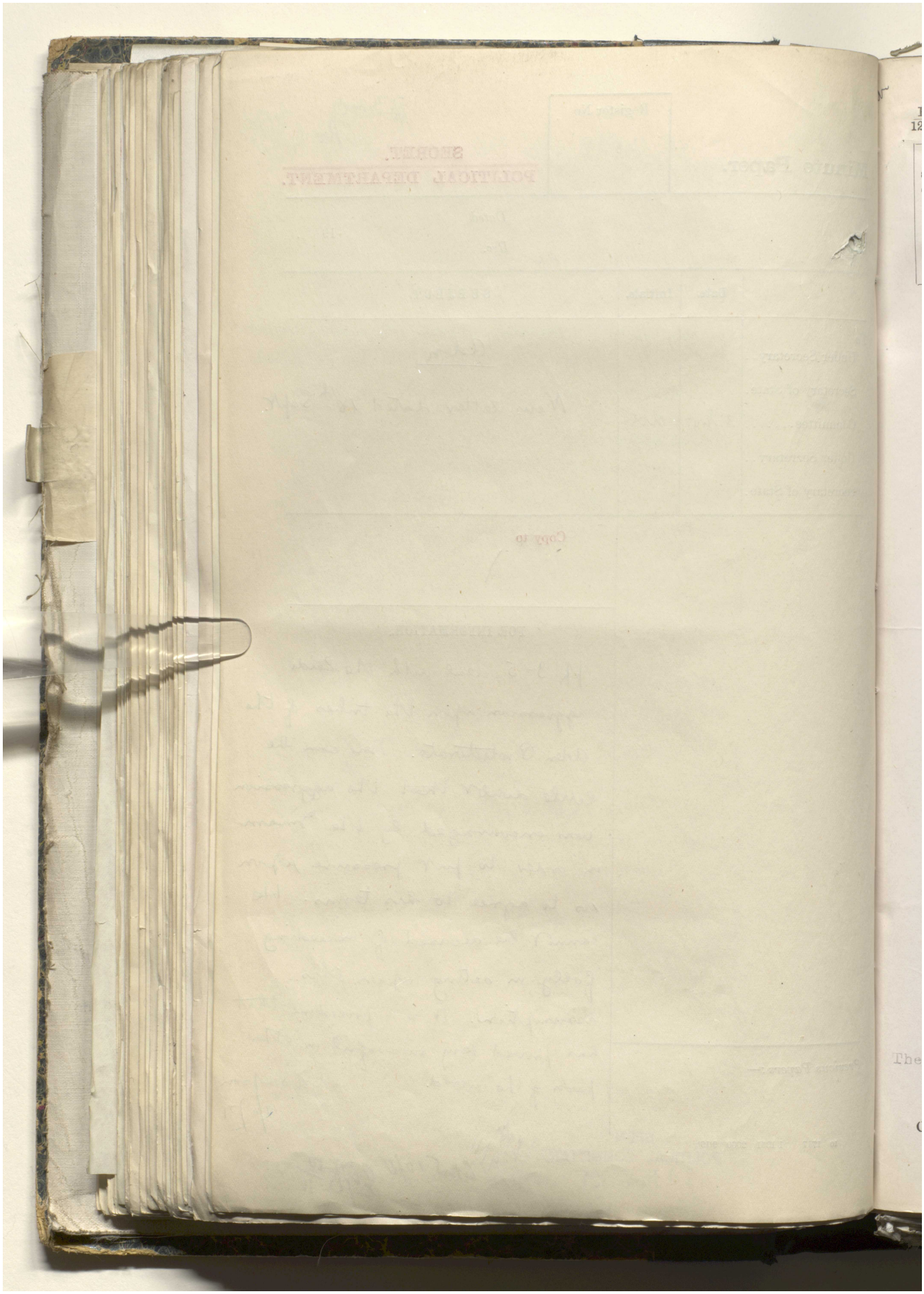

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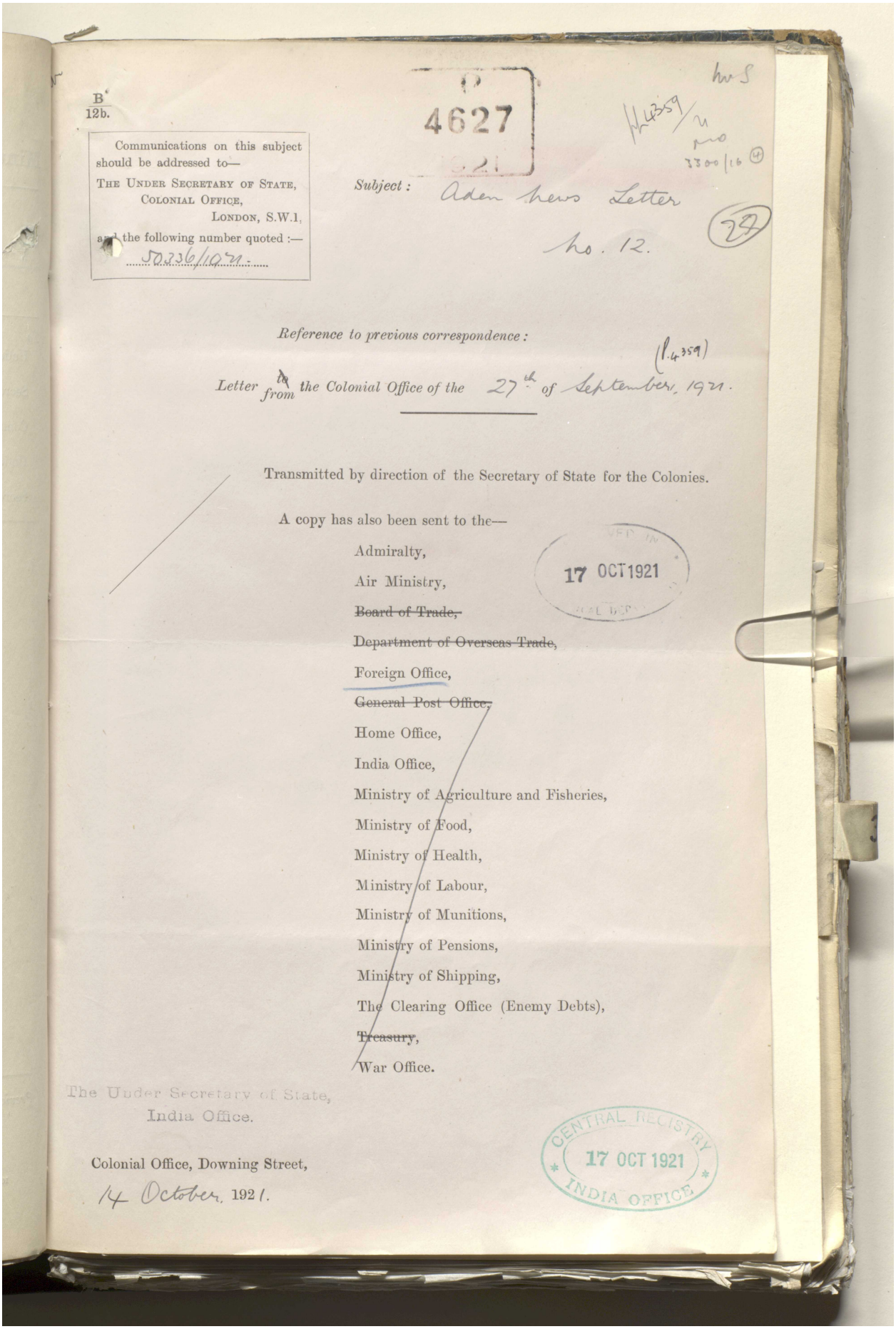

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
50236/1921.

Subject : Aden News Letter No. 12.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to/from the Colonial Office of the 27th *of* September, 1921. (P.4359)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the—

Admiralty,
Air Ministry,
~~Board of Trade,~~
~~Department of Overseas Trade,~~
Foreign Office,
~~General Post Office,~~
Home Office,
India Office,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Ministry of Food,
Ministry of Health,
Ministry of Labour,
Ministry of Munitions,
Ministry of Pensions,
Ministry of Shipping,
The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
~~Treasury~~,
War Office.

17 OCT 1921

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
17 OCT 1921
INDIA OFFICE

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
14 October, 1921.

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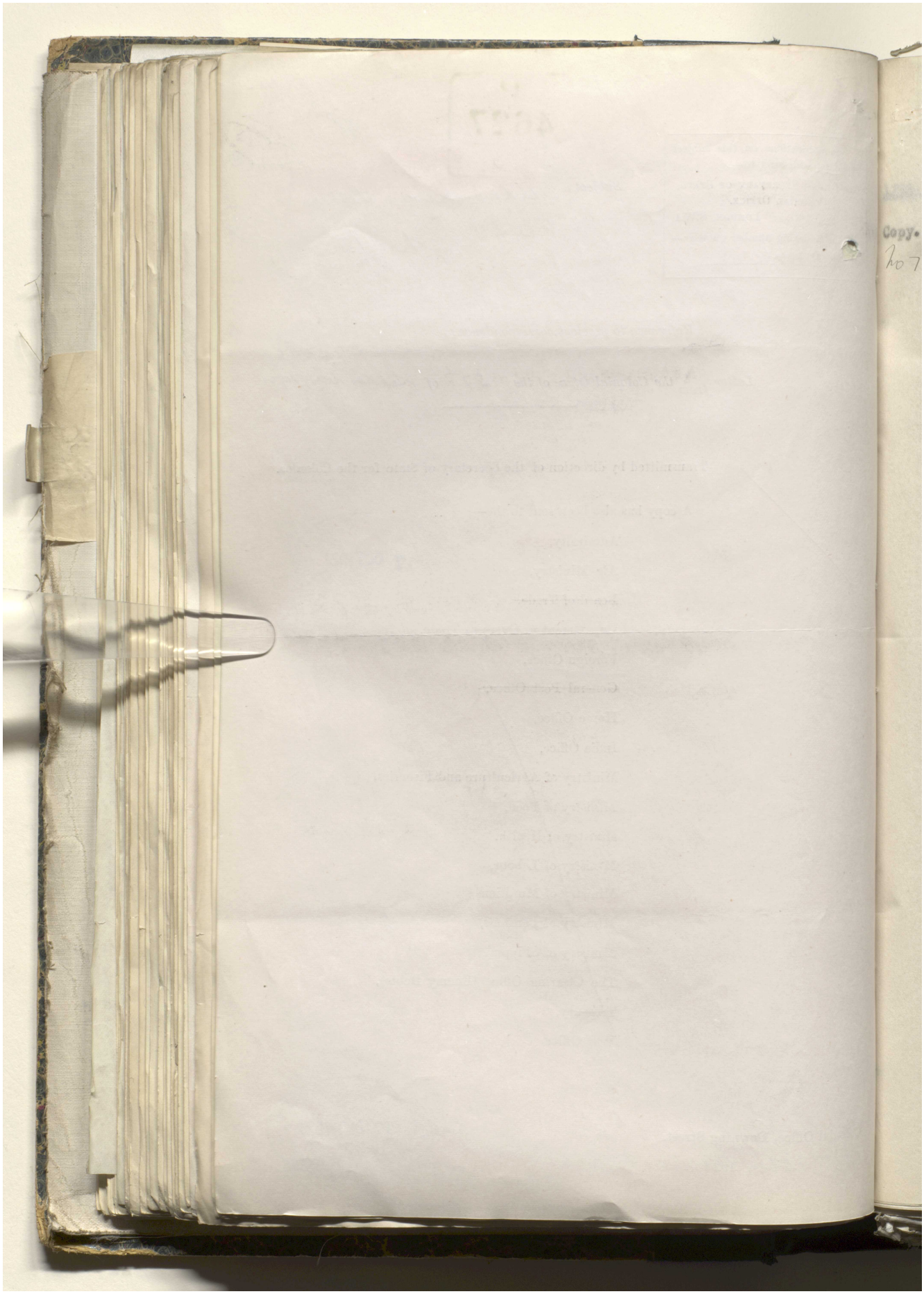

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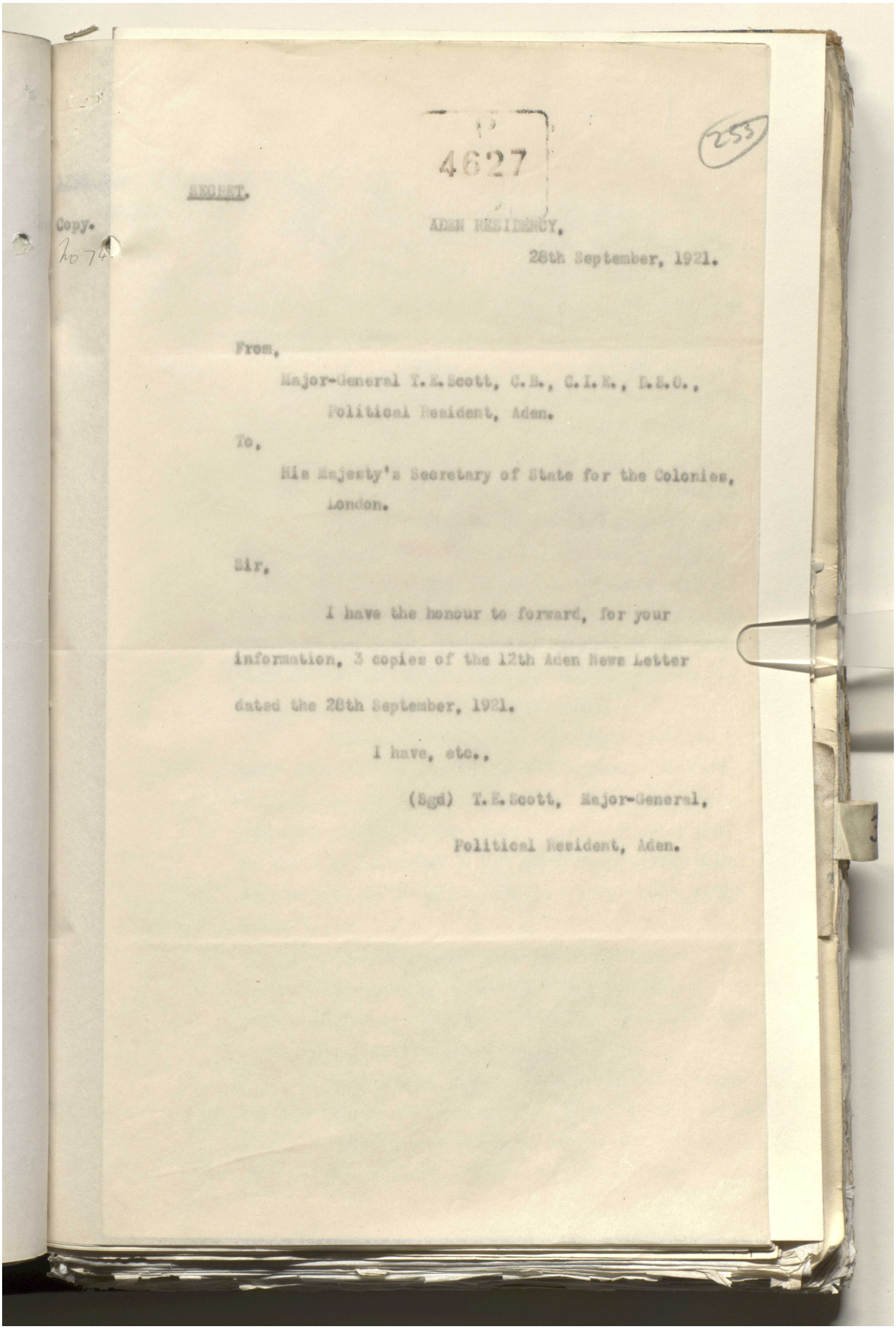

4627

(253)

SECRET.

Copy.

No 74.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

28th September, 1921.

From,

Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,

Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,

London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, 3 copies of the 12th Aden News Letter dated the 28th September, 1921.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd) T.E.Scott, Major-General,

Political Resident, Aden.

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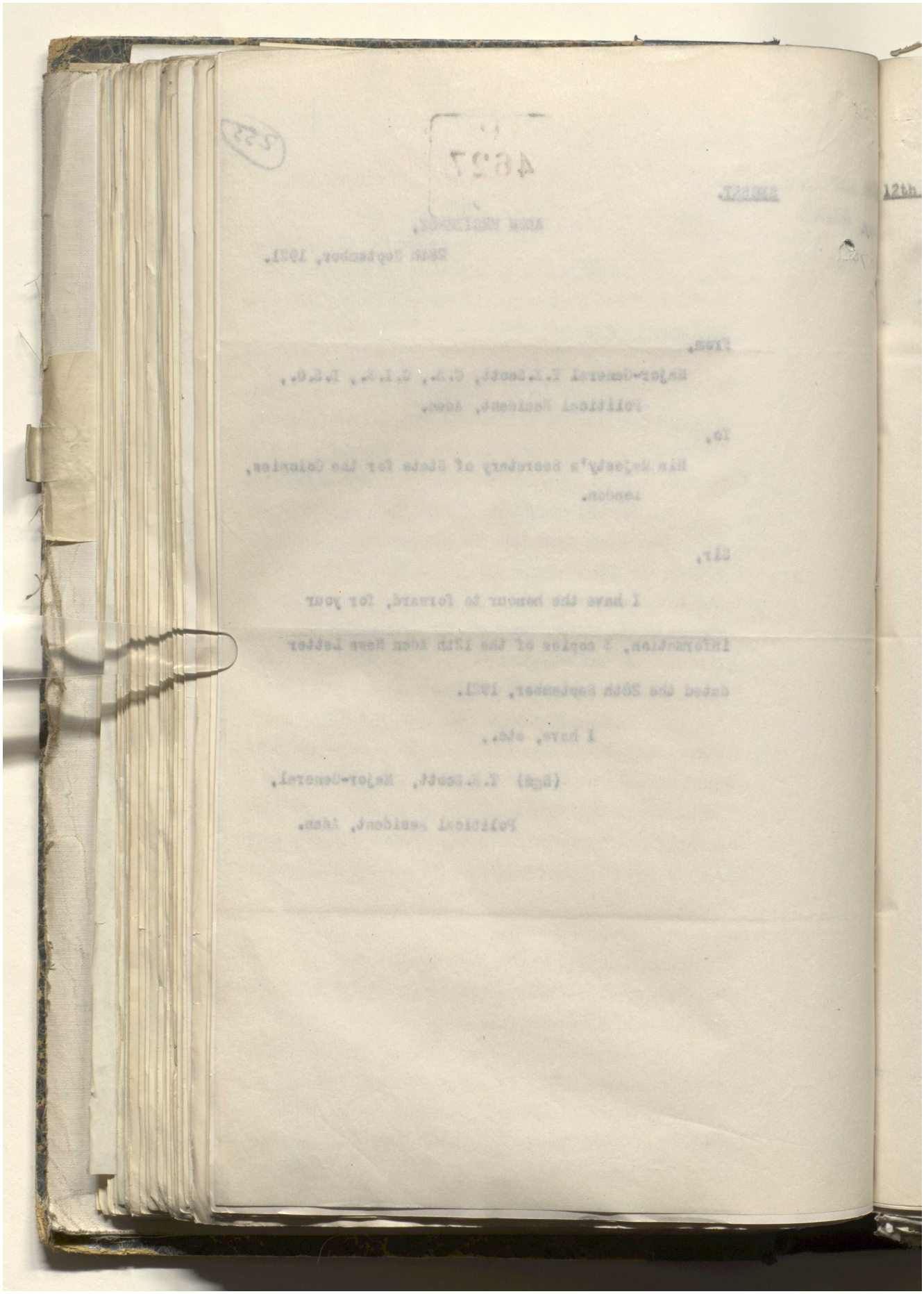

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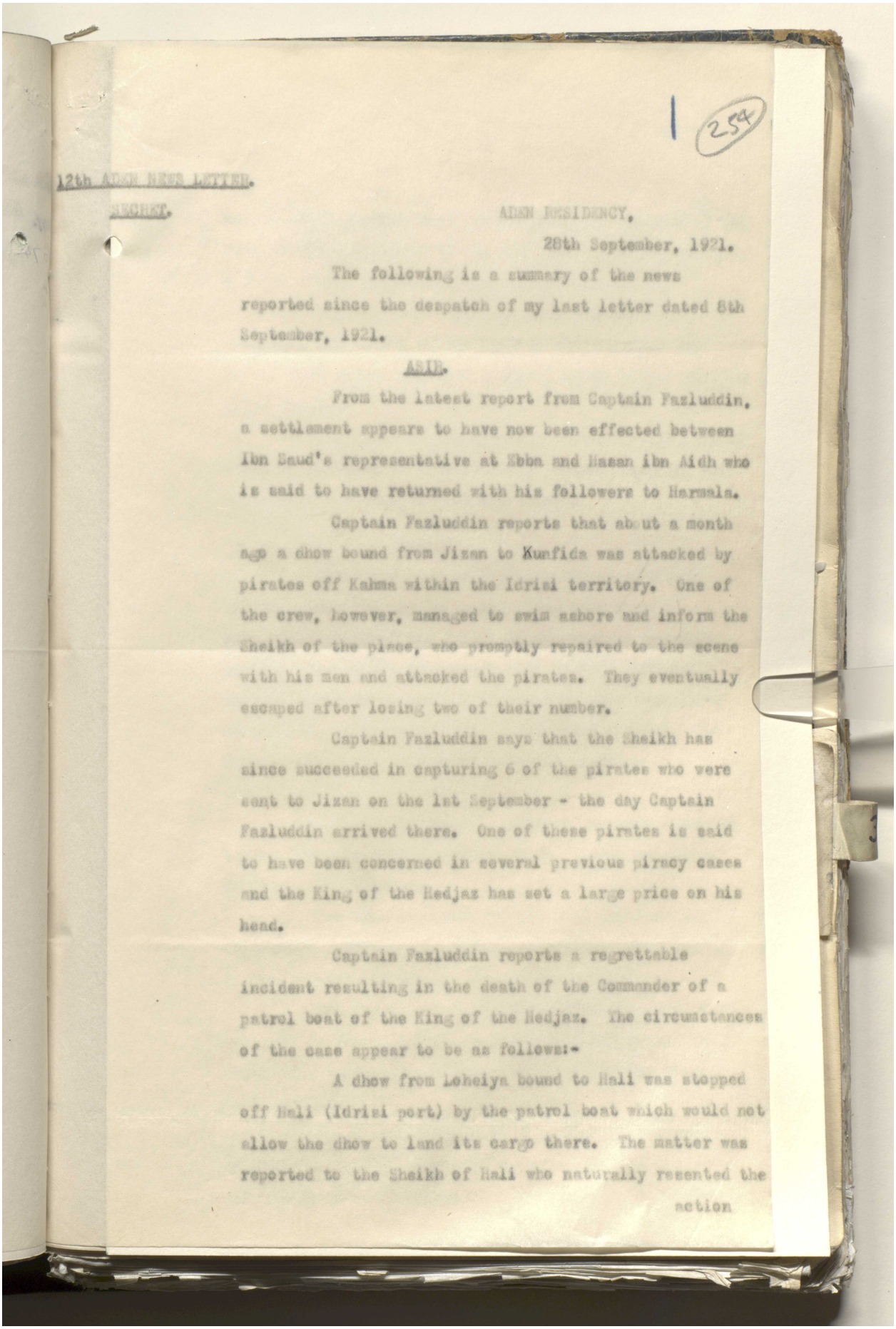

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12th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

28th September, 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 8th September, 1921.

ASIR.

From the latest report from Captain Fazluddin, a settlement appears to have now been effected between Ibn Saud's representative at Ebba and Hasan ibn Aidh who is said to have returned with his followers to Harmala.

Captain Fazluddin reports that about a month ago a dhow bound from Jizan to Kunfida was attacked by pirates off Kahma within the Idrisi territory. One of the crew, however, managed to swim ashore and inform the Sheikh of the place, who promptly repaired to the scene with his men and attacked the pirates. They eventually escaped after losing two of their number.

Captain Fazluddin says that the Sheikh has since succeeded in capturing 6 of the pirates who were sent to Jizan on the 1st September - the day Captain Fazluddin arrived there. One of these pirates is said to have been concerned in several previous piracy cases and the King of the Hedjaz has set a large price on his head.

Captain Fazluddin reports a regrettable incident resulting in the death of the Commander of a patrol boat of the King of the Hedjaz. The circumstances of the case appear to be as follows:-

A dhow from Loheiya bound to Hali was stopped off Hali (Idrisi port) by the patrol boat which would not allow the dhow to land its cargo there. The matter was reported to the Sheikh of Hali who naturally resented the

action

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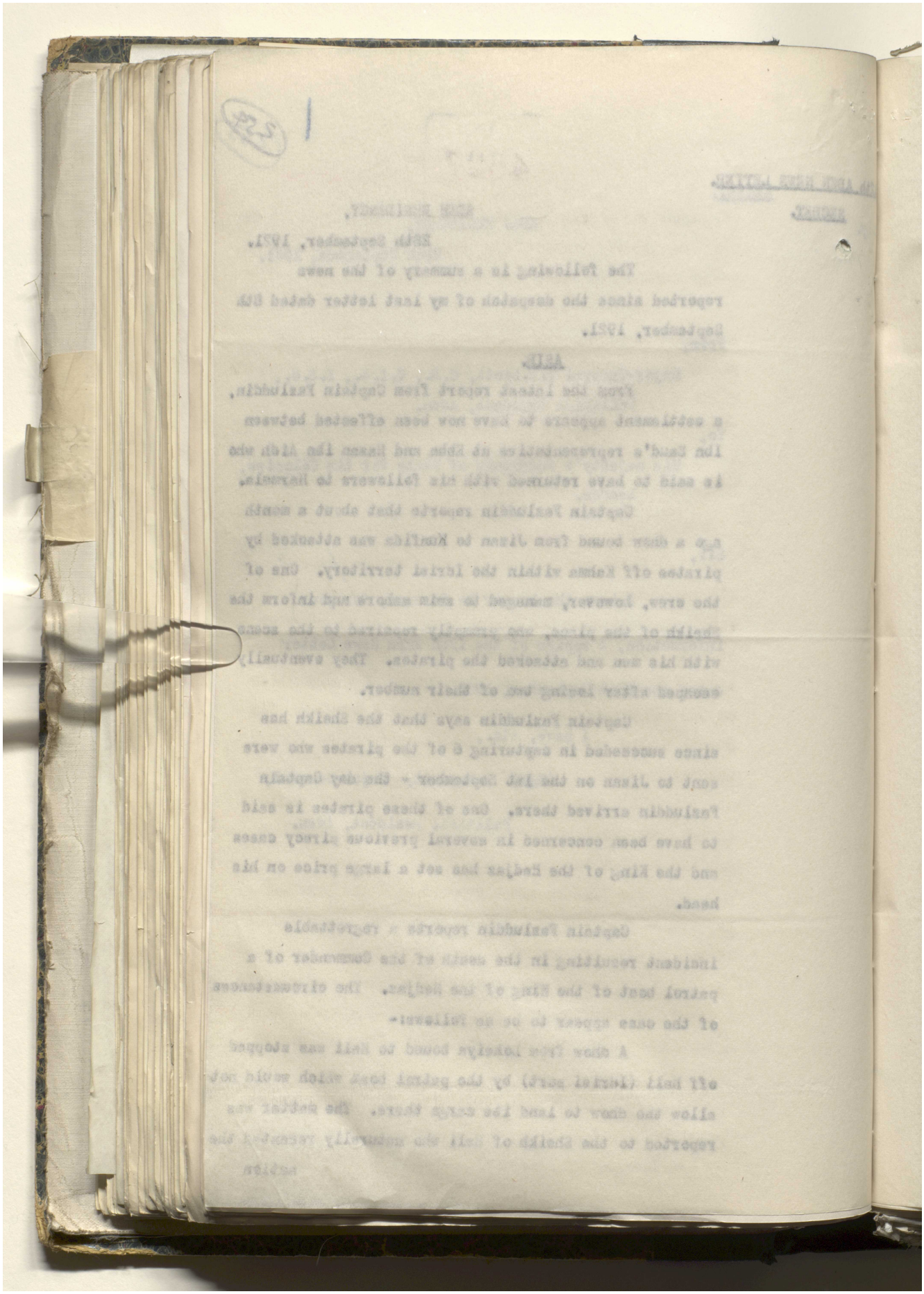

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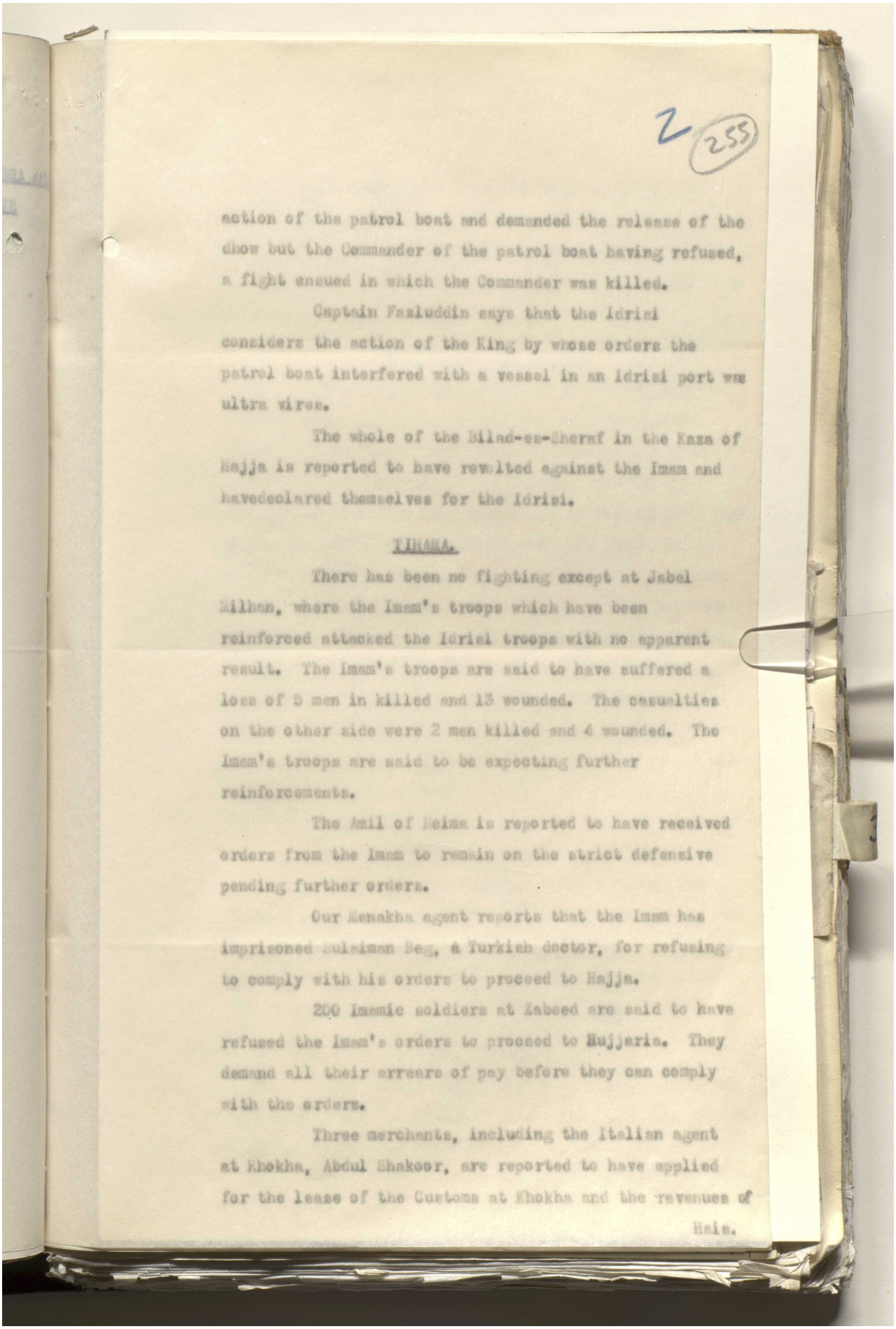

2 (255)

action of the patrol boat and demanded the release of the dhow but the Commander of the patrol boat having refused, a fight ensued in which the Commander was killed.

Captain Fazluddin says that the Idrisi considers the action of the King by whose orders the patrol boat interfered with a vessel in an Idrisi port was ultra vires.

The whole of the Bilad-es-Sherif in the Kaza of Hajja is reported to have revolted against the Imam and havedeclared themselves for the Idrisi.

TIHAMA.

There has been no fighting except at Jabel Milhan, where the Imam's troops which have been reinforced attacked the Idrisi troops with no apparent result. The Imam's troops are said to have suffered a loss of 5 men in killed and 13 wounded. The casualties on the other side were 2 men killed and 4 wounded. The Imam's troops are said to be expecting further reinforcements.

The Amil of Beima is reported to have received orders from the Imam to remain on the strict defensive pending further orders.

Our Menakha agent reports that the Imam has imprisoned Sulaiman Beg, a Turkish doctor, for refusing to comply with his orders to proceed to Hajja.

200 Imamic soldiers at Zabeed are said to have refused the Imam's orders to proceed to Hujjaria. They demand all their arrears of pay before they can comply with the orders.

Three merchants, including the Italian agent at Khokha, Abdul Shakoor, are reported to have applied for the lease of the Customs at Khokha and the revenues of Hais.

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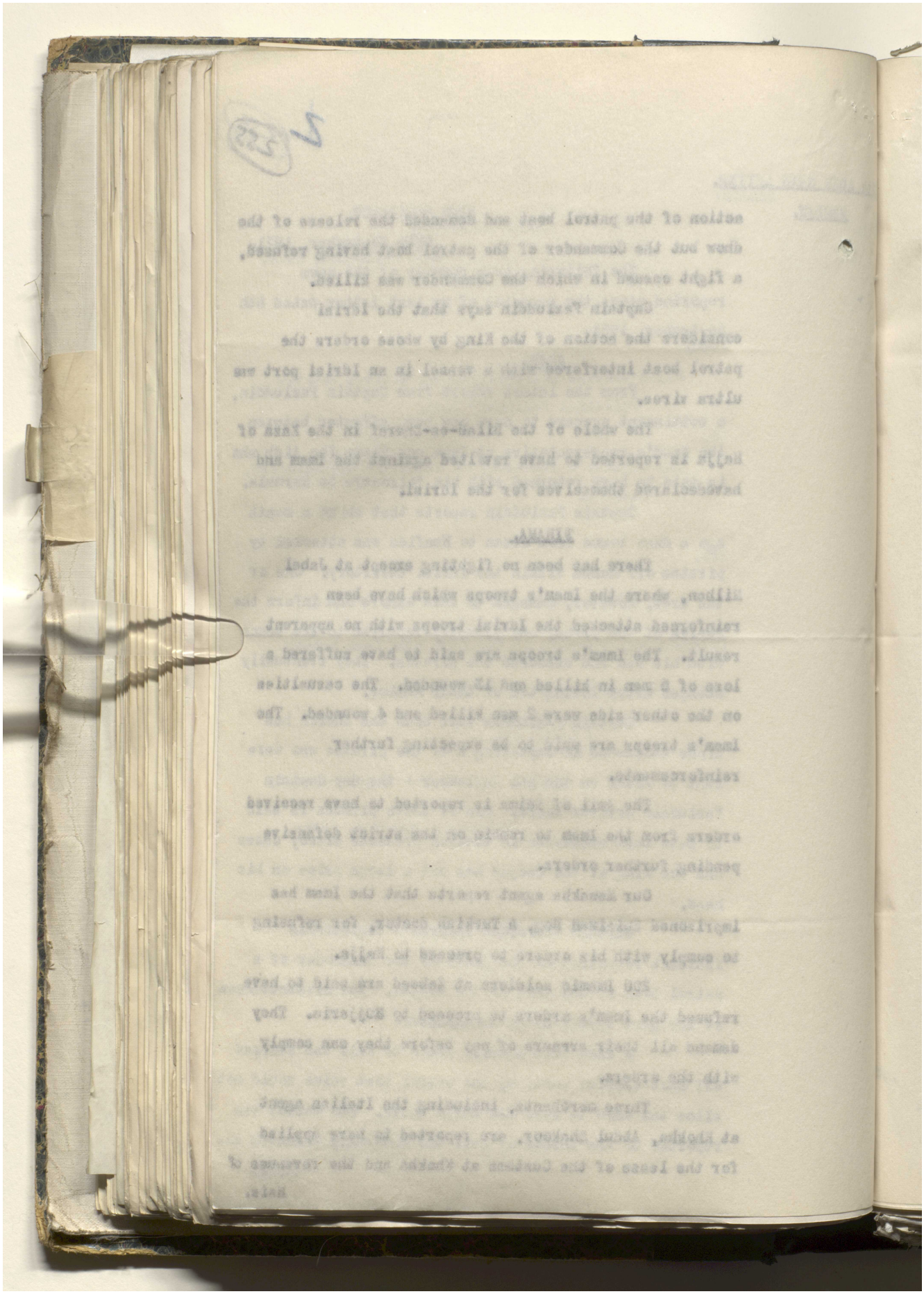

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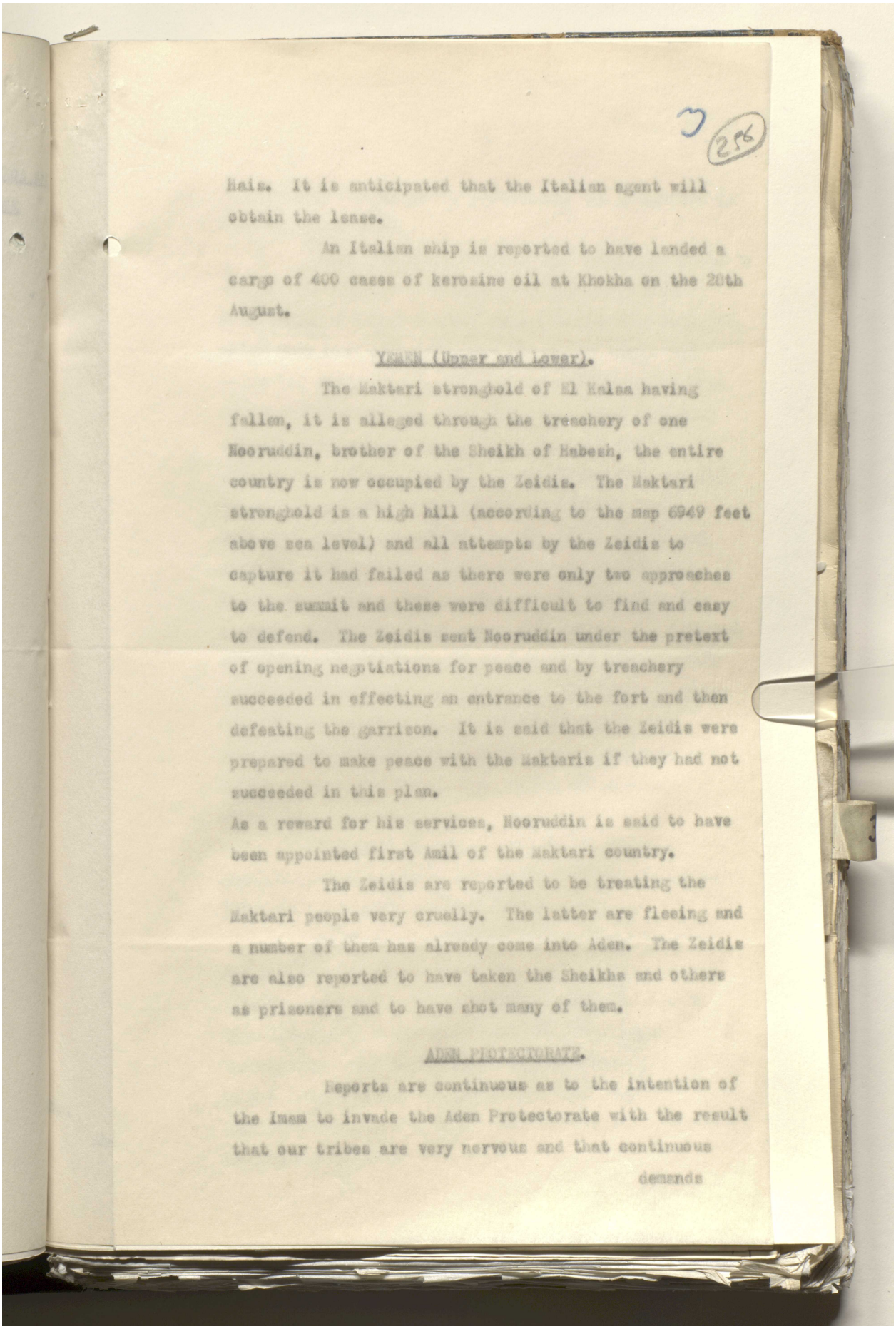

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Hais. It is anticipated that the Italian agent will obtain the lease.

An Italian ship is reported to have landed a cargo of 400 cases of kerosine oil at Khokha on the 20th August.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

The Maktari stronghold of El Kalaa having fallen, it is alleged through the treachery of one Nooruddin, brother of the Sheikh of Habesh, the entire country is now occupied by the Zeidis. The Maktari stronghold is a high hill (according to the map 6949 feet above sea level) and all attempts by the Zeidis to capture it had failed as there were only two approaches to the summit and these were difficult to find and easy to defend. The Zeidis sent Nooruddin under the pretext of opening negotiations for peace and by treachery succeeded in effecting an entrance to the fort and then defeating the garrison. It is said that the Zeidis were prepared to make peace with the Maktaris if they had not succeeded in this plan.

As a reward for his services, Nooruddin is said to have been appointed first Amil of the Maktari country.

The Zeidis are reported to be treating the Maktari people very cruelly. The latter are fleeing and a number of them has already come into Aden. The Zeidis are also reported to have taken the Sheikhs and others as prisoners and to have shot many of them.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Reports are continuous as to the intention of the Imam to invade the Aden Protectorate with the result that our tribes are very nervous and that continuous

demands

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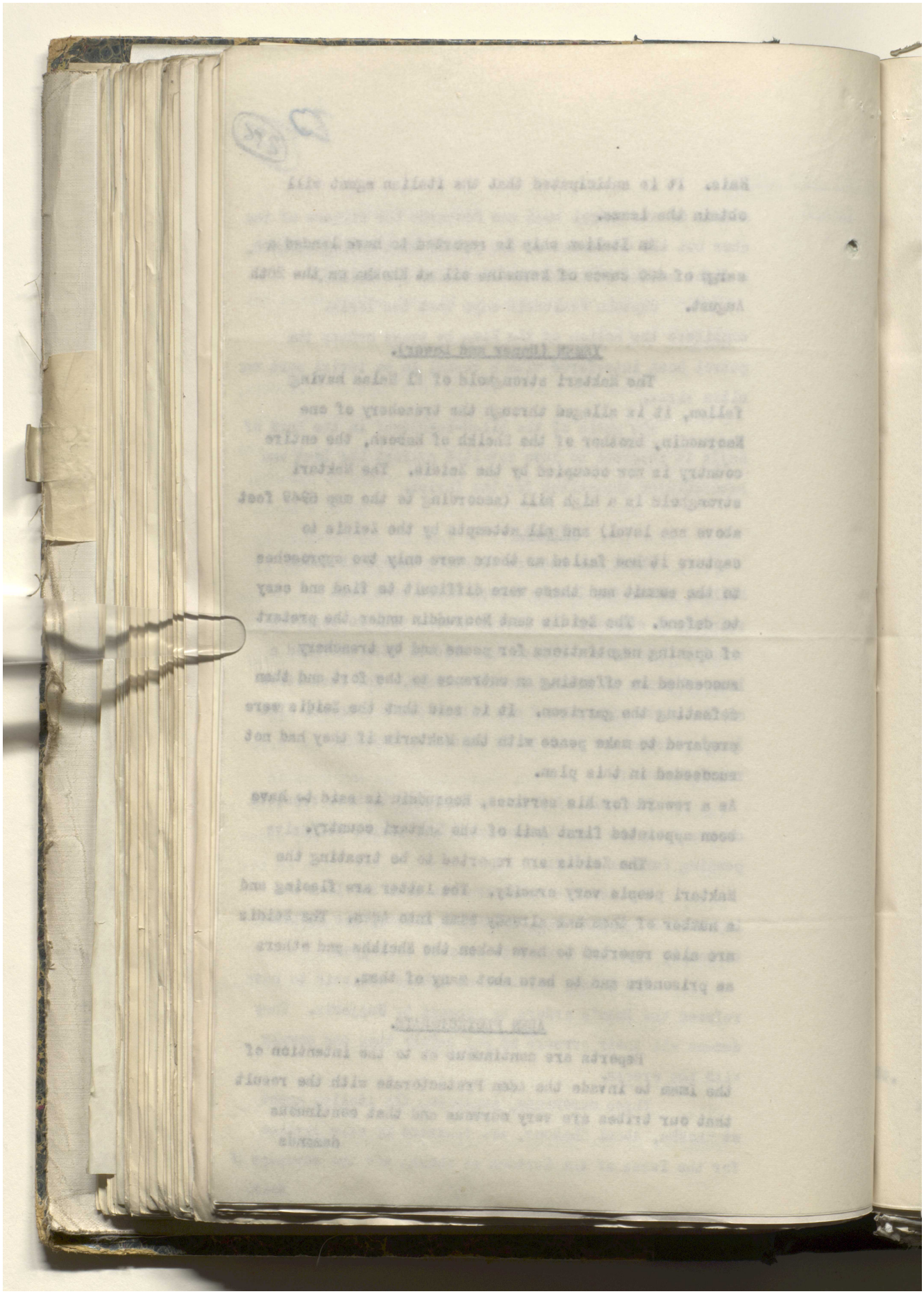

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demands are made on us for protection, and assistance in arms and ammunition.

Until recently, however, the Zeidis continued to respect the Protectorate border and abstained from interfering with our tribes, except in the Dala district, which they have occupied since the end of 1919. But since the capture of Al Kalaa their attitude has become more aggressive and the Zeidi Commanders have addressed several threatening letters to the Subaihi Sheikhs and even to the Sultan of Lahej. On September 19th a party of Shafais subject to the Zeidis entered the Jurabi country which is subordinate to the Abdali Sultan and occupied some positions there and in the Wadi Hamdin. I have pointed out to the Imam's envoy in Aden that the friendly negotiations now proceeding between the Imam and ourselves must obviously be prejudiced if Imamic troops violate the Protectorate border, and that while I cannot believe the Imam is cognisant of these acts by his subordinates it must be distinctly understood that such actions, if persisted in, will render the mission meaningless and useless.

The envoy has sent a letter to the Imam accordingly pointing out the futility of his mission in Aden if this hostility is allowed to continue.

There is a rumour that the Zeidis are making preparations to attack the Radfan tribes again. Mukbil Abdulla, the nephew of the Koteibi Sheikh, is said to have received an invitation from the Imamic Commander at Dala and has gone to Nadira with Abdul Hamid, the brother of the Amir of Dala. It is rumoured that Mukbil Abdulla's visit is connected with the projected advance against the Radfans.

Mukbil

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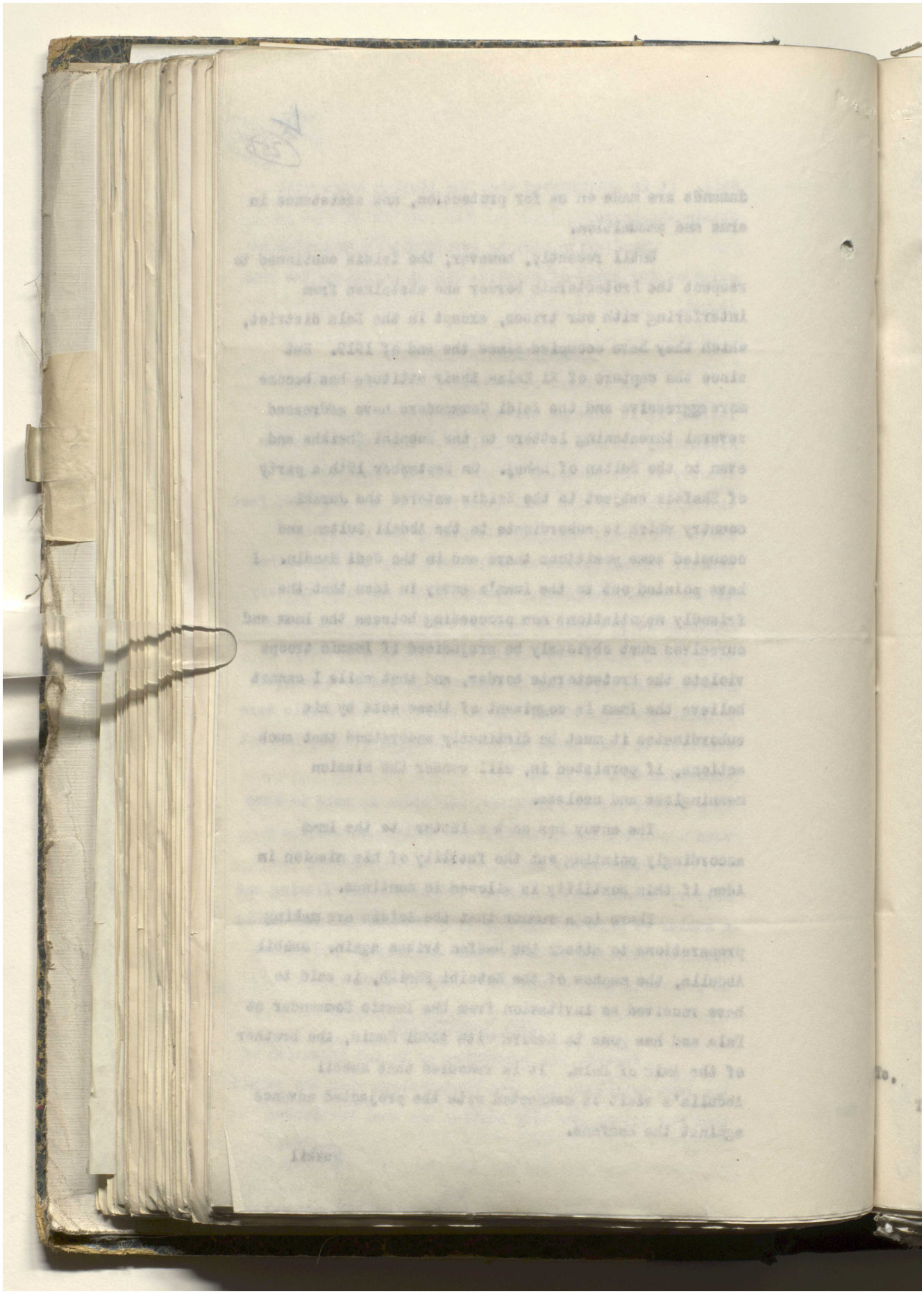

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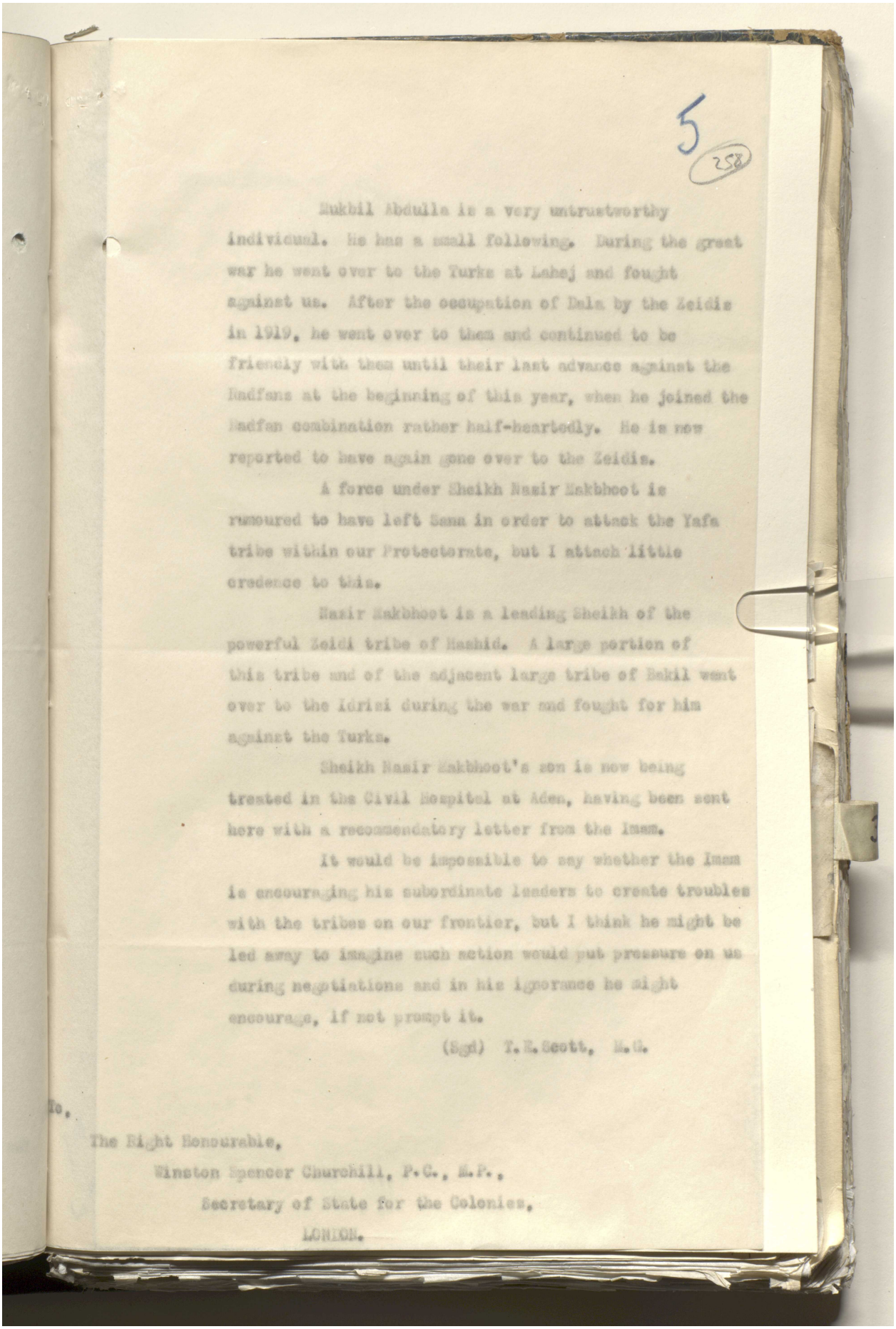

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Mukbil Abdulla is a very untrustworthy individual. He has a small following. During the great war he went over to the Turks at Lahej and fought against us. After the occupation of Dala by the Zeidis in 1919, he went over to them and continued to be friendly with them until their last advance against the Radfans at the beginning of this year, when he joined the Radfan combination rather half-heartedly. He is now reported to have again gone over to the Zeidis.

A force under Sheikh Nasir Hakbhoot is rumoured to have left Sana in order to attack the Yafa tribe within our Protectorate, but I attach little credence to this.

Nasir Hakbhoot is a leading Sheikh of the powerful Zeidi tribe of Hashid. A large portion of this tribe and of the adjacent large tribe of Bakil went over to the Idrisi during the war and fought for him against the Turks.

Sheikh Nasir Hakbhoot's son is now being treated in the Civil Hospital at Aden, having been sent here with a recommendatory letter from the Imam.

It would be impossible to say whether the Imam is encouraging his subordinate leaders to create troubles with the tribes on our frontier, but I think he might be led away to imagine such action would put pressure on us during negotiations and in his ignorance he might encourage, if not prompt it.

(Sgd) T.H.Scott, M.G.

No.

The Right Honourable,
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
LONDON.

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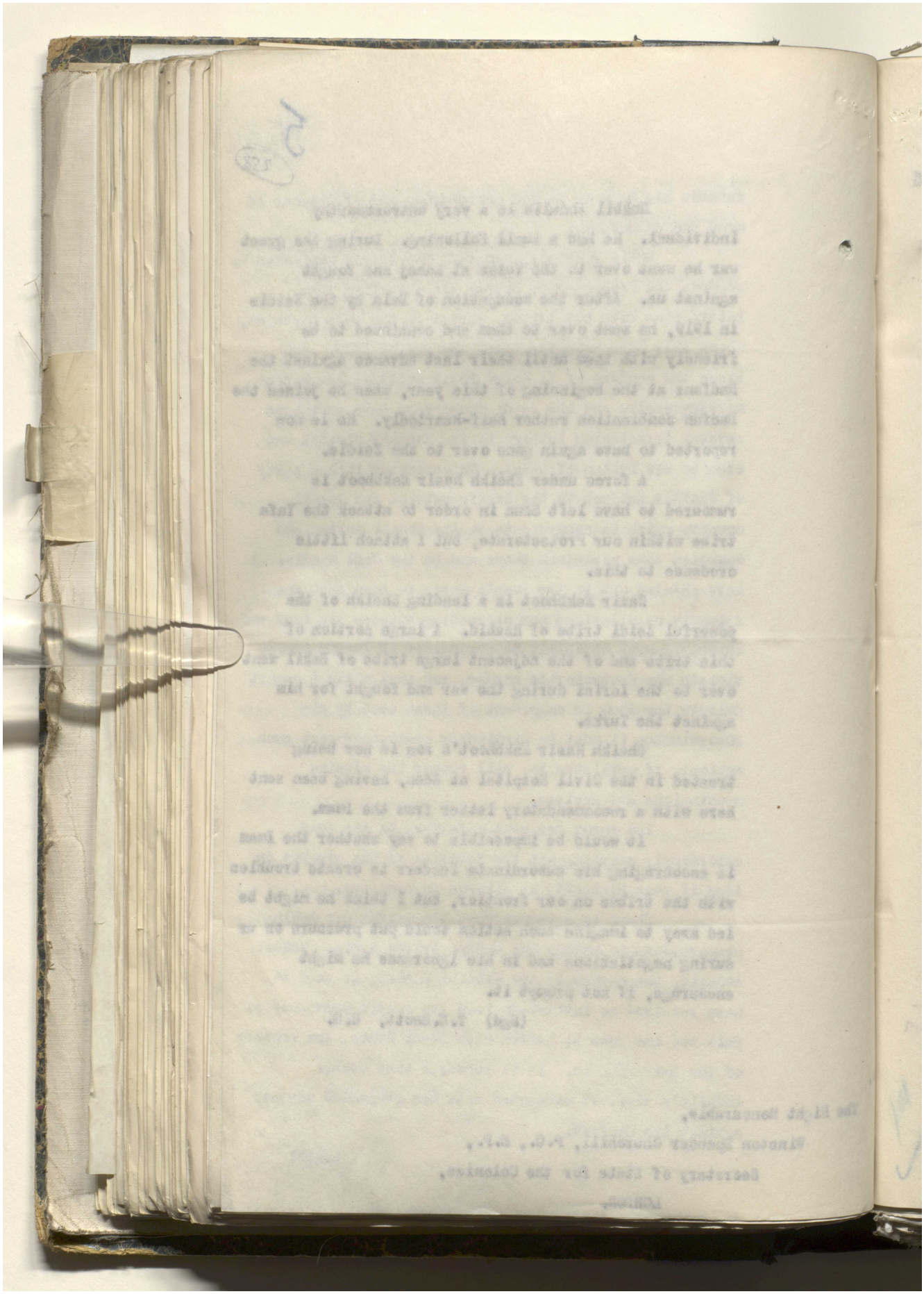

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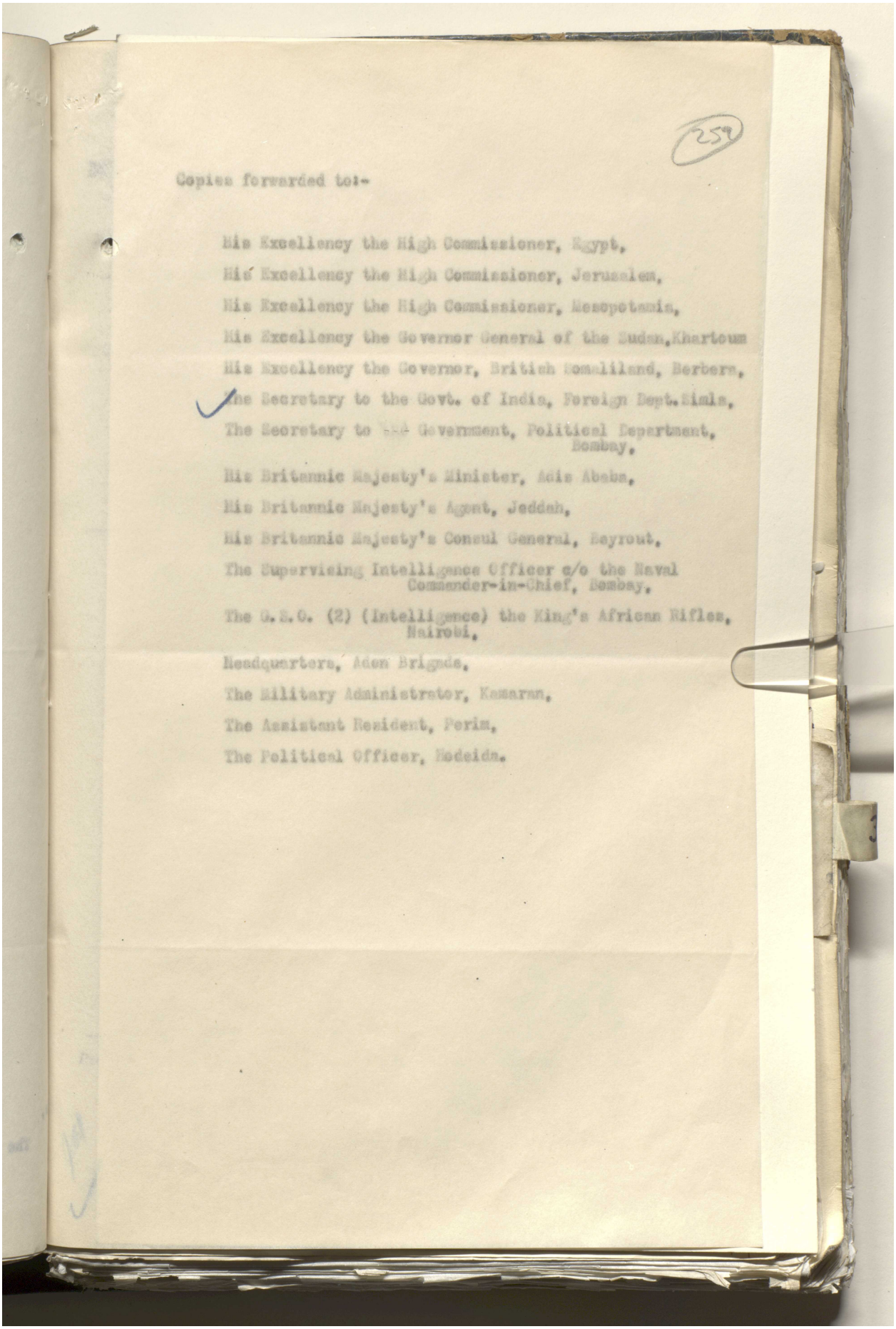

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The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept. Simla,
The Secretary to the Government, Political Department, Bombay,
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa,
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout,
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay,
The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi,
Headquarters, Aden Brigade,
The Military Administrator, Kamaran,
The Assistant Resident, Perim,
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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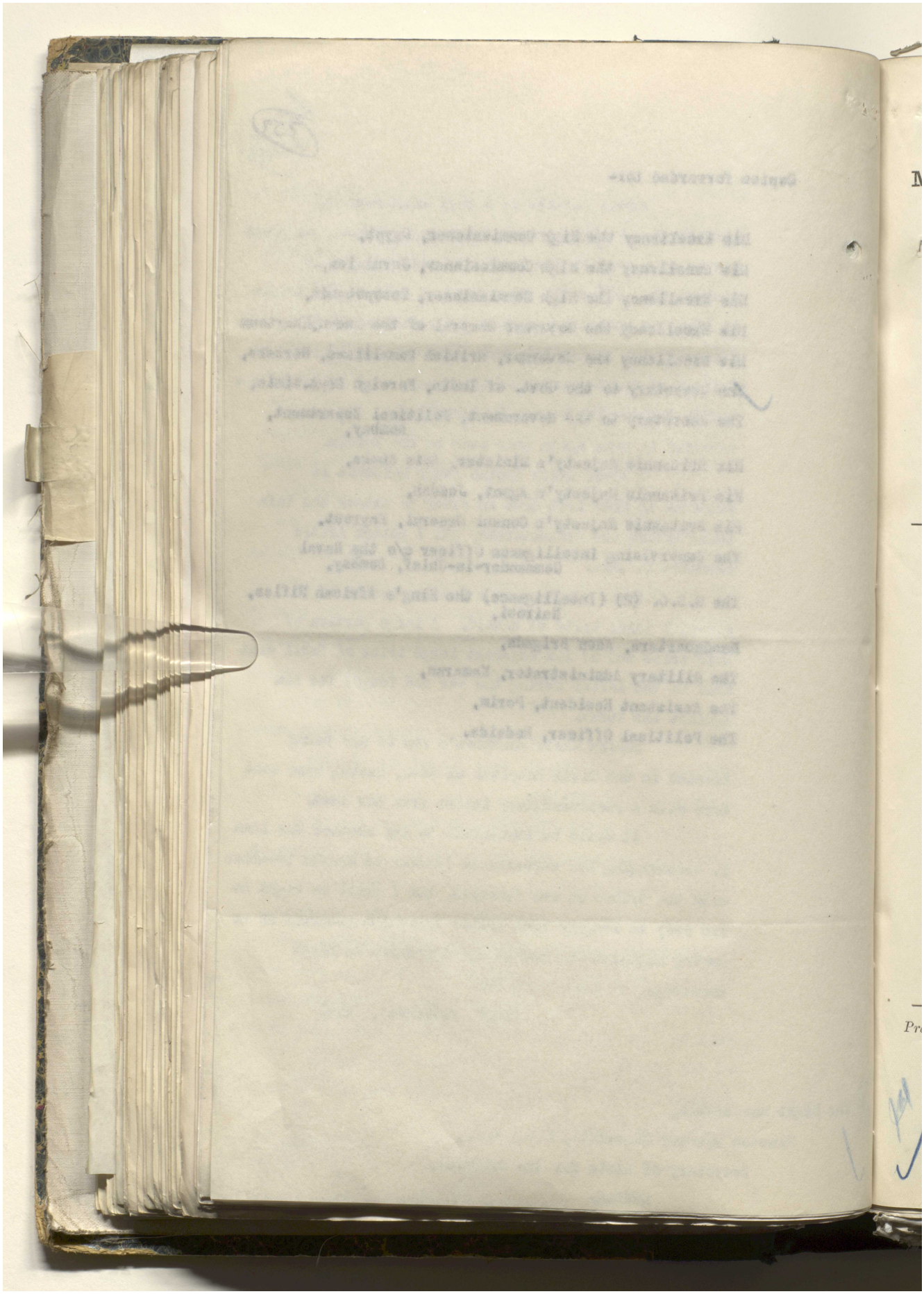

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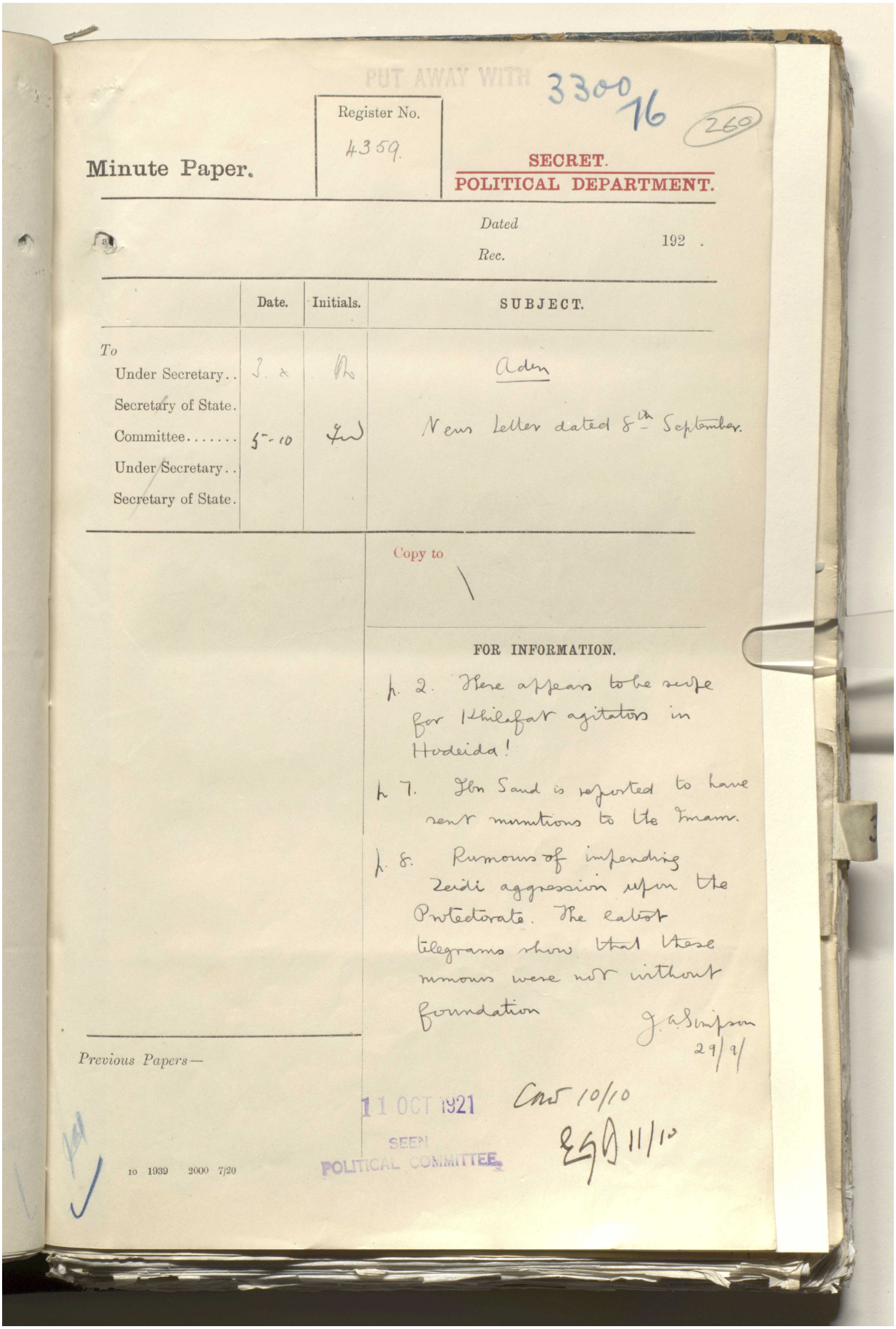

PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16 (260)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 4359

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..	3. x		Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	5-10		News Letter dated 8th September.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 2. There appears to be scope for Khilafat agitators in Hodeida!

p. 7. Ibn Saud is reported to have sent munitions to the Imam.

p. 8. Rumours of impending Zeidi aggression upon the Protectorate. The earlier telegrams show that these rumours were not without foundation

J. A. Simpson
29/9/

Previous Papers—

11 OCT 1921
SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Cos 10/10
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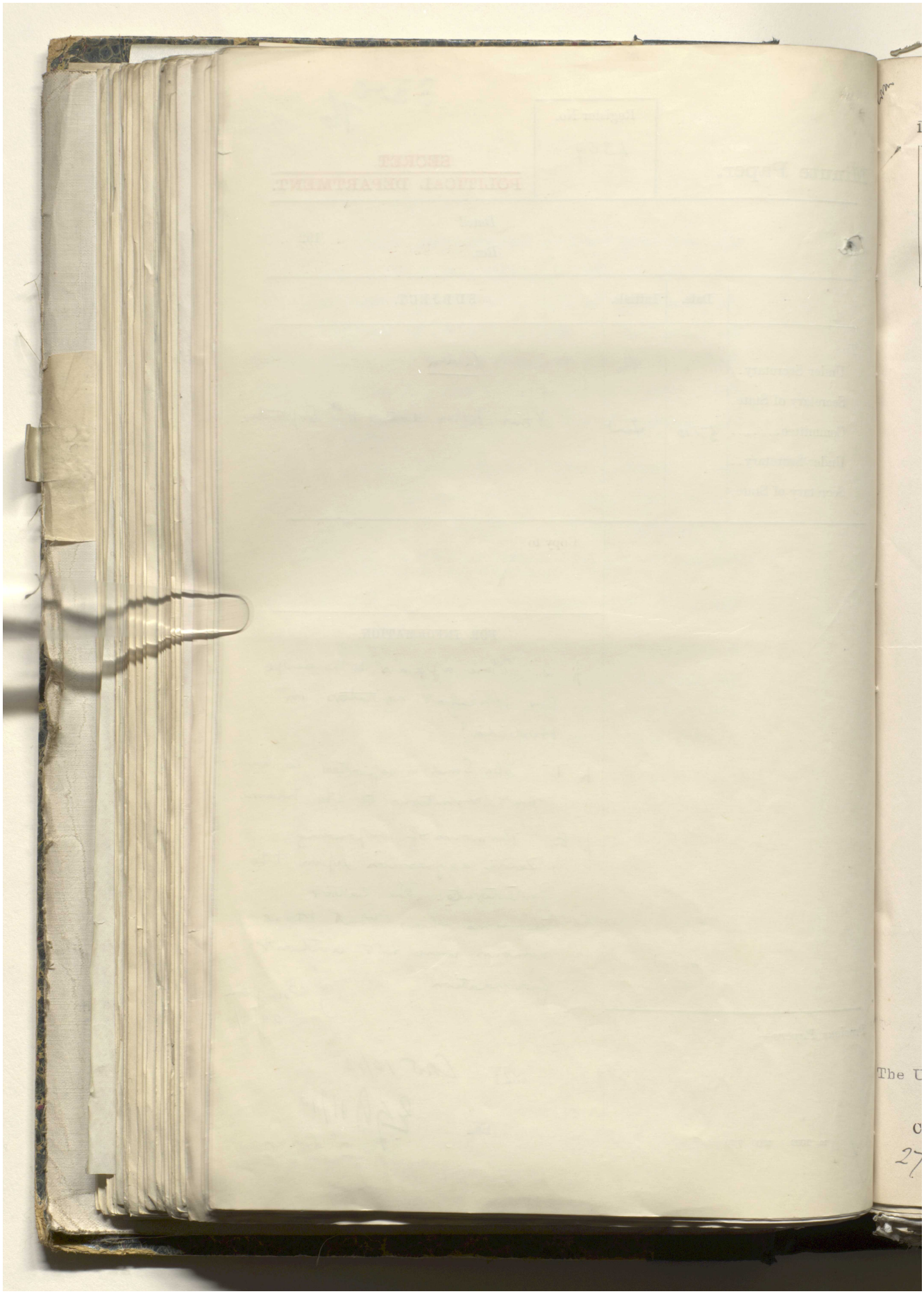

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Mr 3757/21 Mr S 261 3300/16

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
47678/1921

Subject : 1920 Aden News Letter No. 11.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 13th *of* August, 1921.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the—

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Air Ministry,
~~Board of Agriculture and Fisheries,~~
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~~Home Office,~~
India Office,
Ministry of Food,
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~~Treasury,~~
War Office.

RECD IN 28 SEP 1921

CENTRAL REGISTRY 28 SEP 1921 INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
27 September, 1921.

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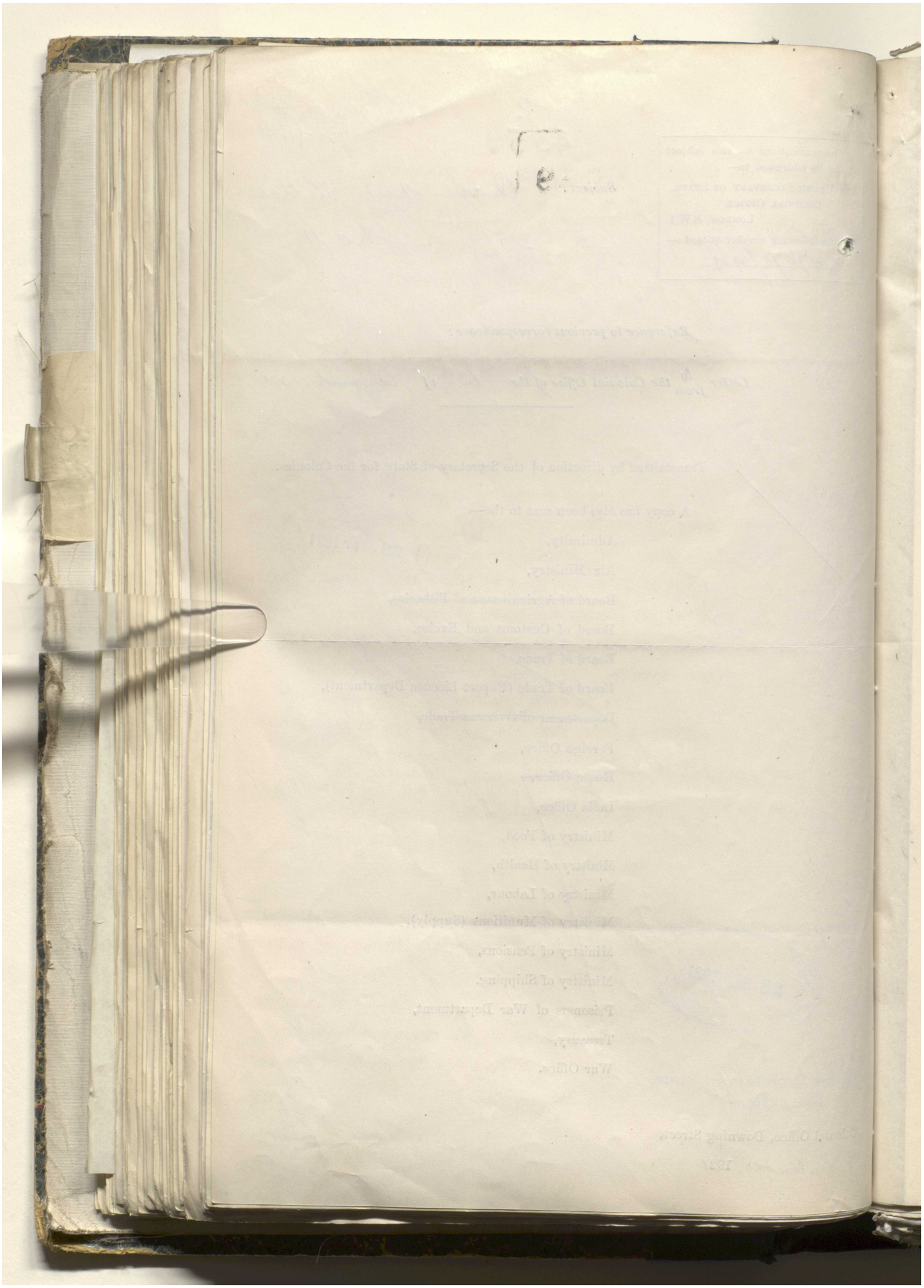

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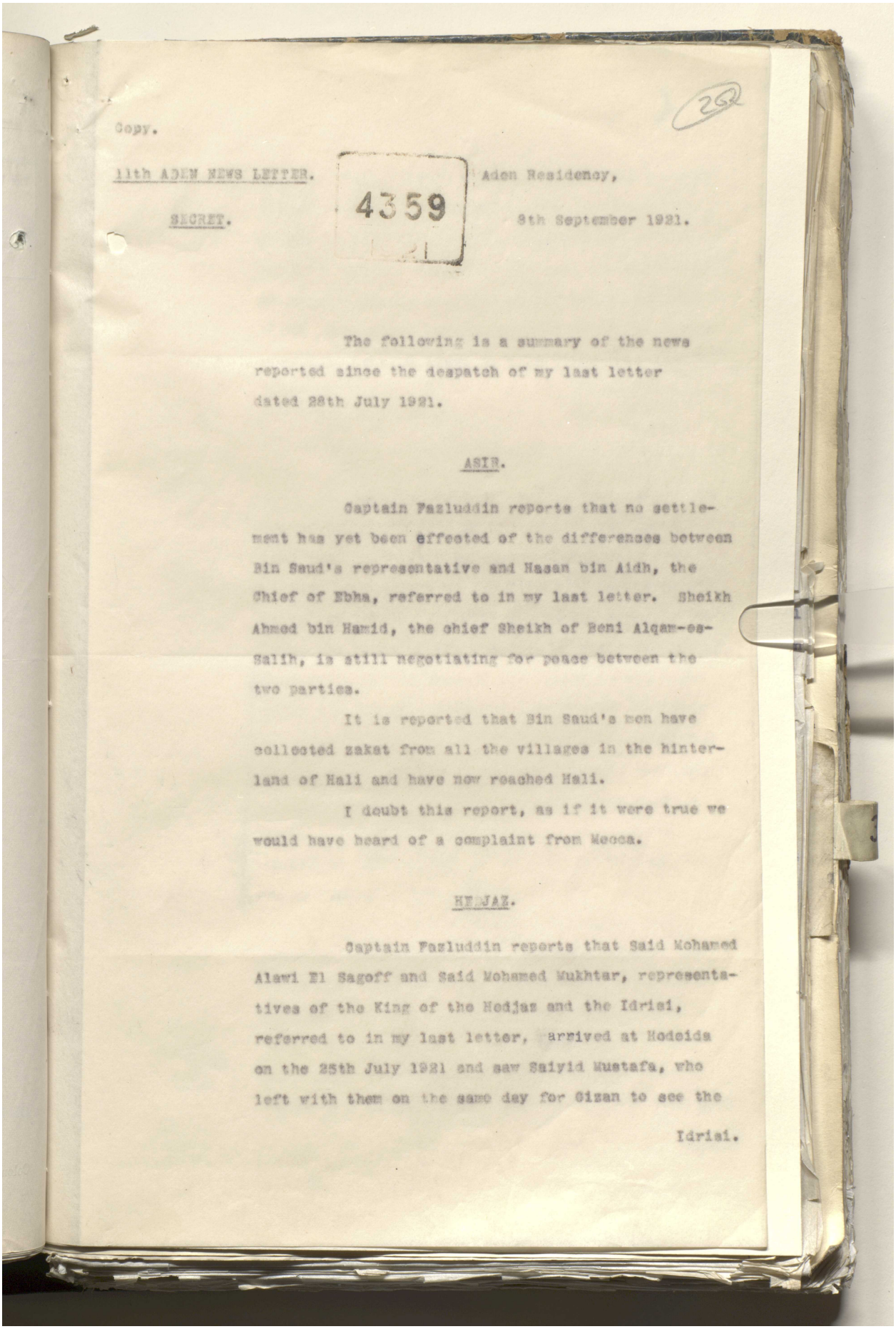

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11th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

4359

Aden Residency,

9th September 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 28th July 1921.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin reports that no settlement has yet been effected of the differences between Bin Saud's representative and Hasan bin Aidh, the Chief of Ebha, referred to in my last letter. Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamid, the chief Sheikh of Beni Alqam-es-Salih, is still negotiating for peace between the two parties.

It is reported that Bin Saud's men have collected zakat from all the villages in the hinterland of Hali and have now reached Hali.

I doubt this report, as if it were true we would have heard of a complaint from Mecca.

HEJAZ.

Captain Fazluddin reports that Said Mohamed Alawi El Sagoff and Said Mohamed Mukhtar, representatives of the King of the Hedjaz and the Idrisi, referred to in my last letter, arrived at Hodeida on the 25th July 1921 and saw Saiyid Mustafa, who left with them on the same day for Gizan to see the Idrisi.

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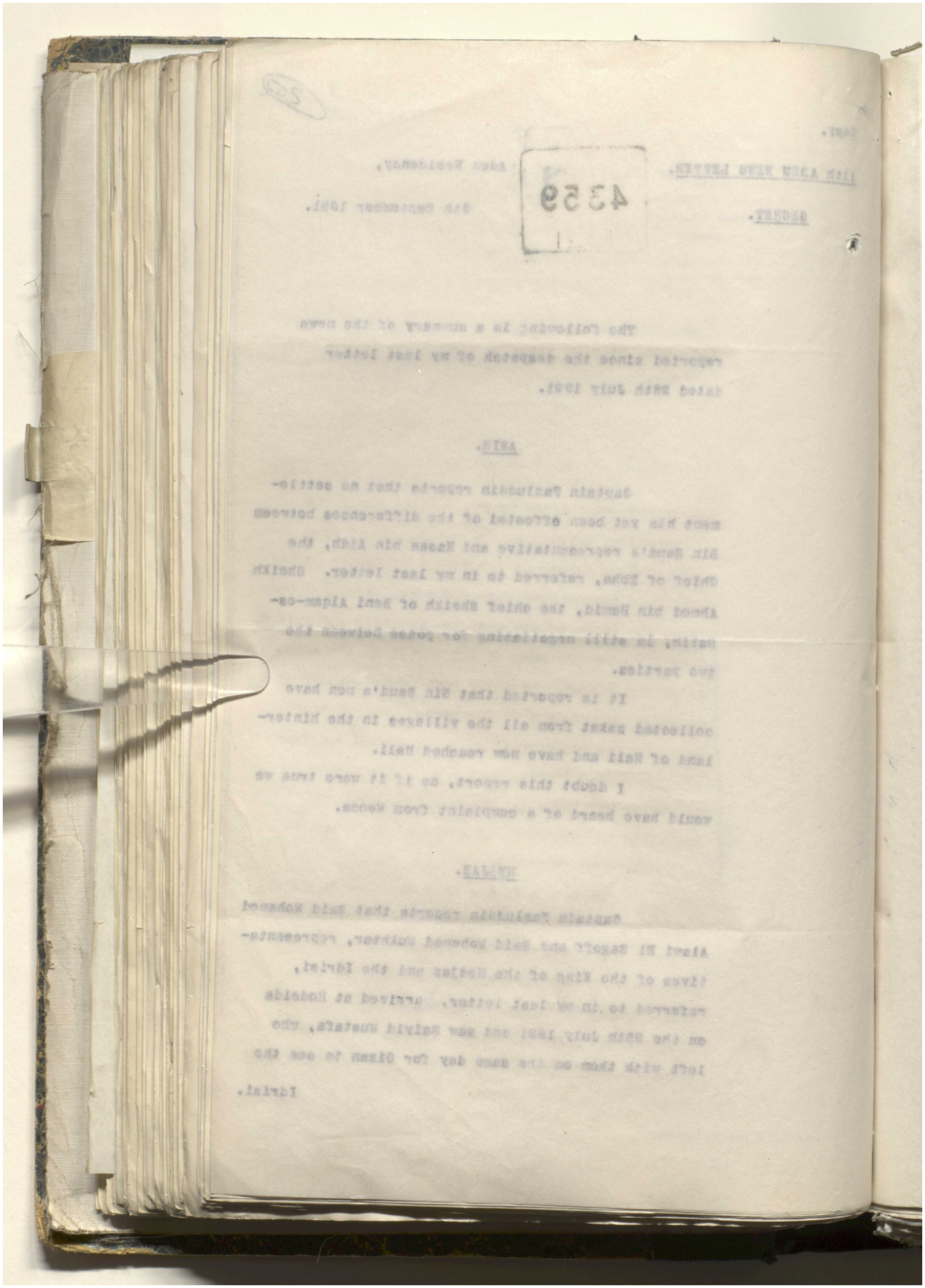

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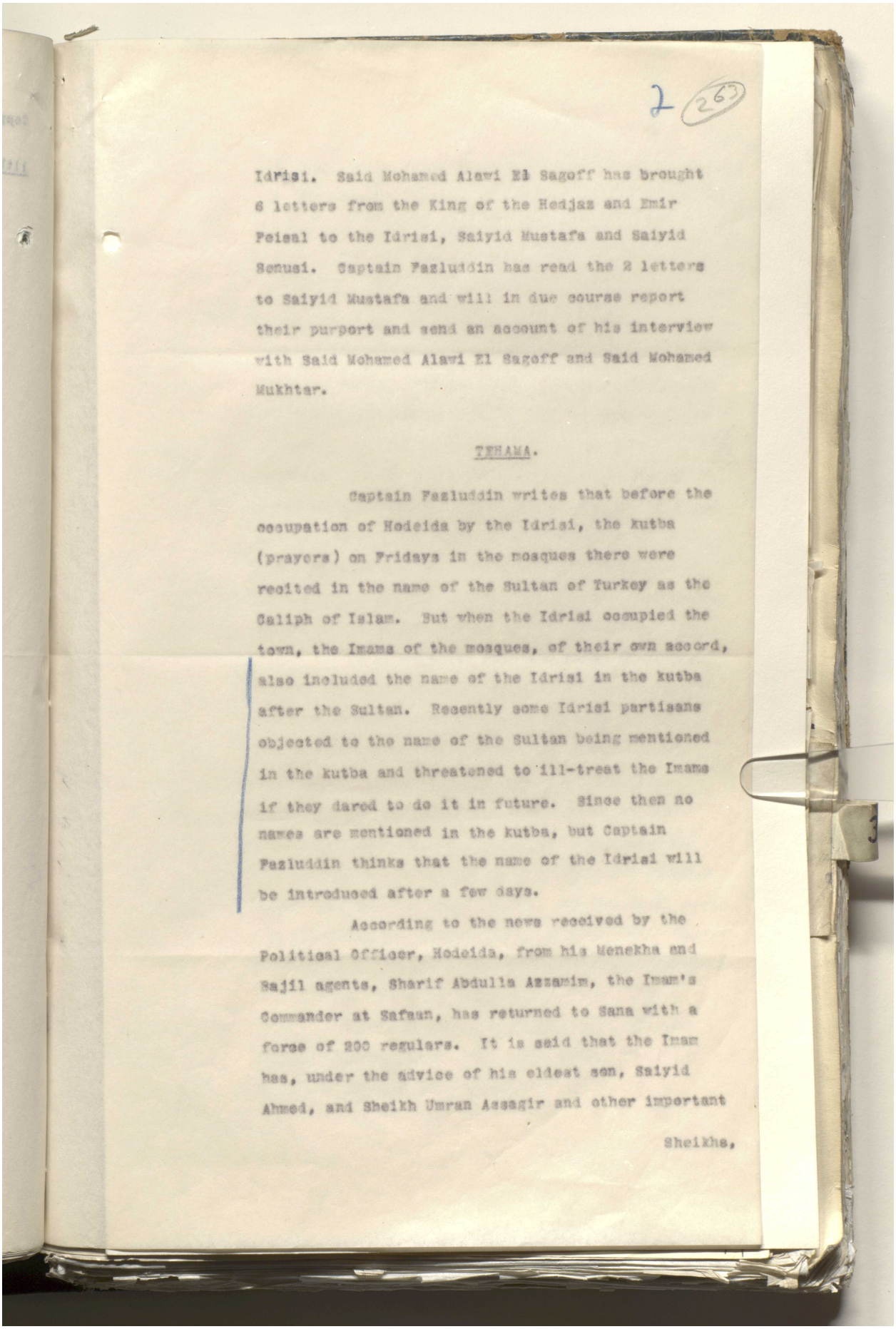

2 (263)

Idrisi. Said Mohamed Alawi El Sageff has brought 6 letters from the King of the Hedjaz and Emir Feisal to the Idrisi, Saiyid Mustafa and Saiyid Senusi. Captain Fazluddin has read the 2 letters to Saiyid Mustafa and will in due course report their purport and send an account of his interview with Said Mohamed Alawi El Sageff and Said Mohamed Mukhtar.

TEHAMA.

Captain Fazluddin writes that before the occupation of Hodeida by the Idrisi, the kutba (prayers) on Fridays in the mosques there were recited in the name of the Sultan of Turkey as the Caliph of Islam. But when the Idrisi occupied the town, the Imams of the mosques, of their own accord, also included the name of the Idrisi in the kutba after the Sultan. Recently some Idrisi partisans objected to the name of the Sultan being mentioned in the kutba and threatened to ill-treat the Imams if they dared to do it in future. Since then no names are mentioned in the kutba, but Captain Fazluddin thinks that the name of the Idrisi will be introduced after a few days.

According to the news received by the Political Officer, Hodeida, from his Menekha and Sajil agents, Sharif Abdulla Azzamim, the Imam's Commander at Safaan, has returned to Sana with a force of 200 regulars. It is said that the Imam has, under the advice of his eldest son, Saiyid Ahmed, and Sheikh Umran Assagir and other important

Sheikhs,

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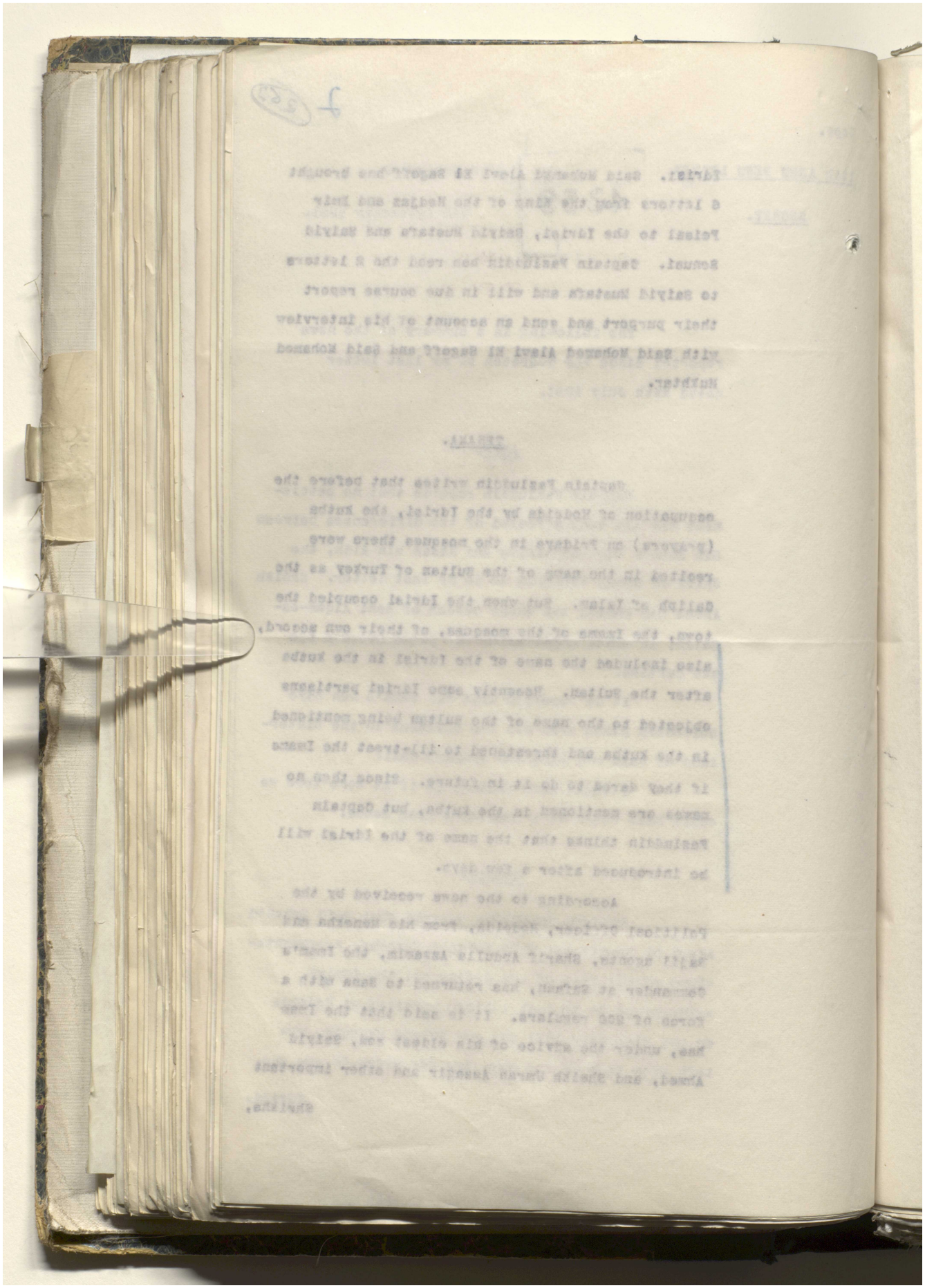

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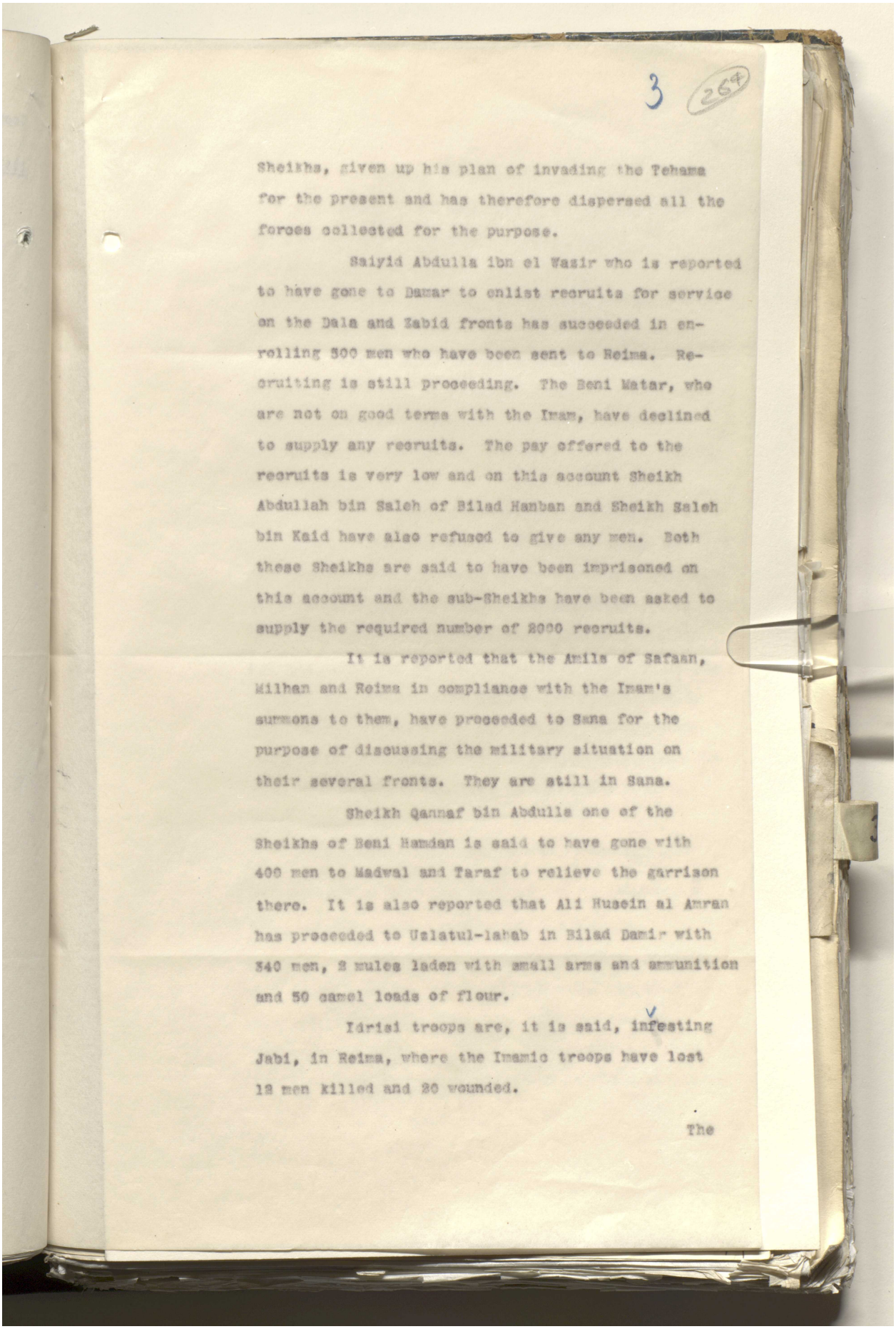

3 264

Sheikhs, given up his plan of invading the Tehama for the present and has therefore dispersed all the forces collected for the purpose.

Saiyid Abdulla ibn el Wazir who is reported to have gone to Damar to enlist recruits for service on the Dala and Zabid fronts has succeeded in enrolling 500 men who have been sent to Reima. Recruiting is still proceeding. The Beni Matar, who are not on good terms with the Imam, have declined to supply any recruits. The pay offered to the recruits is very low and on this account Sheikh Abdullah bin Saleh of Bilad Hanban and Sheikh Saleh bin Kaid have also refused to give any men. Both these Sheikhs are said to have been imprisoned on this account and the sub-Sheikhs have been asked to supply the required number of 2000 recruits.

It is reported that the Amils of Safaan, Milhan and Reima in compliance with the Imam's summons to them, have proceeded to Sana for the purpose of discussing the military situation on their several fronts. They are still in Sana.

Sheikh Qannaf bin Abdulla one of the Sheikhs of Beni Hamdan is said to have gone with 400 men to Madwal and Taraf to relieve the garrison there. It is also reported that Ali Husein al Amran has proceeded to Uslatul-lahab in Bilad Damir with 340 men, 2 mules laden with small arms and ammunition and 50 camel loads of flour.

Idrisi troops are, it is said, infesting Jabi, in Reima, where the Imamic troops have lost 12 men killed and 26 wounded.

The

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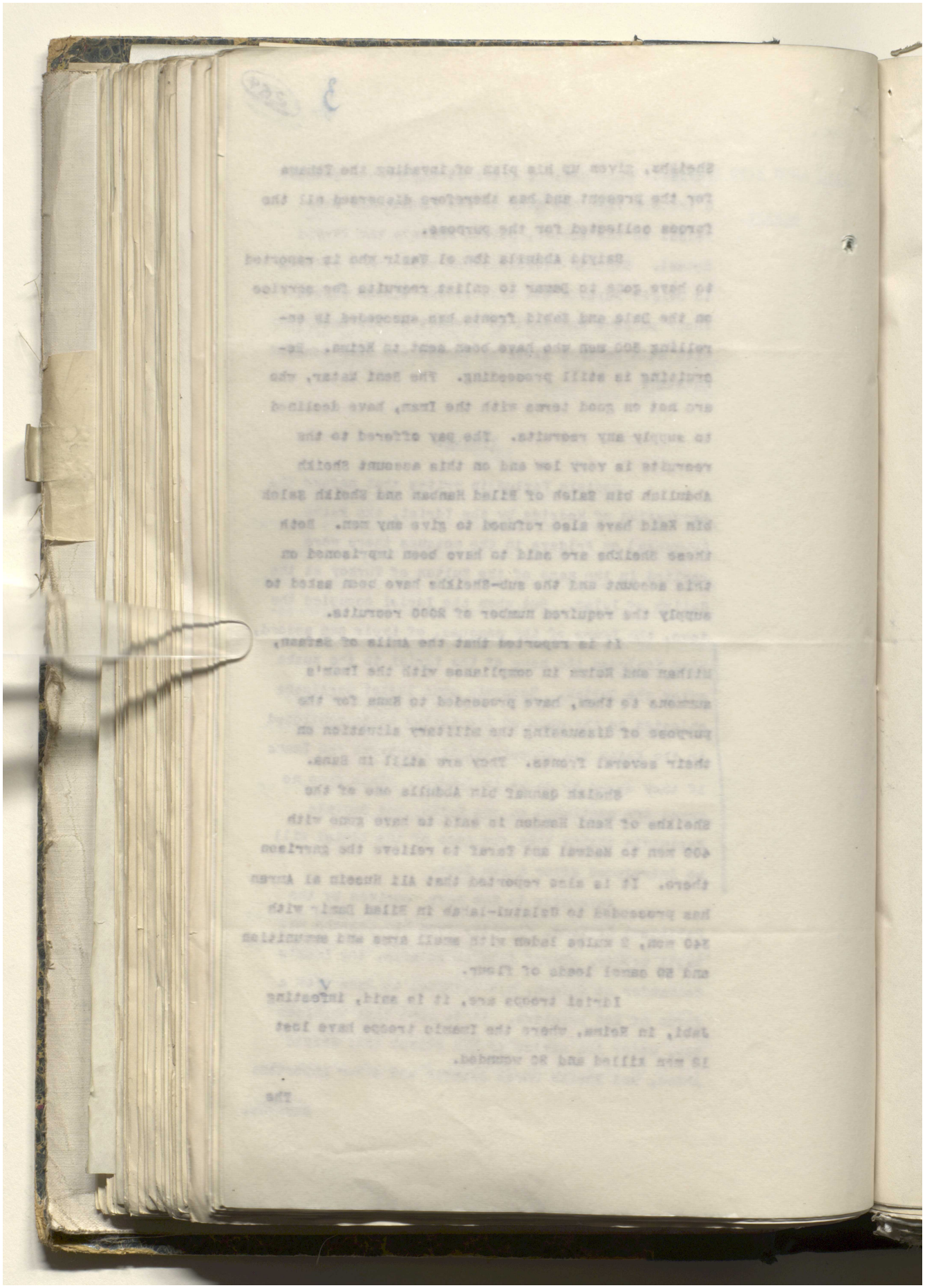

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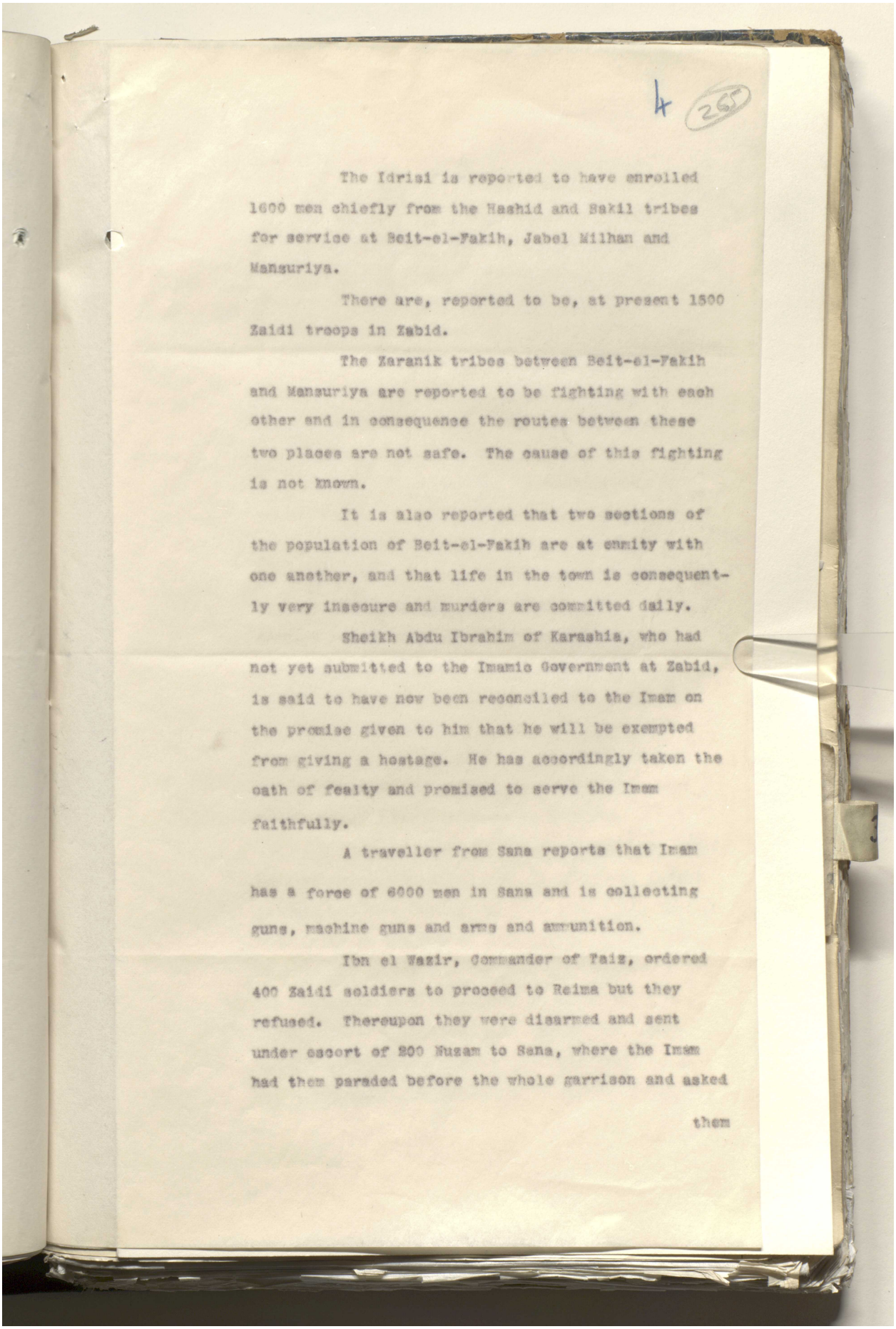

4 265

The Idrisi is reported to have enrolled 1600 men chiefly from the Hashid and Bakil tribes for service at Beit-el-Fakih, Jabel Milhan and Mansuriya.

There are, reported to be, at present 1500 Zaidi troops in Zabid.

The Zaranik tribes between Beit-el-Fakih and Mansuriya are reported to be fighting with each other and in consequence the routes between these two places are not safe. The cause of this fighting is not known.

It is also reported that two sections of the population of Beit-el-Fakih are at enmity with one another, and that life in the town is consequently very insecure and murders are committed daily.

Sheikh Abdu Ibrahim of Karashia, who had not yet submitted to the Imamic Government at Zabid, is said to have now been reconciled to the Imam on the promise given to him that he will be exempted from giving a hostage. He has accordingly taken the oath of fealty and promised to serve the Imam faithfully.

A traveller from Sana reports that Imam has a force of 6000 men in Sana and is collecting guns, machine guns and arms and ammunition.

Ibn el Wazir, Commander of Taiz, ordered 400 Zaidi soldiers to proceed to Reima but they refused. Thereupon they were disarmed and sent under escort of 800 Nuzam to Sana, where the Imam had them paraded before the whole garrison and asked

them

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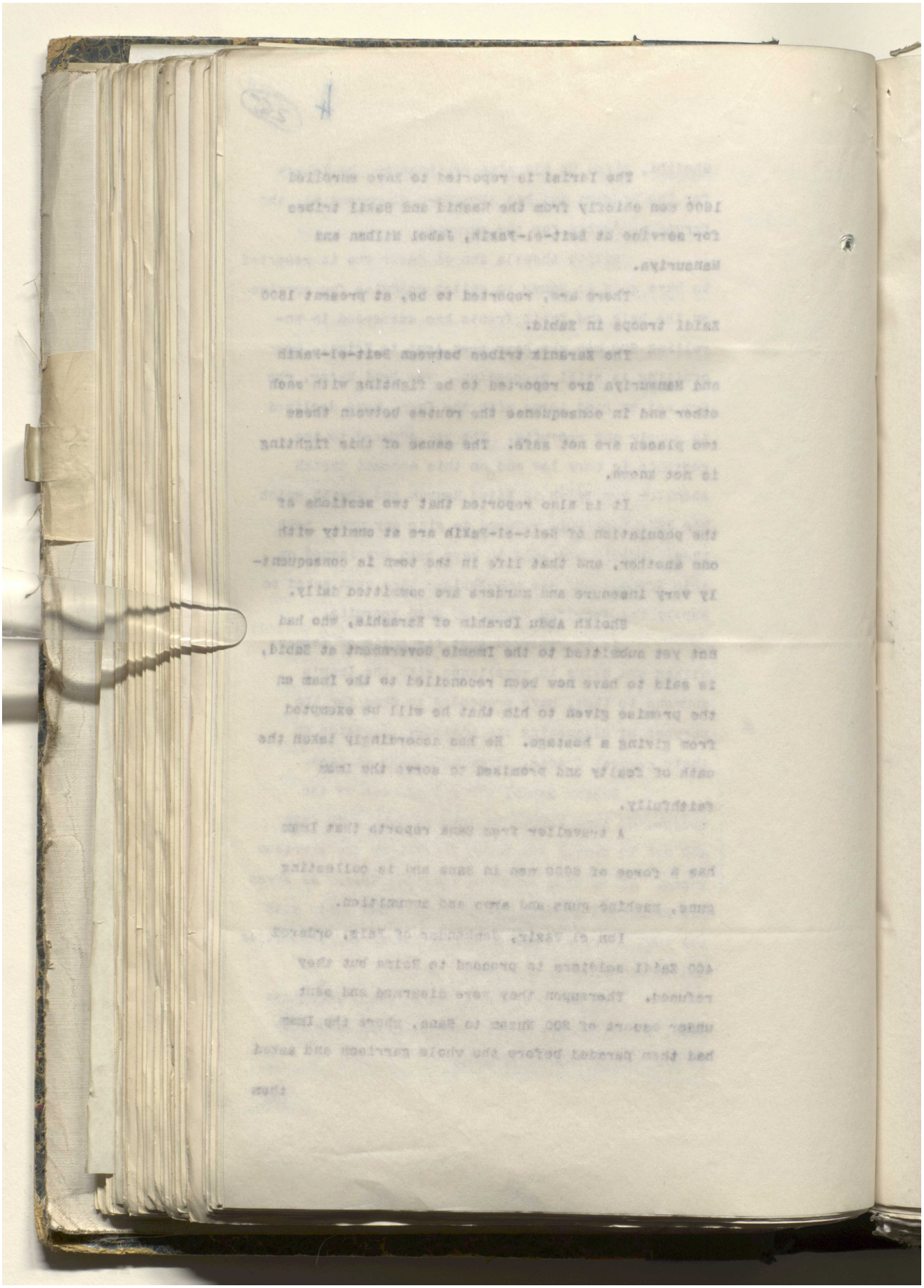

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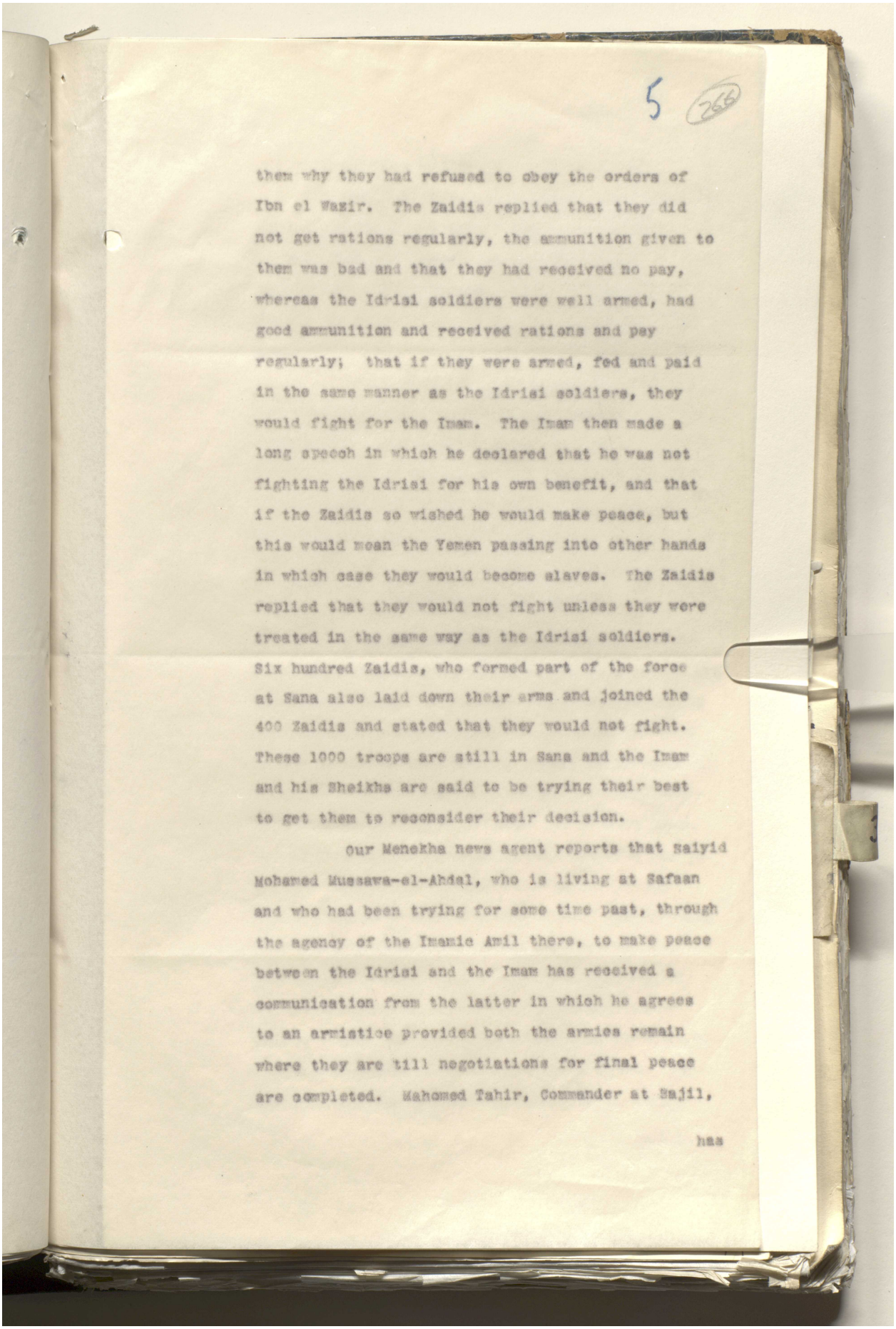

5 266

them why they had refused to obey the orders of Ibn el Wazir. The Zaidis replied that they did not get rations regularly, the ammunition given to them was bad and that they had received no pay, whereas the Idrisi soldiers were well armed, had good ammunition and received rations and pay regularly; that if they were armed, fed and paid in the same manner as the Idrisi soldiers, they would fight for the Imam. The Imam then made a long speech in which he declared that he was not fighting the Idrisi for his own benefit, and that if the Zaidis so wished he would make peace, but this would mean the Yemen passing into other hands in which case they would become slaves. The Zaidis replied that they would not fight unless they were treated in the same way as the Idrisi soldiers. Six hundred Zaidis, who formed part of the force at Sana also laid down their arms and joined the 400 Zaidis and stated that they would not fight. These 1000 troops are still in Sana and the Imam and his Sheikhs are said to be trying their best to get them to reconsider their decision.

Our Menekha news agent reports that Saiyid Mohamed Mussawa-el-Ahdal, who is living at Safaan and who had been trying for some time past, through the agency of the Imamic Amil there, to make peace between the Idrisi and the Imam has received a communication from the latter in which he agrees to an armistice provided both the armies remain where they are till negotiations for final peace are completed. Mahomed Tahir, Commander at Bajil,

has

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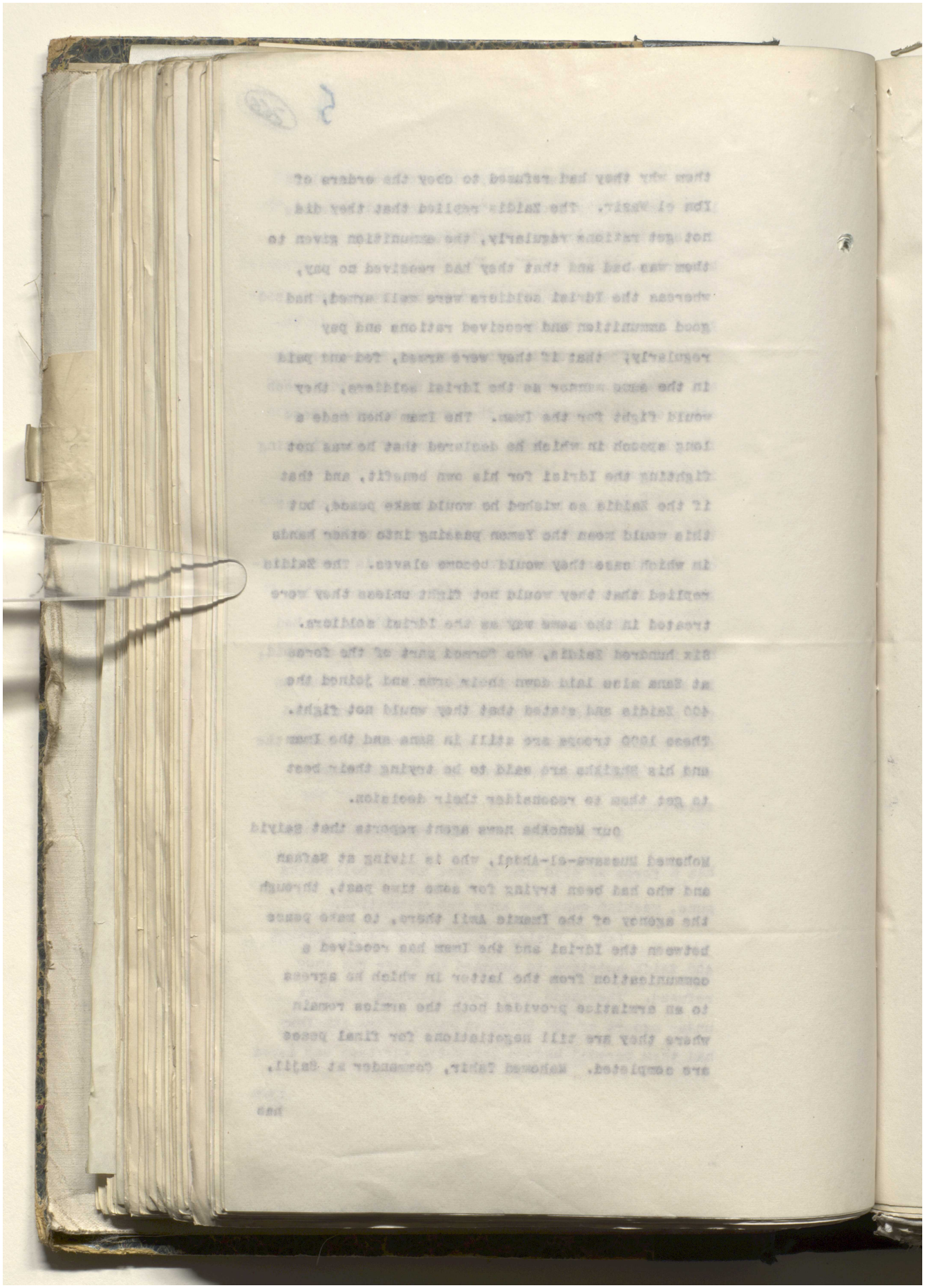

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has referred this matter to the Idrisi.

The same news agent reports that ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, has received the letter sent to him by Emir Feisal in June last from Aden while he was on his way to Mesopotamia. In this connection please see my despatch No.29, dated the 30th June last.

Abdul Shakoor, the Italian agent at Khoka, referred to in last letter is reported to have sent a Blanchard lamp to the Imam of Sana as a present.

It is reported that a sambuk laden with 42 slave boys and girls arrived at Taif from the Eritrean coast on the 17th July 1921.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

A traveller from Habesh reports that the Imam sent a Zaidi Sheikh with 30 men to Jabel Habesh to collect taxes. One of the villagers quarrelled with them and a fight ensued in which 10 men were killed on either side and the Zaidis took refuge in a house where they are besieged by the villagers. When this news reached the Imam, he at once wrote to the head Sheikh of Jabel Habesh ordering him to proceed immediately to Sana with 500 men. The Sheikh replied that if the Imam wanted him he would come but he could bring no men with him as they refused to serve the Imam. The Imam again wrote and summoned the Sheikh to Sana, but the latter sent no reply, and did not comply with the summons. The Imam therefore sent 300 Zaidis to Habesh who arrested all the Sheikhs and took them to Sana,

leaving

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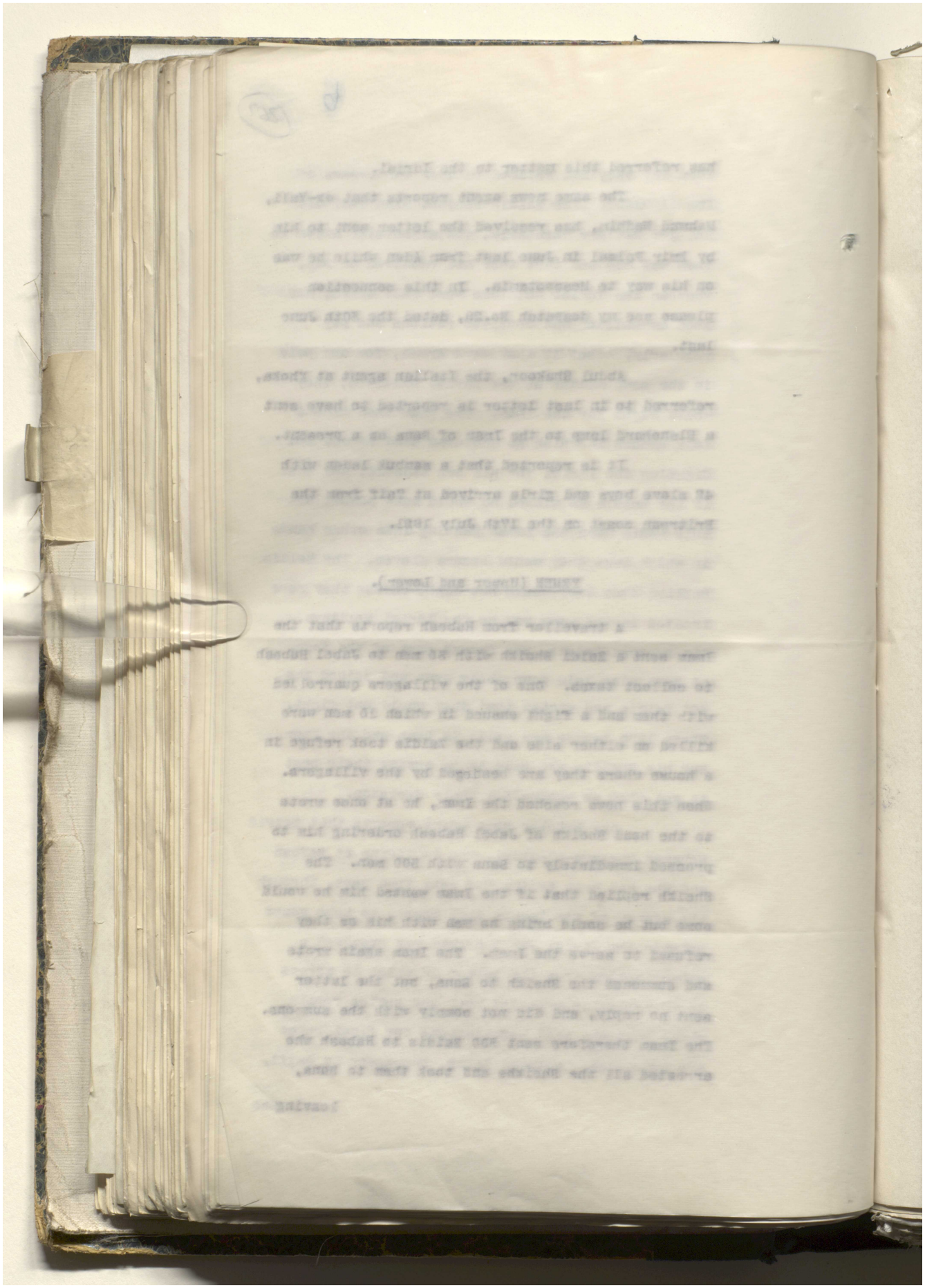

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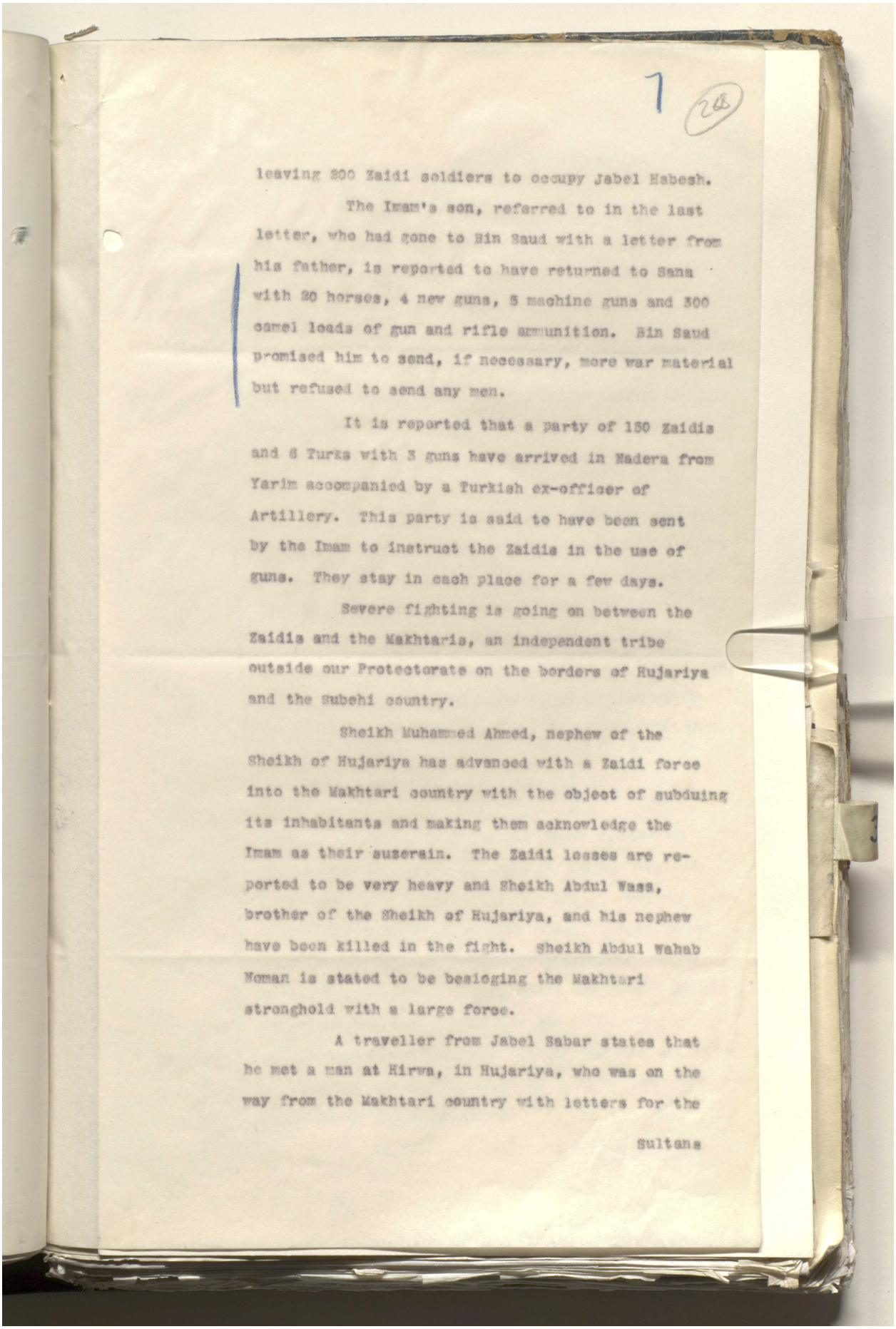

7 (28)

leaving 200 Zaidi soldiers to occupy Jabel Habesh.

The Imam's son, referred to in the last letter, who had gone to Bin Saud with a letter from his father, is reported to have returned to Sana with 20 horses, 4 new guns, 5 machine guns and 300 camel loads of gun and rifle ammunition. Bin Saud promised him to send, if necessary, more war material but refused to send any men.

It is reported that a party of 150 Zaidis and 6 Turks with 3 guns have arrived in Madera from Yarim accompanied by a Turkish ex-officer of Artillery. This party is said to have been sent by the Imam to instruct the Zaidis in the use of guns. They stay in each place for a few days.

Severe fighting is going on between the Zaidis and the Makhtaris, an independent tribe outside our Protectorate on the borders of Hujariya and the Subehi country.

Sheikh Muhammed Ahmed, nephew of the Sheikh of Hujariya has advanced with a Zaidi force into the Makhtari country with the object of subduing its inhabitants and making them acknowledge the Imam as their suzerain. The Zaidi losses are reported to be very heavy and Sheikh Abdul Wass, brother of the Sheikh of Hujariya, and his nephew have been killed in the fight. Sheikh Abdul Wahab Noman is stated to be besieging the Makhtari stronghold with a large force.

A traveller from Jabel Sabar states that he met a man at Hirwa, in Hujariya, who was on the way from the Makhtari country with letters for the

Sultans

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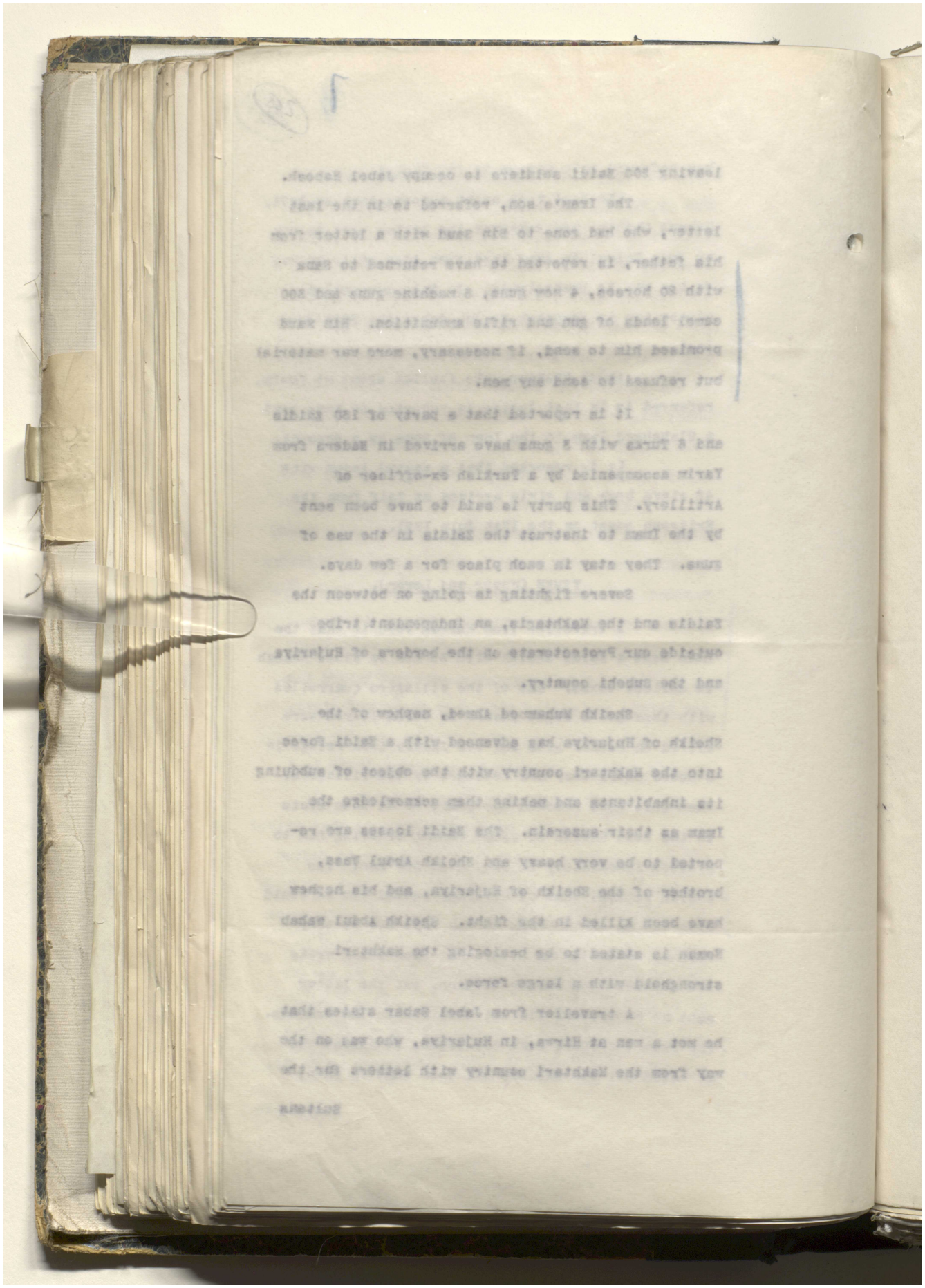

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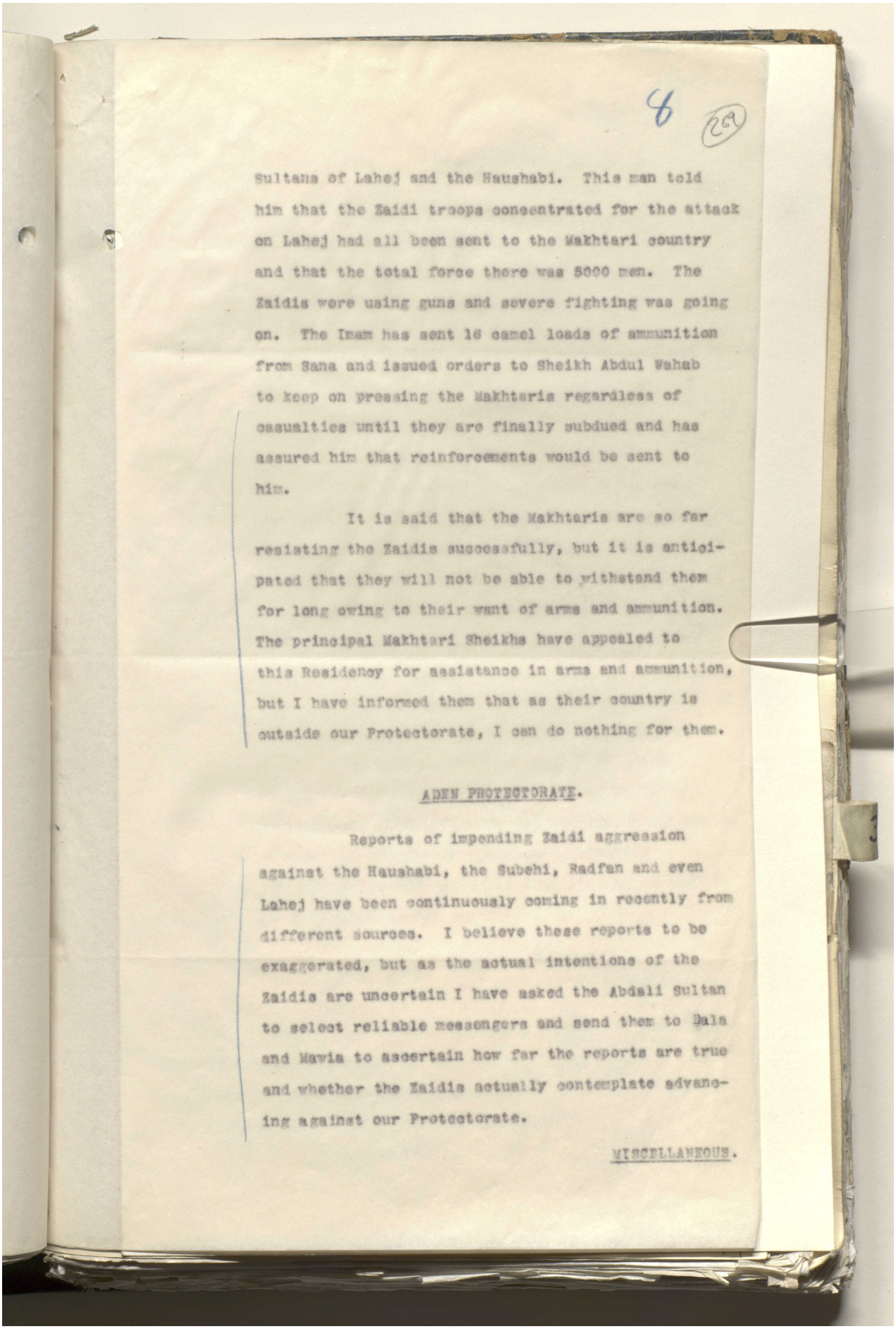

6 29

Sultana of Lahej and the Haushabi. This man told him that the Zaidi troops concentrated for the attack on Lahej had all been sent to the Makhtari country and that the total force there was 5000 men. The Zaidis were using guns and severe fighting was going on. The Imam has sent 16 camel loads of ammunition from Sana and issued orders to Sheikh Abdul Wahab to keep on pressing the Makhtaris regardless of casualties until they are finally subdued and has assured him that reinforcements would be sent to him.

It is said that the Makhtaris are so far resisting the Zaidis successfully, but it is anticipated that they will not be able to withstand them for long owing to their want of arms and ammunition. The principal Makhtari Sheikhs have appealed to this Residency for assistance in arms and ammunition, but I have informed them that as their country is outside our Protectorate, I can do nothing for them.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Reports of impending Zaidi aggression against the Haushabi, the Subehi, Radfan and even Lahej have been continuously coming in recently from different sources. I believe these reports to be exaggerated, but as the actual intentions of the Zaidis are uncertain I have asked the Abdali Sultan to select reliable messengers and send them to Dala and Mawia to ascertain how far the reports are true and whether the Zaidis actually contemplate advancing against our Protectorate.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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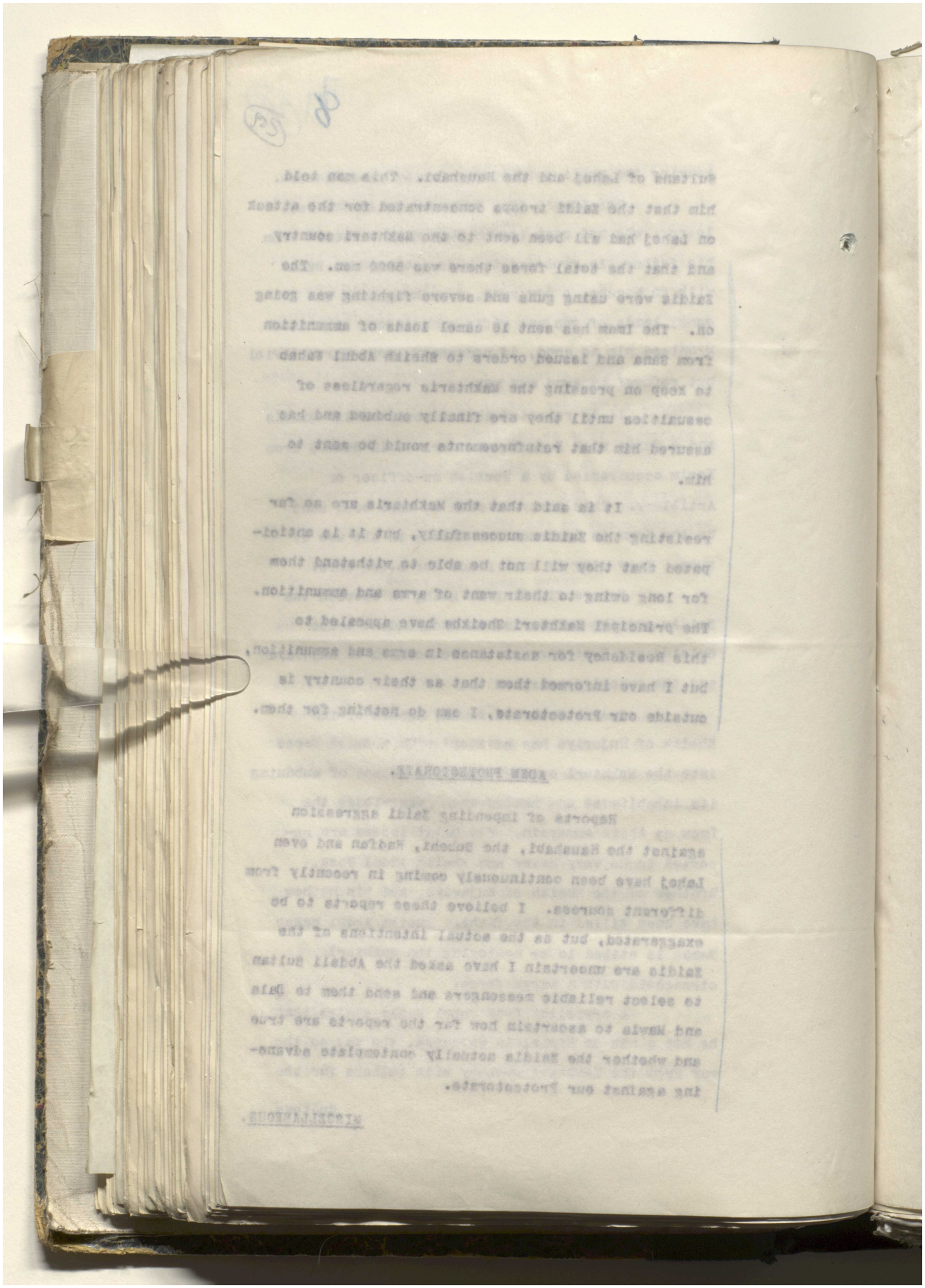

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9 (270)

MISCELLANEOUS.

Colonel T.E.Lawrence arrived at Aden from Jeddah on the 18th August 1921. He proceeded to Lahej on the 21st by rail accompanied by Major B.H.Reilly, First Assistant Resident, Flight Lieut. MacLaren of the Royal Air Force and Captain Pheysey, Mechanical Transport. He visited His Highness the Abdali Sultan with whom he had a long interview, discussing with him the character and financial position of the Imam of Sana, his attitude towards the tribes in the Aden Protectorate and the effect the presence of aeroplanes might have on the movement of his troops. His Highness agreed to depute Saiyid Alawi Jiffri, his chief Minister, to go to Sana with the present of a motor car which it is proposed to send to the Imam in return for his recent present to me.

After breakfast Colonel Lawrence motored to Nebat Dakim and returned to Aden in the evening.

He left on the 25th August in H.M.S. "Clematis" accompanied by Major Reilly as far as Kamaran and visited Hodeida and Kamaran on his way to Jeddah. At the former place he met Captain Fazluddin. He did not see Saiyid Mustafa el Idrisi, as the latter was at Sabia.

(Signed) T.E.SCOTT,
Major General.

To:
The Right Honourable,
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

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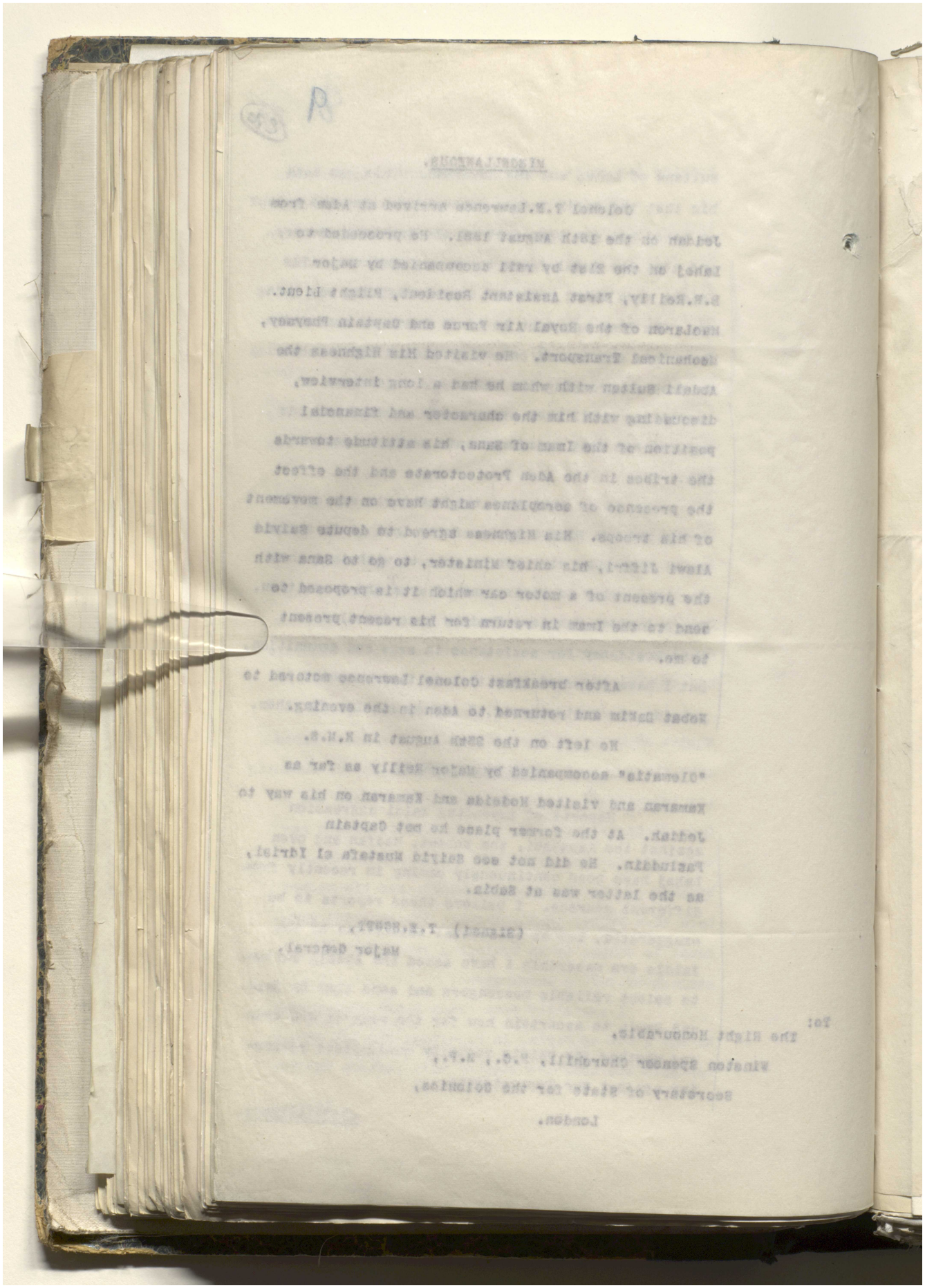

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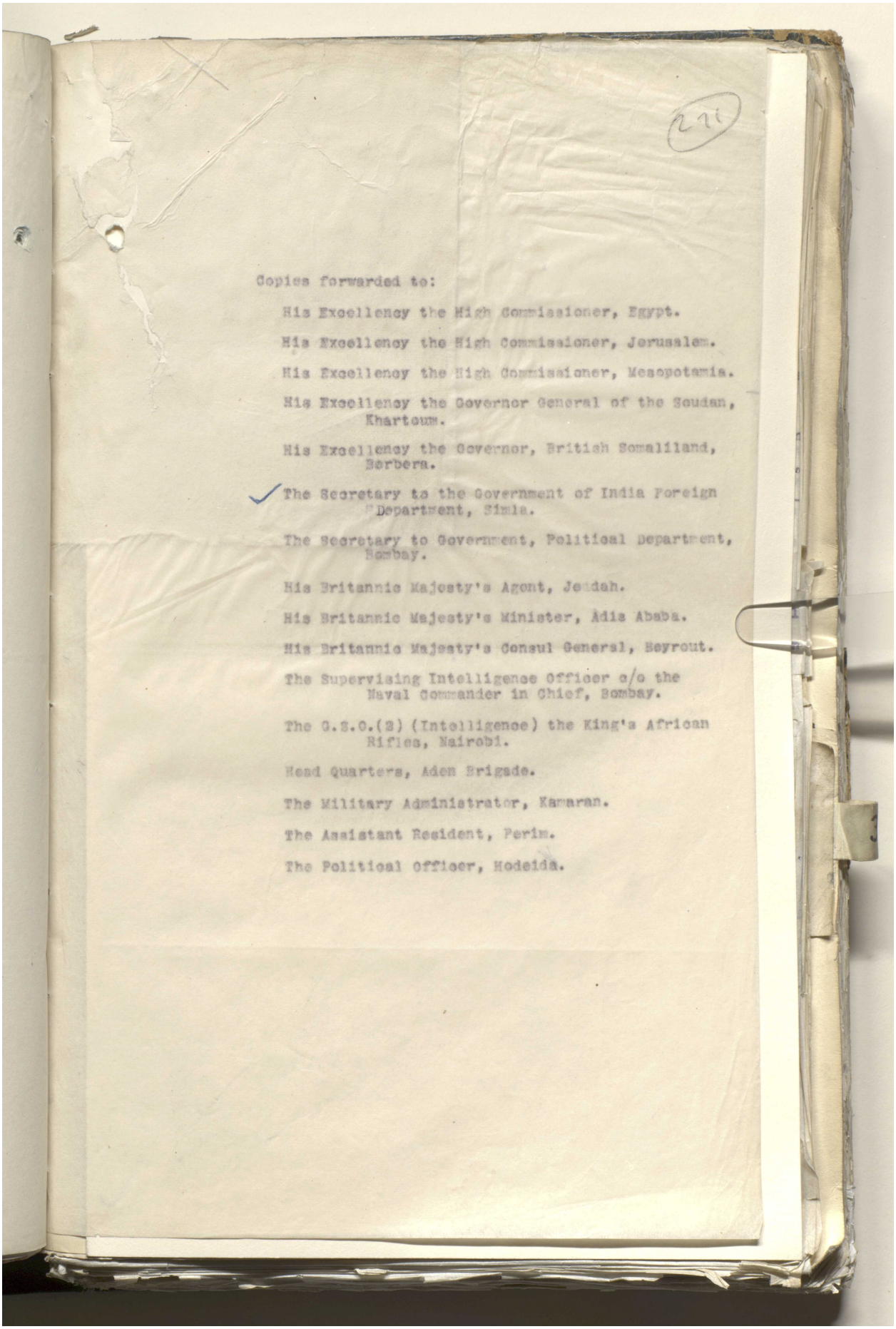

271

Copies forwarded to:

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Egypt.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Jerusalem.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia.

His Excellency the Governor General of the Soudan, Khartoum.

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.

The Secretary to the Government of India Foreign Department, Simla.

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander in Chief, Bombay.

The G.S.O.(2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi.

Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.

The Military Administrator, Kamaran.

The Assistant Resident, Perim.

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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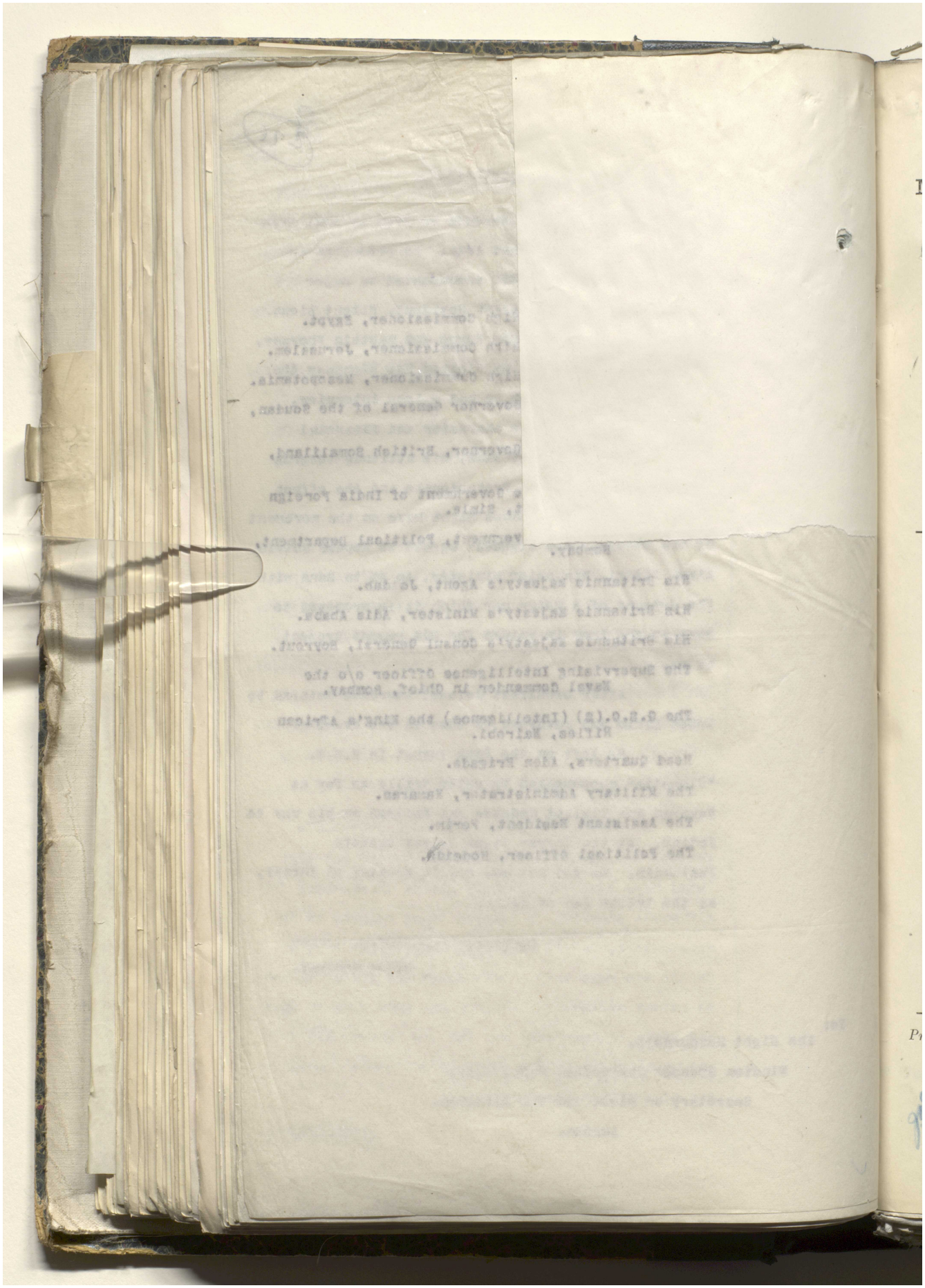

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PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16

Minute Paper.

Register No. 3454.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated

Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..	19/8	H.J.	S. W. Arabia
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	20	AH	Aden News Letter of 28th July.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

Major Bray would like to see this after me.

FOR INFORMATION.

¶1-2 The Idrisi's relations with Ibn Saud and

¶ 3 with King Hussain.

¶ 3-4 Desultory fighting between the Idrisi & the Imam continues.

¶ 5. Mahmud Nedim's intrigues with the Italians.

¶ 6. A fresh expression of the view that the presence of Mahmud Nedim & his entourage in the Yemen is fatal to the prospects of peace.

¶ 8 A report confirming the impression that the main object of the Imam's overtures to us is to gain freedom to crush the Idrisi. G.A.S. 19/8.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
3 SEP 1921

Previous Papers—

G.A.S.

10 1939 2000 7/20

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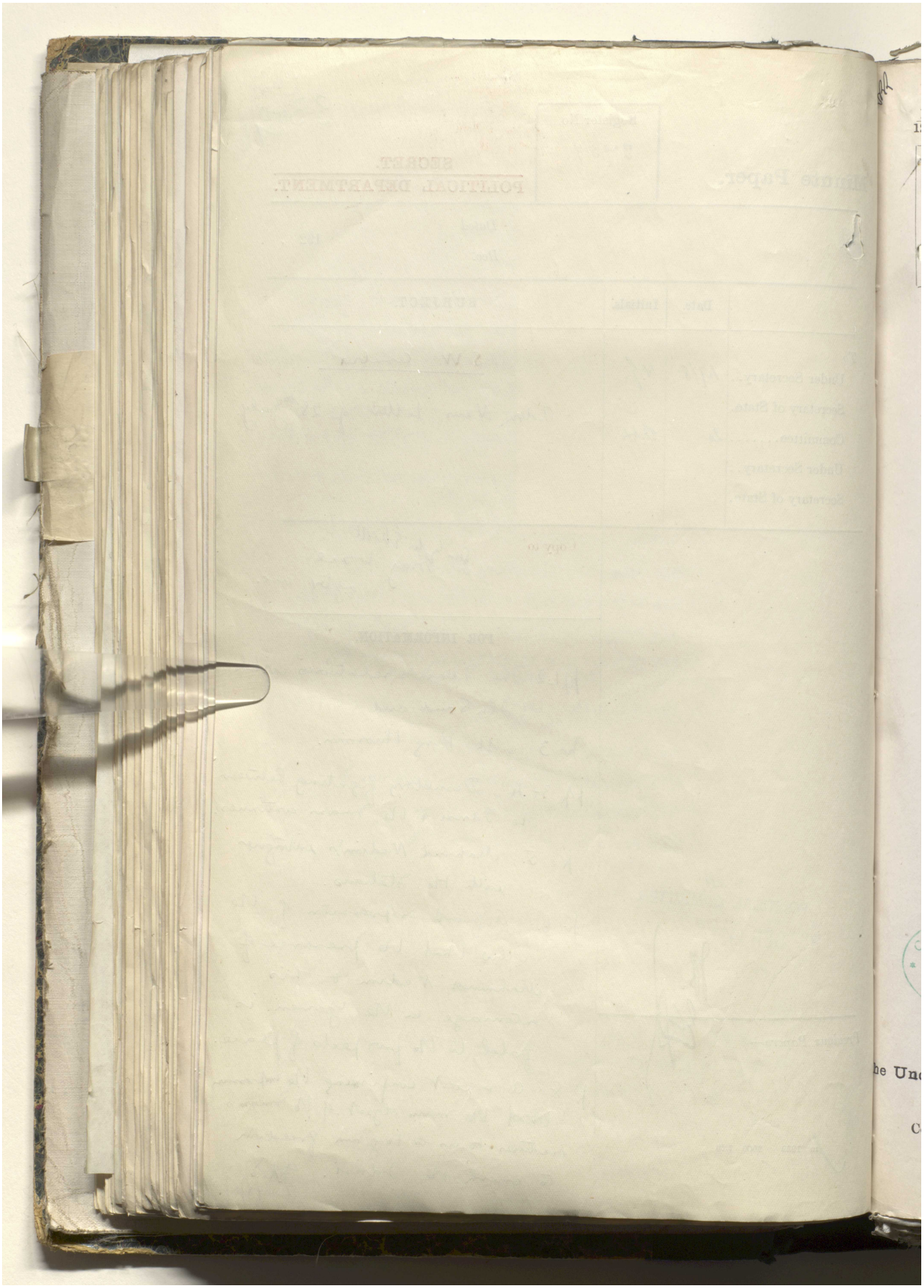

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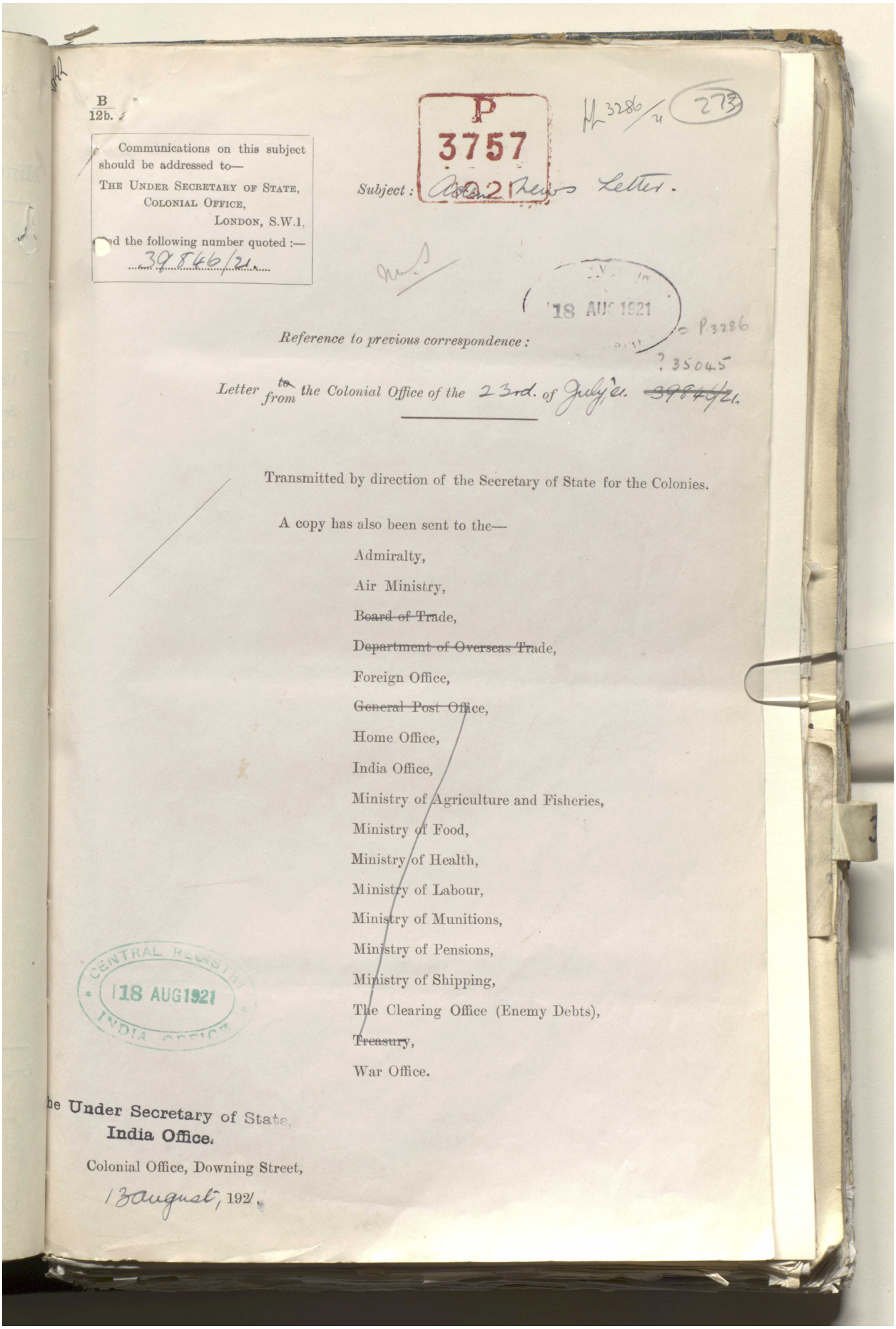

B
12b.

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
39846/21.

P 3757

Subject : Aden News Letter.

Mr 3286/21 273

18 AUG 1921

Reference to previous correspondence :

P.3286
? 35045

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 23rd. of July '21. ~~39846/21.~~

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A copy has also been sent to the—

Admiralty,
Air Ministry,
~~Board of Trade~~,
~~Department of Overseas Trade~~,
Foreign Office,
~~General Post Office~~,
Home Office,
India Office,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Ministry of Food,
Ministry of Health,
Ministry of Labour,
Ministry of Munitions,
Ministry of Pensions,
Ministry of Shipping,
The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
~~Treasury~~,
War Office.

CENTRAL REGISTRY 18 AUG 1921 INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
13 August, 1921.

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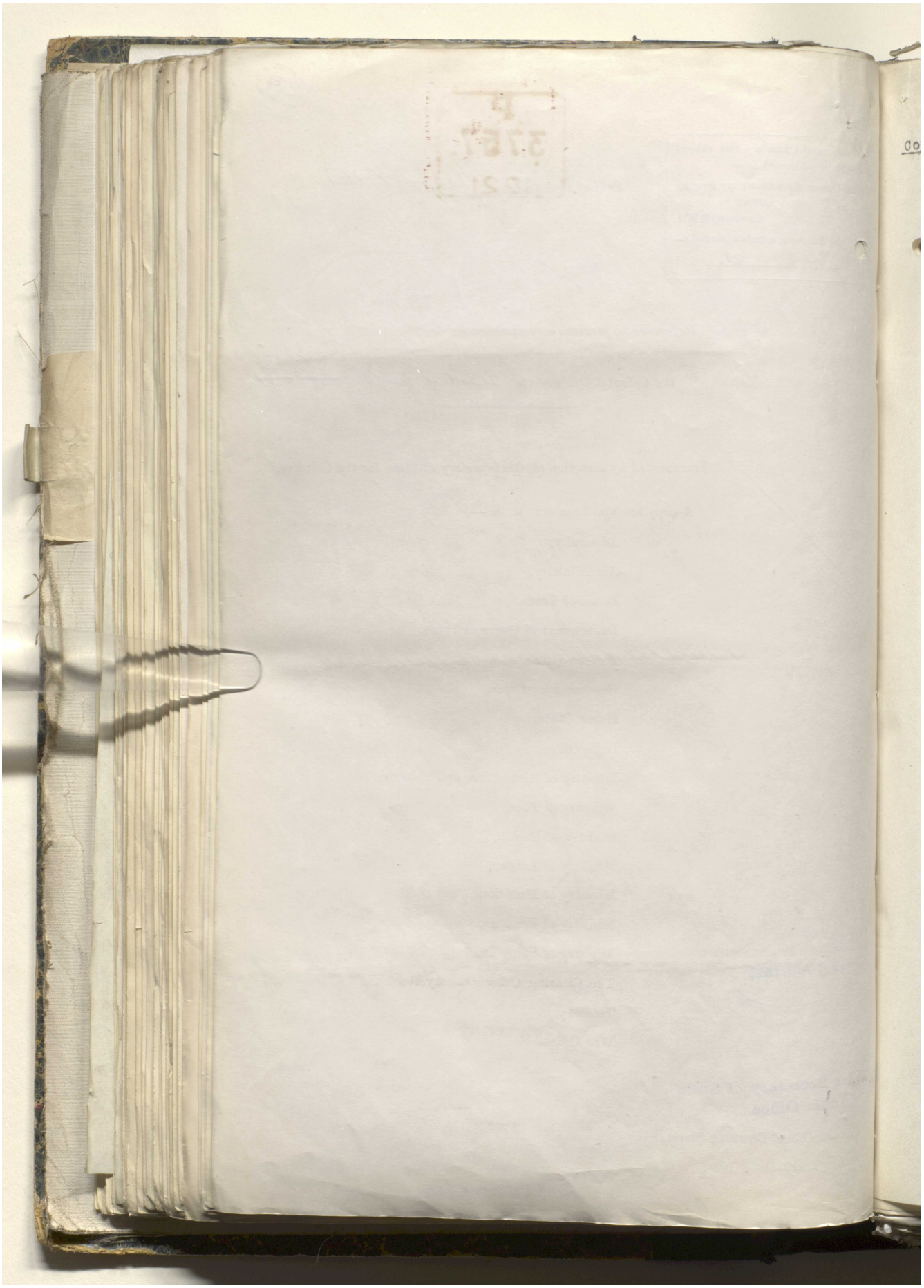

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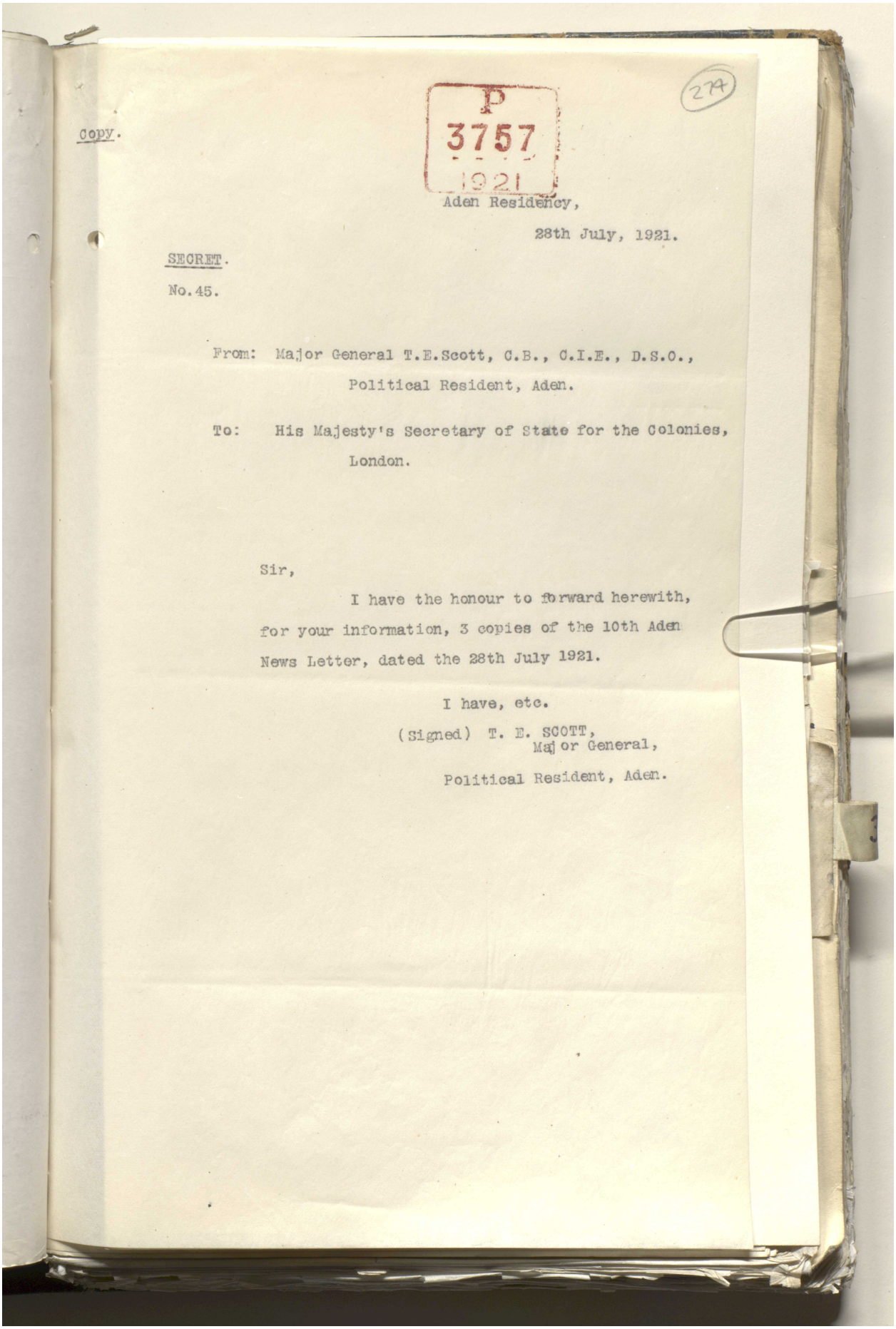

Copy.

P 3757 1921

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Aden Residency,

28th July, 1921.

SECRET.

No.45.

From: Major General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden.

To: His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, 3 copies of the 10th Aden News Letter, dated the 28th July 1921.

I have, etc.

(Signed) T. E. SCOTT,
Major General,
Political Resident, Aden.

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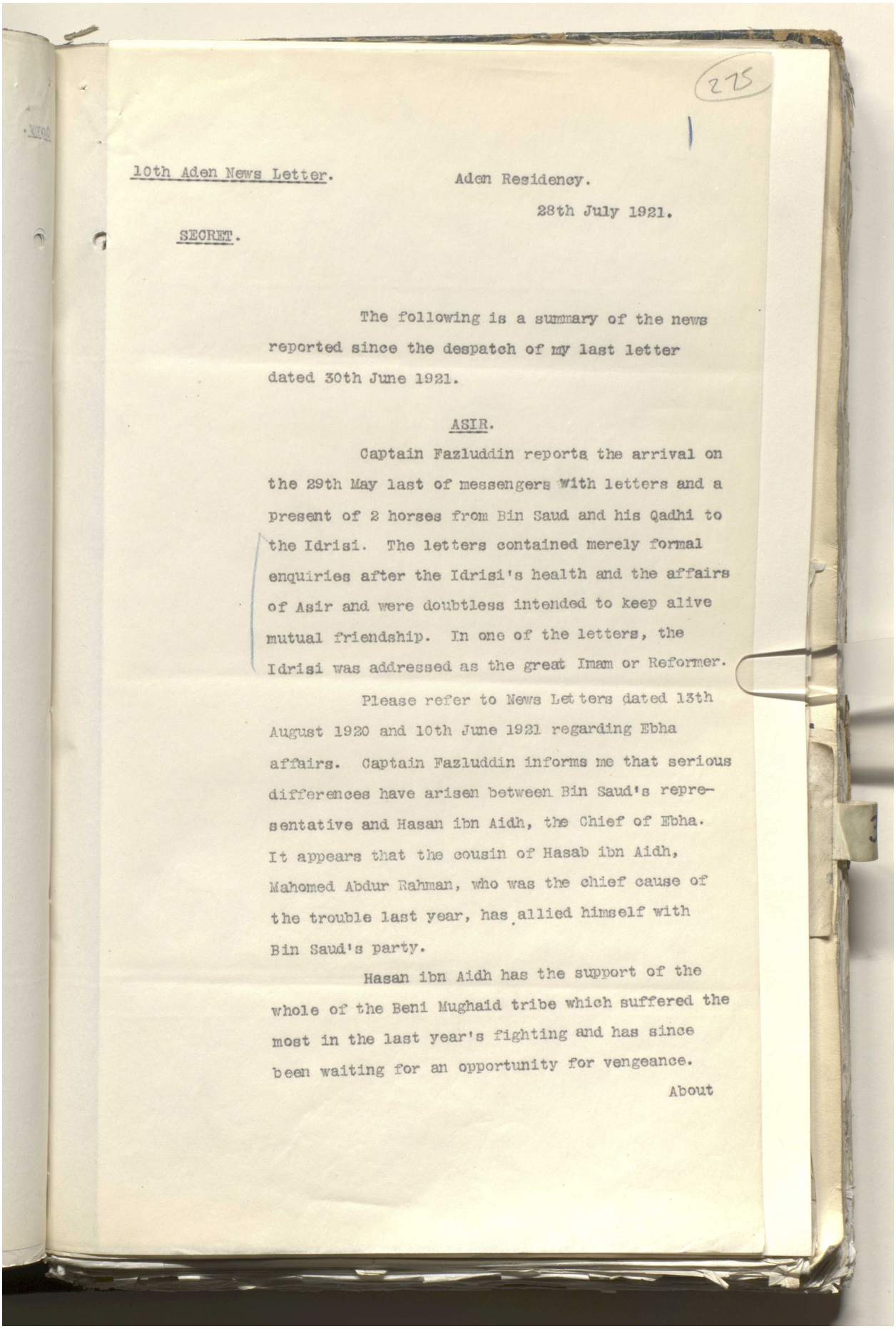

275

10th Aden News Letter. Aden Residency.

28th July 1921.

SECRET.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 30th June 1921.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin reports the arrival on the 29th May last of messengers with letters and a present of 2 horses from Bin Saud and his Qadhi to the Idrisi. The letters contained merely formal enquiries after the Idrisi's health and the affairs of Asir and were doubtless intended to keep alive mutual friendship. In one of the letters, the Idrisi was addressed as the great Imam or Reformer.

Please refer to News Letters dated 13th August 1920 and 10th June 1921 regarding Ebha affairs. Captain Fazluddin informs me that serious differences have arisen between Bin Saud's representative and Hasan ibn Aidh, the Chief of Ebha. It appears that the cousin of Hasab ibn Aidh, Mahomed Abdur Rahman, who was the chief cause of the trouble last year, has allied himself with Bin Saud's party.

Hasan ibn Aidh has the support of the whole of the Beni Mughaid tribe which suffered the most in the last year's fighting and has since been waiting for an opportunity for vengeance.

About

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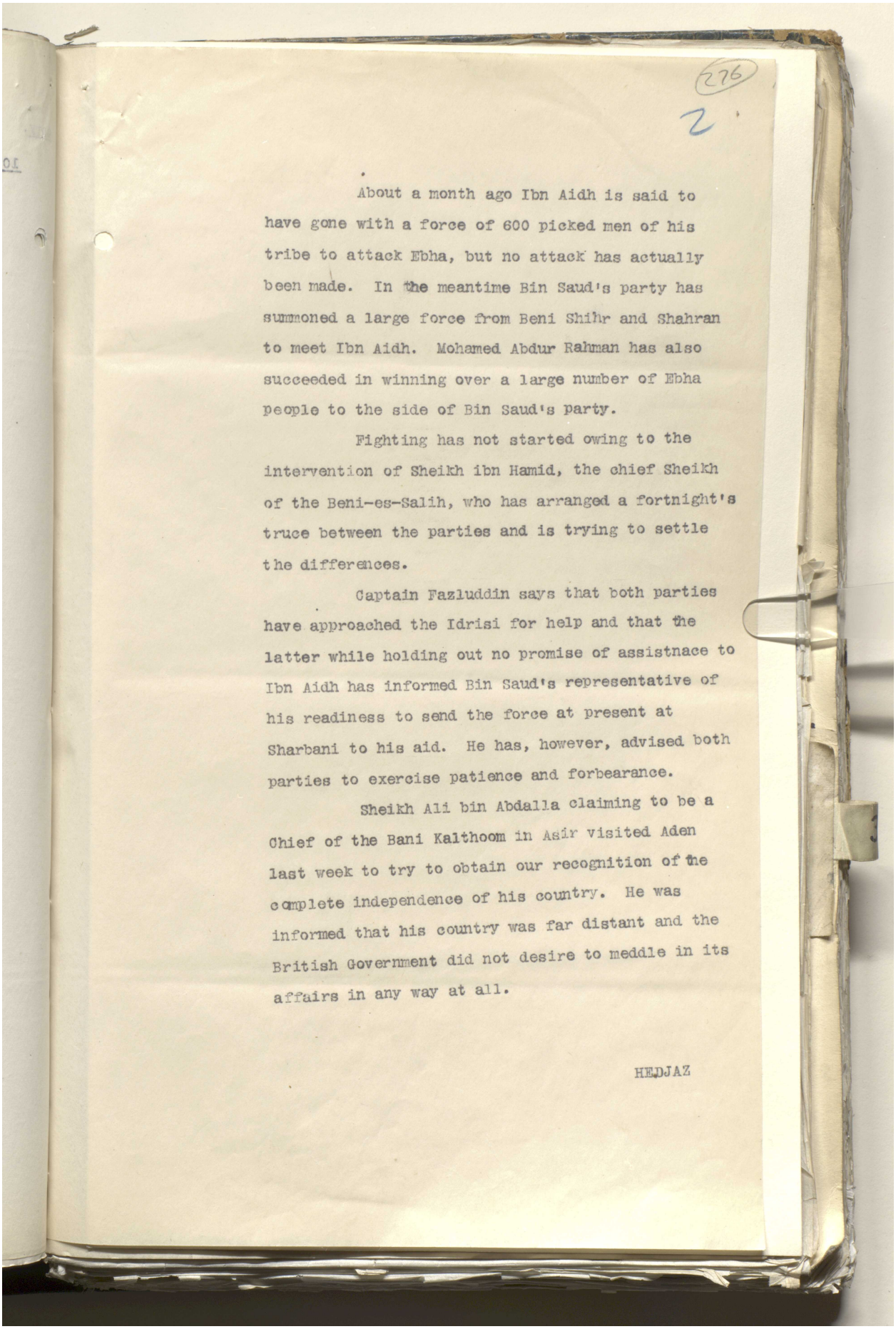

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2

About a month ago Ibn Aidh is said to have gone with a force of 600 picked men of his tribe to attack Ebha, but no attack has actually been made. In the meantime Bin Saud's party has summoned a large force from Beni Shihr and Shahran to meet Ibn Aidh. Mohamed Abdur Rahman has also succeeded in winning over a large number of Ebha people to the side of Bin Saud's party.

Fighting has not started owing to the intervention of Sheikh ibn Hamid, the chief Sheikh of the Beni-es-Salih, who has arranged a fortnight's truce between the parties and is trying to settle the differences.

Captain Fazluddin says that both parties have approached the Idrisi for help and that the latter while holding out no promise of assistnace to Ibn Aidh has informed Bin Saud's representative of his readiness to send the force at present at Sharbani to his aid. He has, however, advised both parties to exercise patience and forbearance.

Sheikh Ali bin Abdalla claiming to be a Chief of the Bani Kalthoom in Asir visited Aden last week to try to obtain our recognition of the complete independence of his country. He was informed that his country was far distant and the British Government did not desire to meddle in its affairs in any way at all.

HEDJAZ

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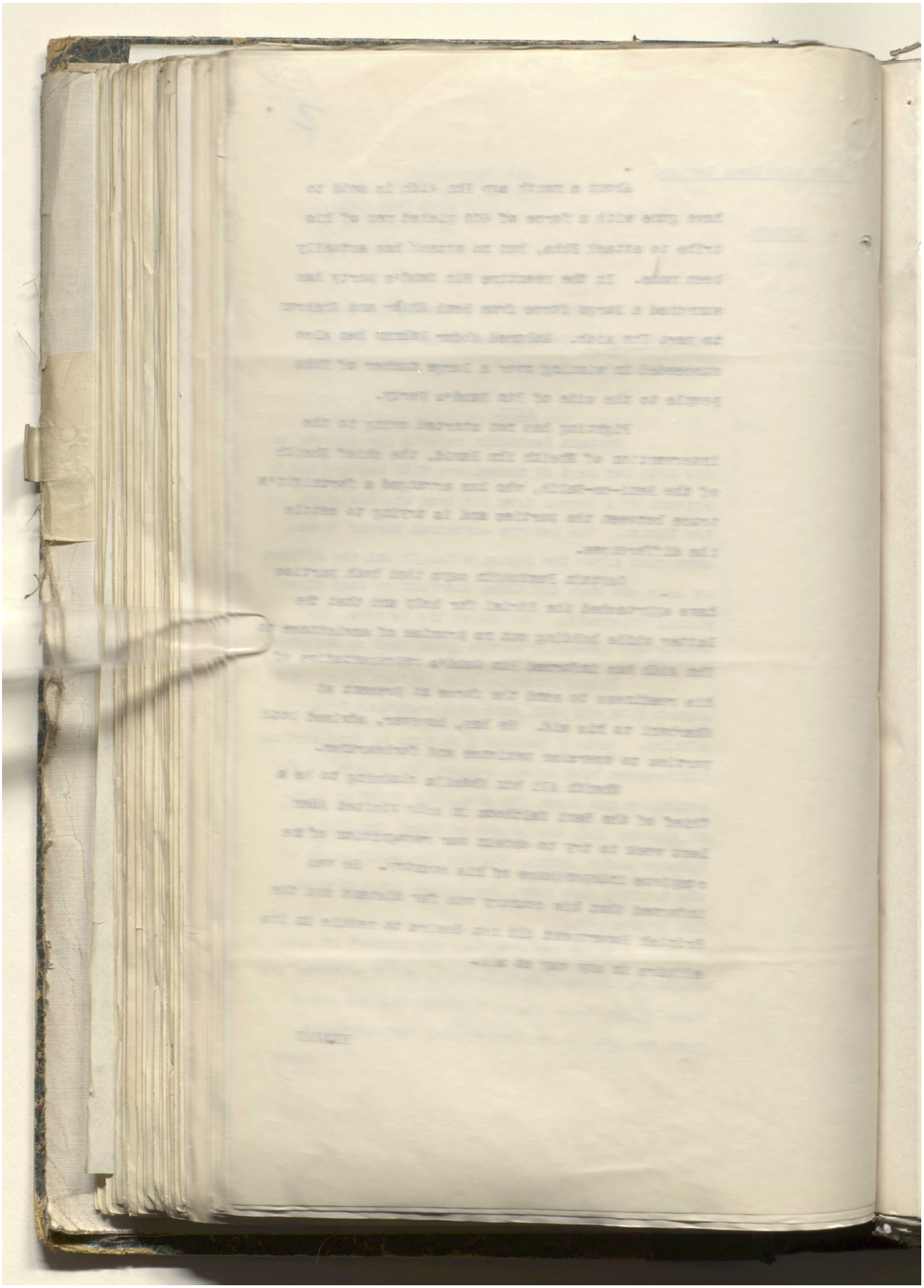

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3

HEDJAZ.

Said Mohamed Alawi El Saggof, accompanied by Said Mohamed Mukhtar and four servants arrived here a few days ago from Jeddah with a letter of introduction from the British Agent, Jeddah, and after paying a short visit to Lahej he sailed for Jizan last week.

He stated that his object in visiting the Idrisi, from whom he had received a cordial invitation, was to negotiate peace between King Hussain and the Idrisi. The visit of Sayed Senussi to Mecca showed that the differences between the King and the Idrisi were due only to misunderstandings. (With reference to this please see correspondence ending with my letter No.20 dated 2nd June 1921, paragraph 2).

If he succeeds in bringing about an understanding between the Idrisi and the King, he considers, the way would be clear for a peace between the Idrisi and the Imam and he hopes that he will be able to assist in the consumation of this object.

TIHAMA.

Hodeida reports received here at the end of last month, stated that the Imam was massing troops at Menakha and that Hujjeila and Shutba on the Quhra frontier were being bombarded by the Zeidis.

In his latest report Captain Fazluddin states that everything is quiet on the Bajil front

and

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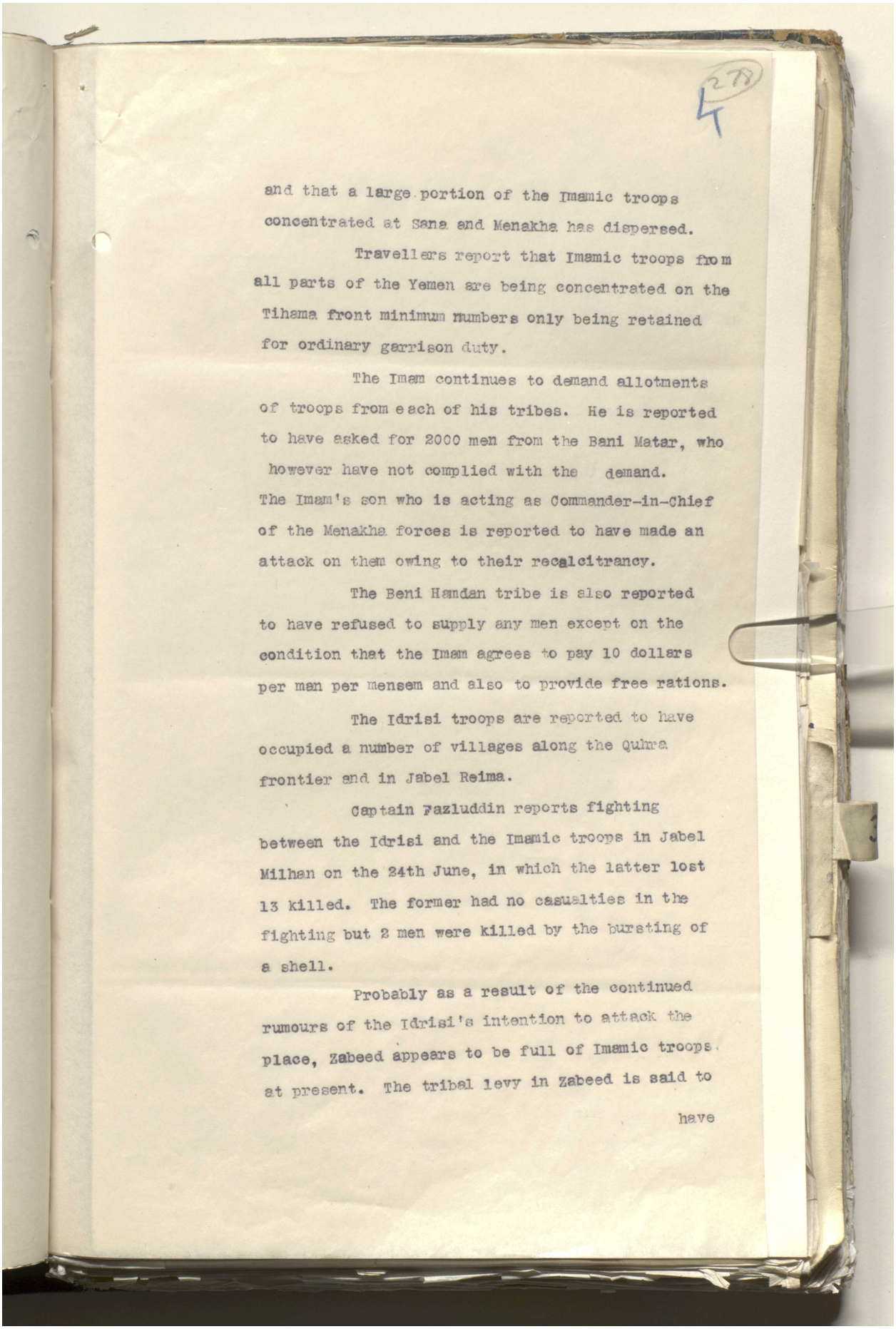

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and that a large portion of the Imamic troops concentrated at Sana and Menakha has dispersed.

Travellers report that Imamic troops from all parts of the Yemen are being concentrated on the Tihama front minimum numbers only being retained for ordinary garrison duty.

The Imam continues to demand allotments of troops from each of his tribes. He is reported to have asked for 2000 men from the Bani Matar, who however have not complied with the demand. The Imam's son who is acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Menakha forces is reported to have made an attack on them owing to their recalcitrancy.

The Beni Hamdan tribe is also reported to have refused to supply any men except on the condition that the Imam agrees to pay 10 dollars per man per mensem and also to provide free rations.

The Idrisi troops are reported to have occupied a number of villages along the Qubra frontier and in Jabel Reima.

Captain Fazluddin reports fighting between the Idrisi and the Imamic troops in Jabel Milhan on the 24th June, in which the latter lost 13 killed. The former had no casualties in the fighting but 2 men were killed by the bursting of a shell.

Probably as a result of the continued rumours of the Idrisi's intention to attack the place, Zabeed appears to be full of Imamic troops at present. The tribal levy in Zabeed is said to

have

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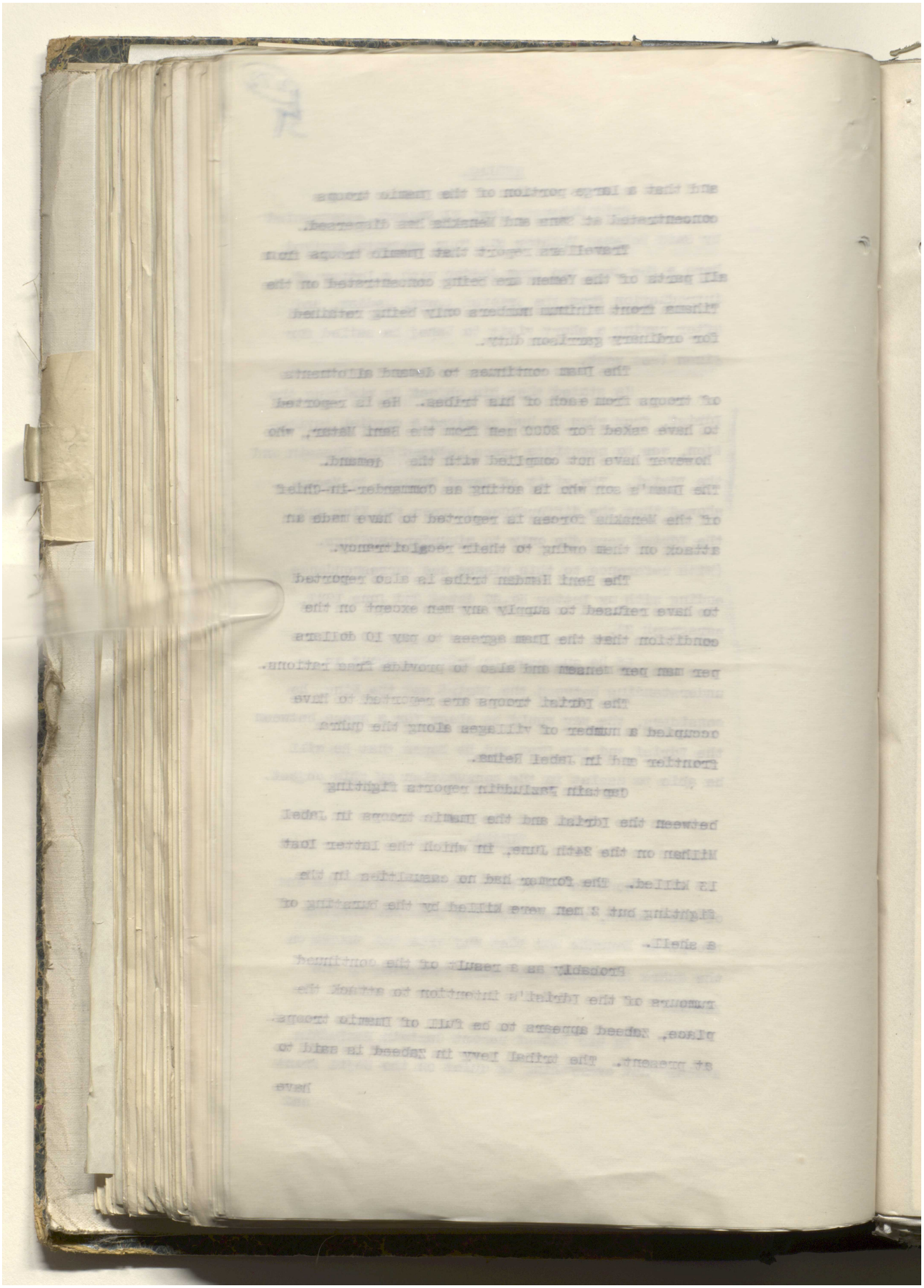

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have been dispersed but has received orders to be ready to reassemble at the shortest notice.

Syed Mohamed Shami, the late Amil of Hais is reported to have been appointed Amil of Zabeed.

Captain Fazluddin reports that Ahmed Fitini, referred to in previous letters, went to Massowa and Asmara with certain communications from the ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, and returned on the 4th June. It is believed that he was given no present but merely the promise that one would be despatched hereafter. An Italian ship is said to have visited Khokha and Taif on the 15th June and landed merchandise.

Our Zabeed Agent reports that in reply to the repeated requests of Ahmed Fitini for Italian protection, the Massowa Government informed him that the Turkish Nationalists, who have scored several victories over the Allies, are very shortly expected to come to the Yemen to expel the Idrisi and remove all British influence from the country.

It is not credible that such information should have been given by the Erithrean Government.

Abdul Shakoor, the Italian agent at Khokha, is reported to have left for Djibouti. It is believed he is gone there on his own private business.

The Hodeida Customs revenues for June have fallen from Rs.42,000 to about Rs.20,000 in consequence of the increase in the Customs duty referred to in my last letter.

Captain

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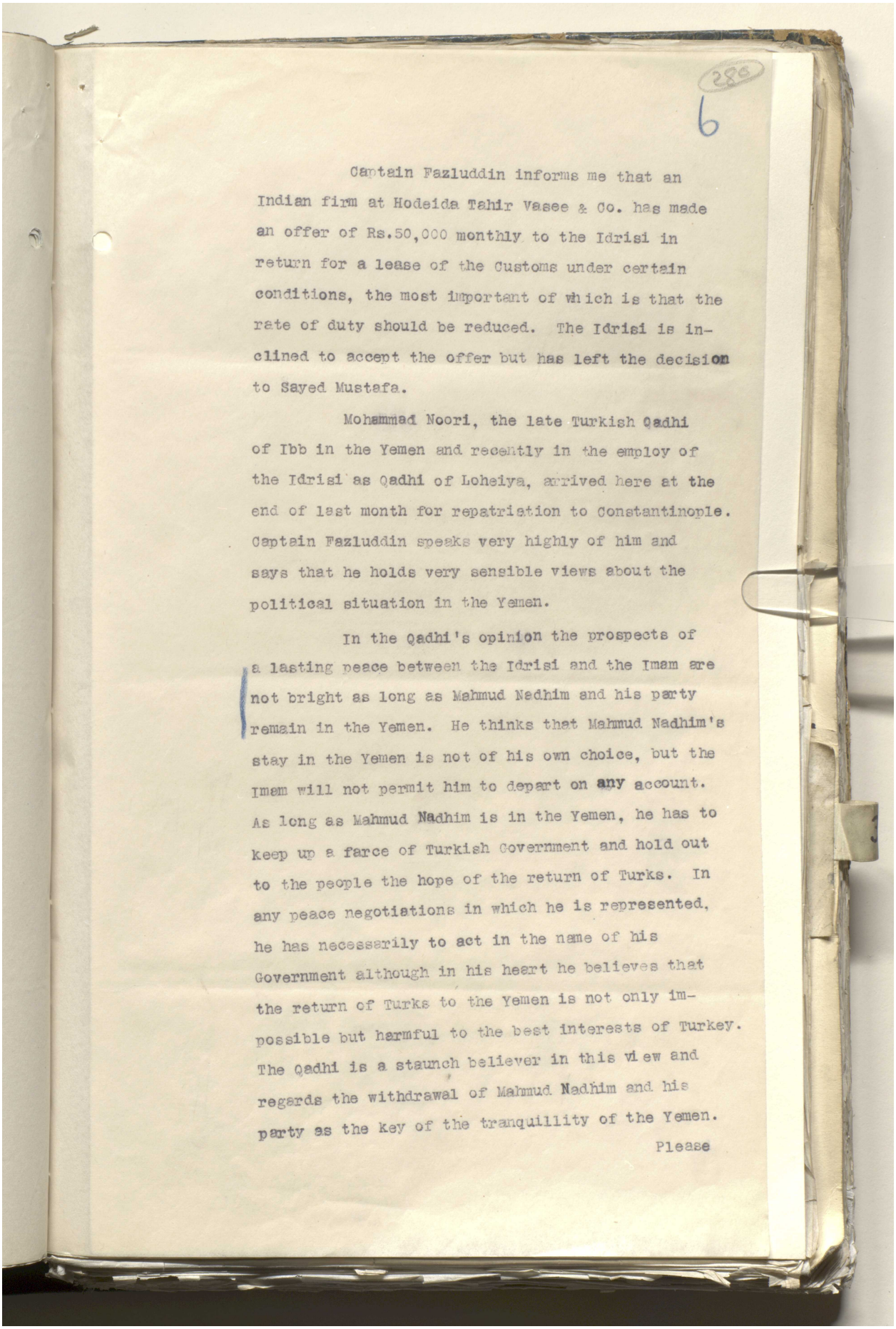

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Captain Fazluddin informs me that an Indian firm at Hodeida Tahir Vasee & Co. has made an offer of Rs.50,000 monthly to the Idrisi in return for a lease of the Customs under certain conditions, the most important of which is that the rate of duty should be reduced. The Idrisi is inclined to accept the offer but has left the decision to Sayed Mustafa.

Mohammad Noori, the late Turkish Qadhi of Ibb in the Yemen and recently in the employ of the Idrisi as Qadhi of Loheiya, arrived here at the end of last month for repatriation to Constantinople. Captain Fazluddin speaks very highly of him and says that he holds very sensible views about the political situation in the Yemen.

In the Qadhi's opinion the prospects of a lasting peace between the Idrisi and the Imam are not bright as long as Mahmud Nadhim and his party remain in the Yemen. He thinks that Mahmud Nadhim's stay in the Yemen is not of his own choice, but the Imam will not permit him to depart on any account. As long as Mahmud Nadhim is in the Yemen, he has to keep up a farce of Turkish Government and hold out to the people the hope of the return of Turks. In any peace negotiations in which he is represented, he has necessarily to act in the name of his Government although in his heart he believes that the return of Turks to the Yemen is not only impossible but harmful to the best interests of Turkey. The Qadhi is a staunch believer in this view and regards the withdrawal of Mahmud Nadhim and his party as the key of the tranquillity of the Yemen.

Please

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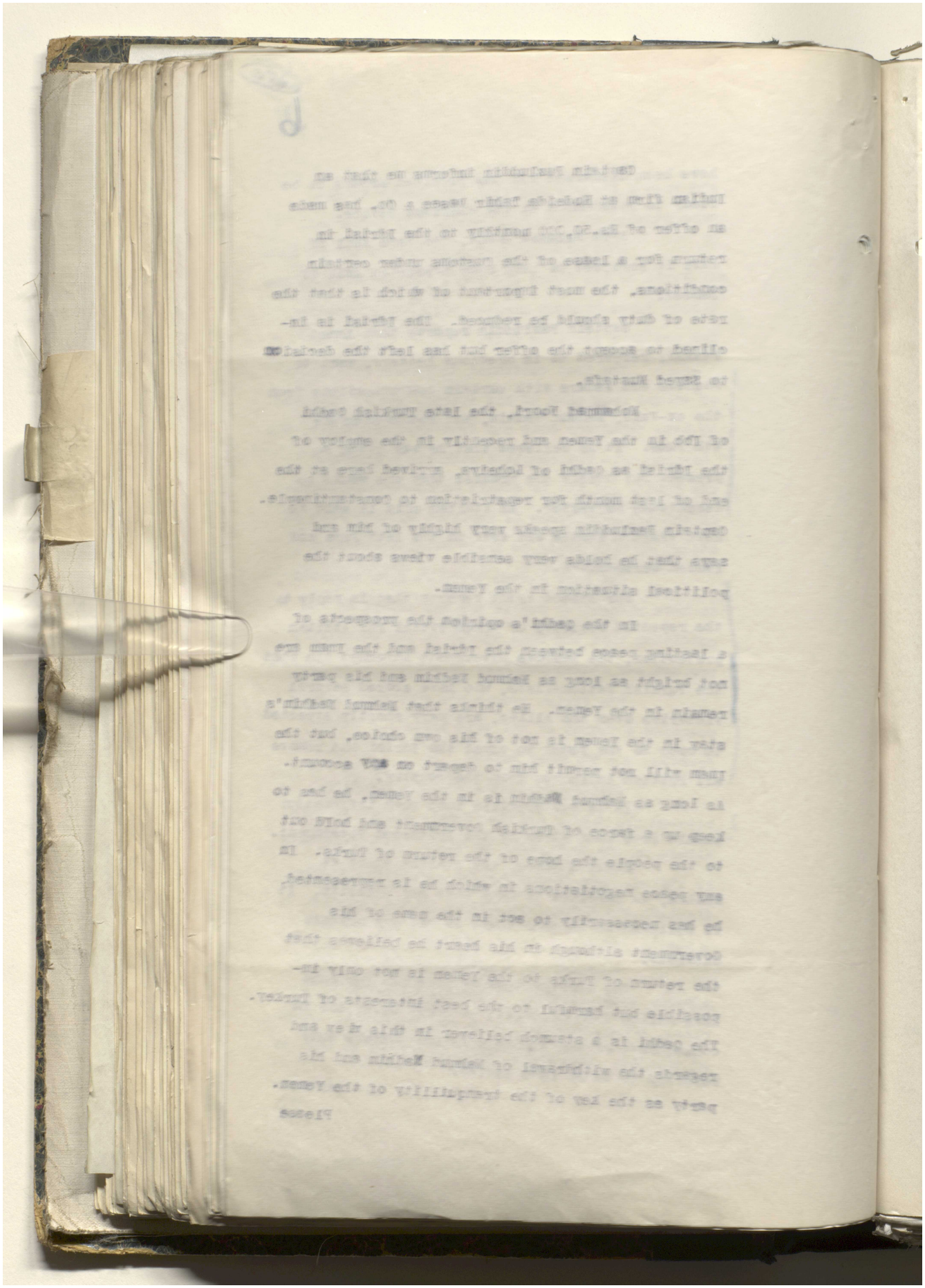

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Please see News Letter dated 17th March last regarding the visit of Jemil Bey to Hodeida. As a result of this visit some correspondence has taken place between Captain Fazluddin and Mahmud Nadhim on the subject of the evacuation of the Turks still remaining in the Yemen and the desirability of bringing about a settlement between the Imam and the Idrisi.

In his last communication, Mahmud Nadhim refers to the efforts of his co-religionists in India on behalf of Turkey and expresses his pleasure at the presence of a man like Captain Fazluddin in Hodeida.

The ex Vali complains that he wrote to the Idrisi and Sayed Mustafa with a view to bringing about a settlement between the Idrisi and the Imam but he has had no reply. He invites Captain Fazluddin's co-operation towards this laudable object.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

The annual rumour regarding the Imam's death has been revived. He is said to be dead but the news is kept secret for fear of the people electing one of his cousins in preference to his eldest son.

We had similar rumours in 1919 and 1920, which turned out to be false.

Fighting is reported between the Zeidis and the people of Sharm and Kalaat Shuaf. The latter are said to have captured two guns from the Zeidis. The cause of the trouble is not known.

The

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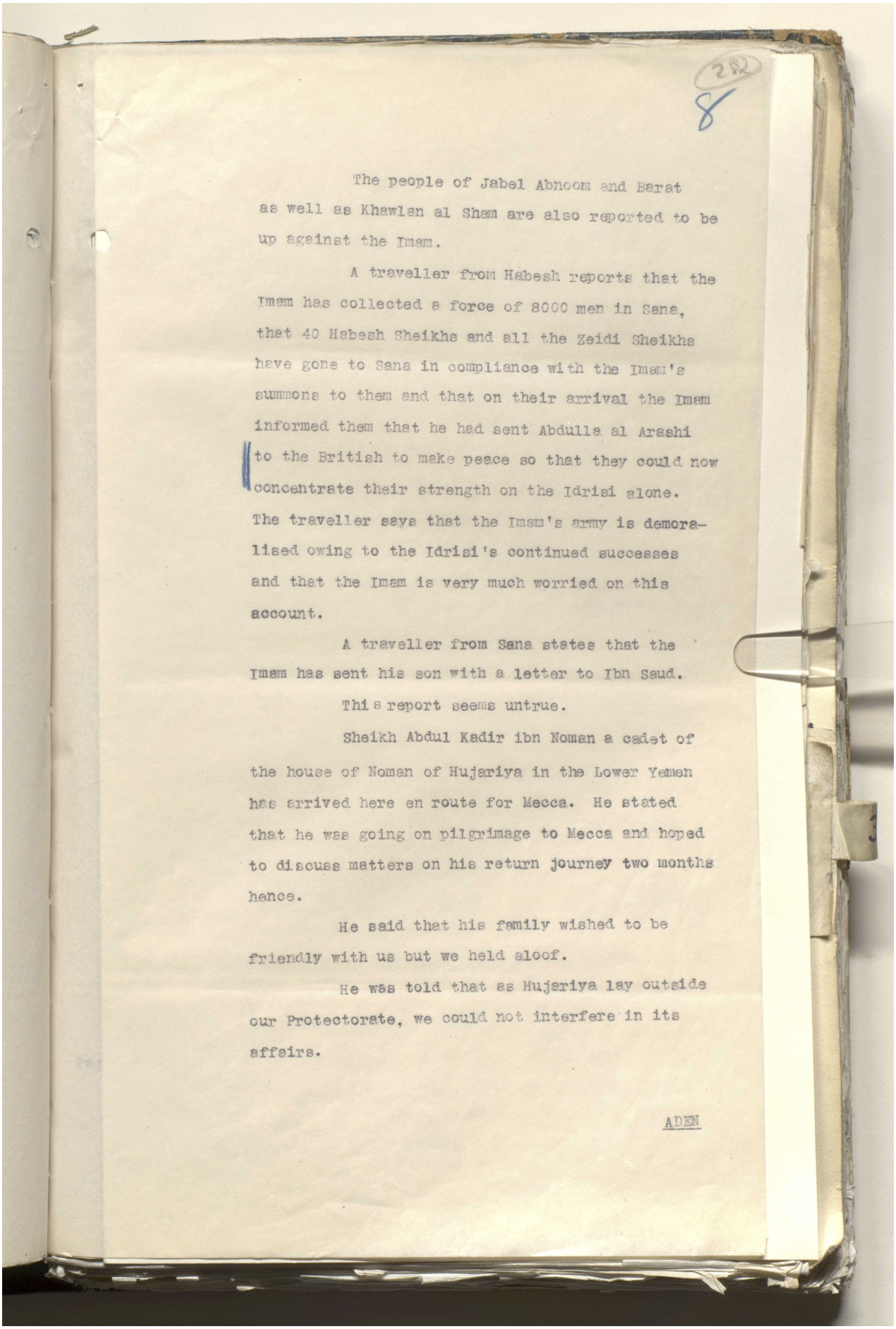

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The people of Jabel Abnoom and Barat as well as Khawlan al Sham are also reported to be up against the Imam.

A traveller from Habesh reports that the Imam has collected a force of 8000 men in Sana, that 40 Habesh Sheikhs and all the Zeidi Sheikhs have gone to Sana in compliance with the Imam's summons to them and that on their arrival the Imam informed them that he had sent Abdulla al Arashi to the British to make peace so that they could now concentrate their strength on the Idrisi alone. The traveller says that the Imam's army is demoralised owing to the Idrisi's continued successes and that the Imam is very much worried on this account.

A traveller from Sana states that the Imam has sent his son with a letter to Ibn Saud.

This report seems untrue.

Sheikh Abdul Kadir ibn Noman a cadet of the house of Noman of Hujariya in the Lower Yemen has arrived here en route for Mecca. He stated that he was going on pilgrimage to Mecca and hoped to discuss matters on his return journey two months hence.

He said that his family wished to be friendly with us but we held aloof.

He was told that as Hujariya lay outside our Protectorate, we could not interfere in its affairs.

ADEN

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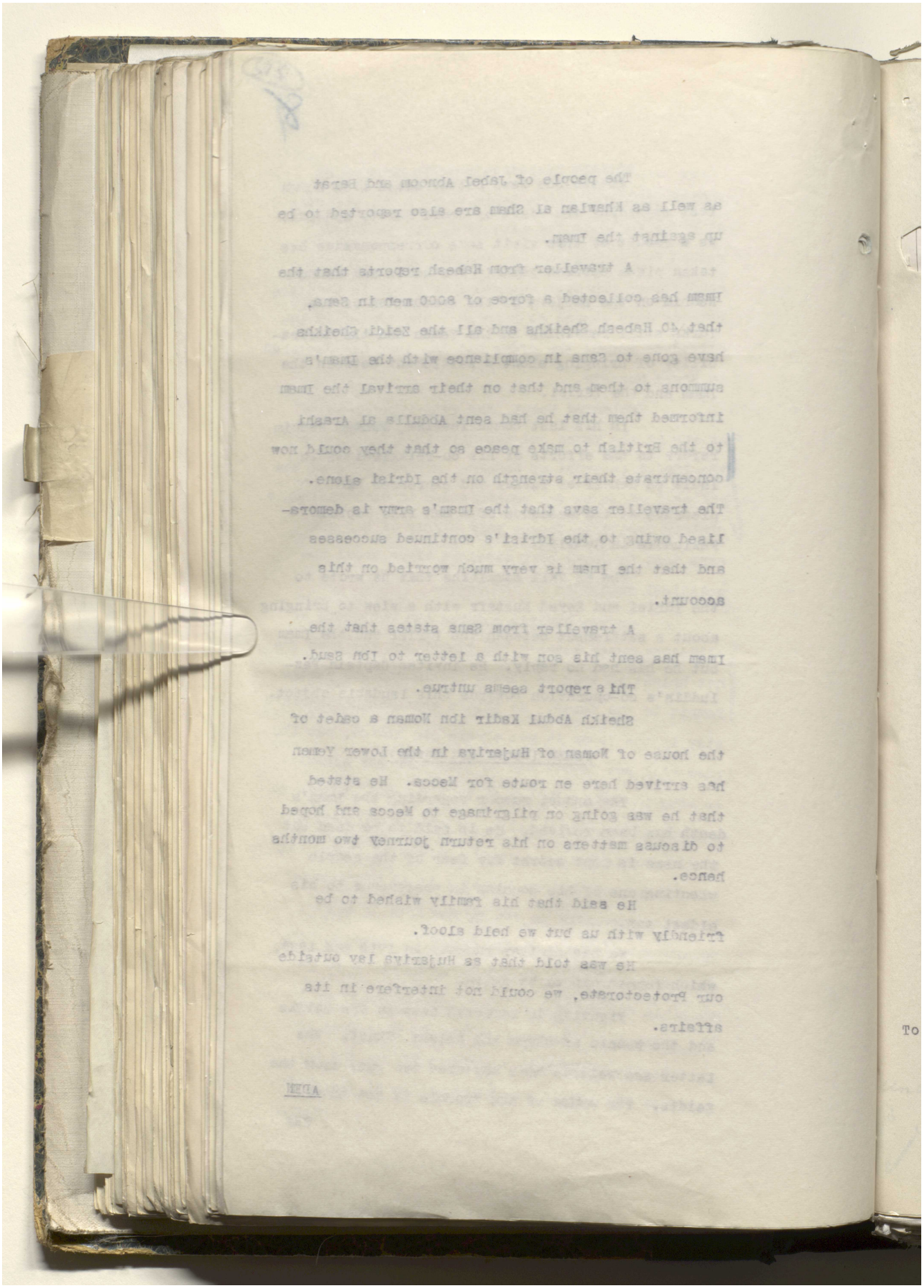

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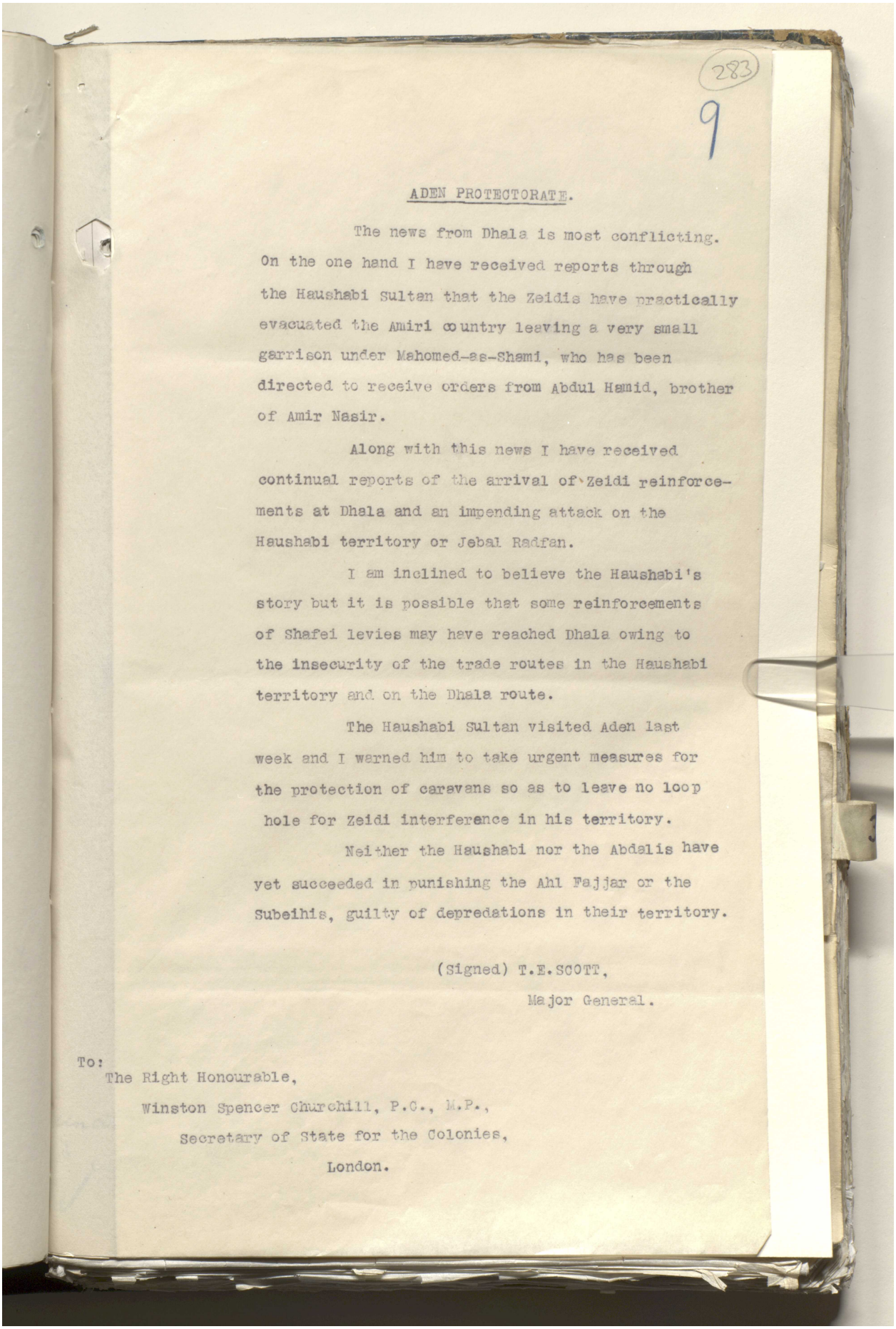

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9

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The news from Dhala is most conflicting. On the one hand I have received reports through the Haushabi Sultan that the Zeidis have practically evacuated the Amiri country leaving a very small garrison under Mahomed-as-Shami, who has been directed to receive orders from Abdul Hamid, brother of Amir Nasir.

Along with this news I have received continual reports of the arrival of Zeidi reinforcements at Dhala and an impending attack on the Haushabi territory or Jebal Radfan.

I am inclined to believe the Haushabi's story but it is possible that some reinforcements of Shafei levies may have reached Dhala owing to the insecurity of the trade routes in the Haushabi territory and on the Dhala route.

The Haushabi Sultan visited Aden last week and I warned him to take urgent measures for the protection of caravans so as to leave no loop hole for Zeidi interference in his territory.

Neither the Haushabi nor the Abdalis have yet succeeded in punishing the Ahl Fajjar or the Subeihis, guilty of depredations in their territory.

(Signed) T.E.SCOTT,
Major General.

To:
The Right Honourable,
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

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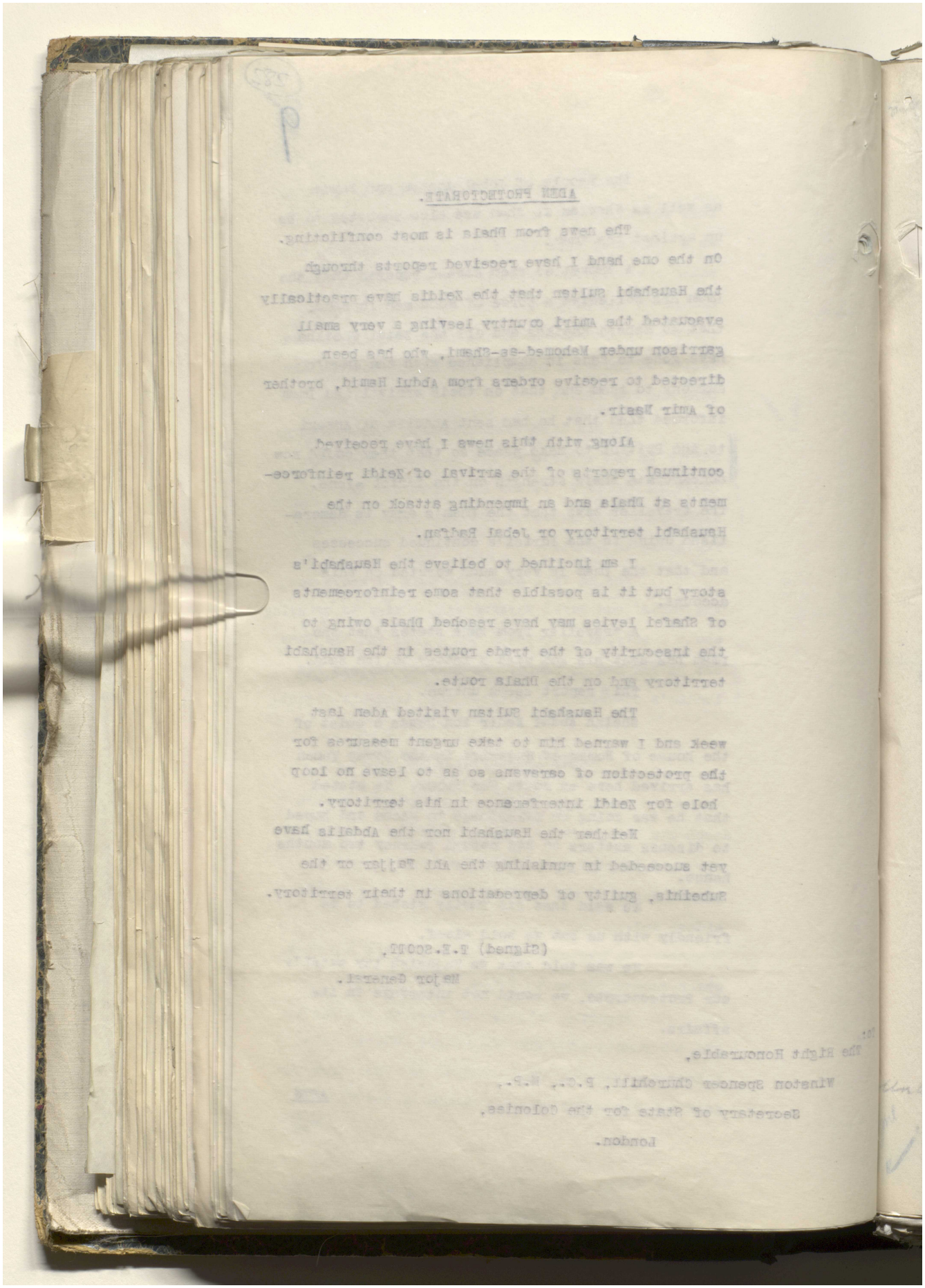

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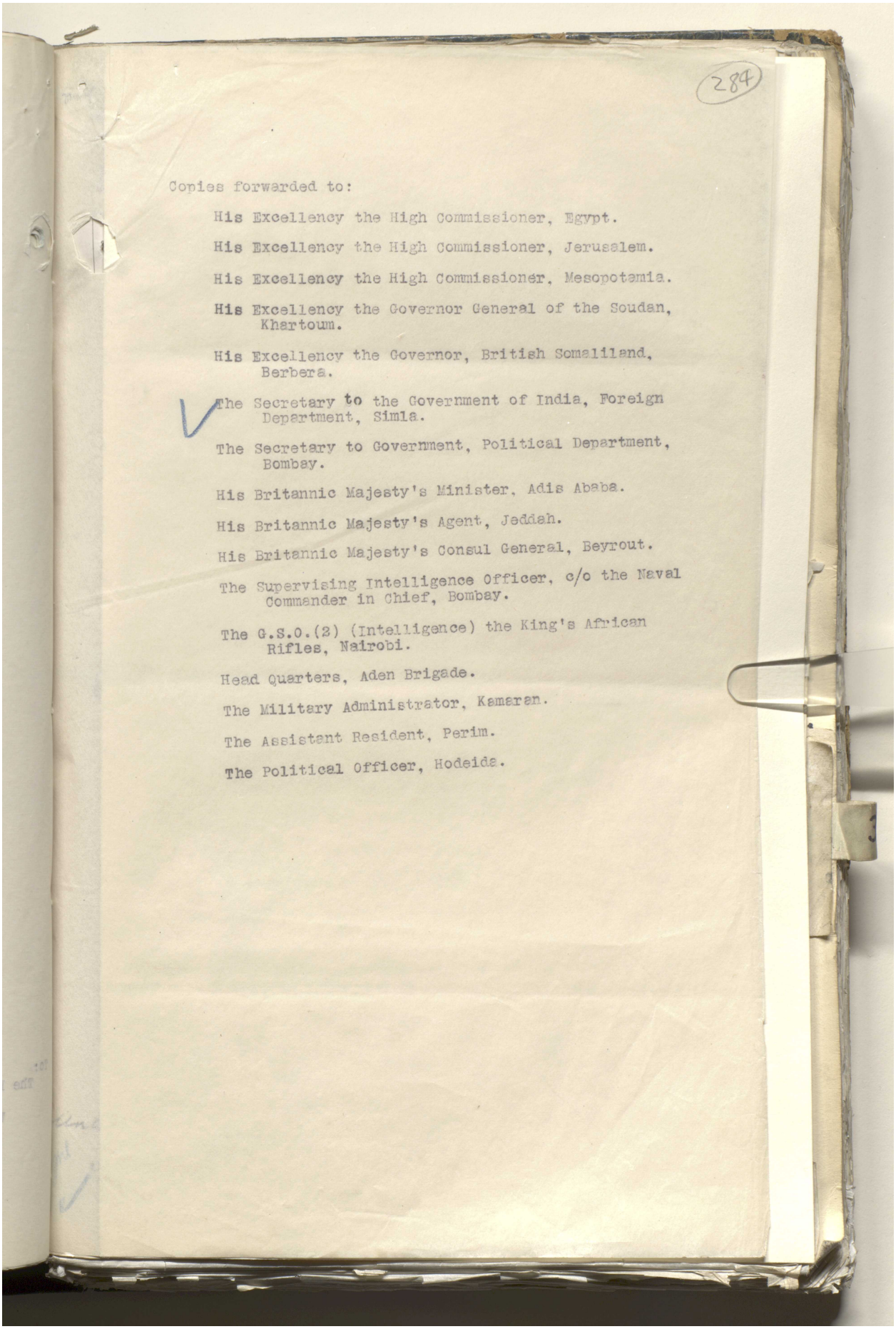

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His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia.

His Excellency the Governor General of the Soudan, Khartoum.

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.

The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa.

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrout.

The Supervising Intelligence Officer, c/o the Naval Commander in Chief, Bombay.

The G.S.O.(2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi.

Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.

The Military Administrator, Kamaran.

The Assistant Resident, Perim.

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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12b.

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted :—
35045/1921

INDEXED

3286
1921

Subject : Aden News Letter

No. 9.

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Secret

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 20th of June, 1921.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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~~Department of Overseas Trade,~~
Foreign Office,
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India Office,
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Ministry of Food,
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Ministry of Munitions,
Ministry of Pensions,
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The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
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War Office.

RECEIVED IN
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INDIA DEPARTMENT

Under Secretary of State,
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Colonial Office, Downing Street,
23 July. 1921.

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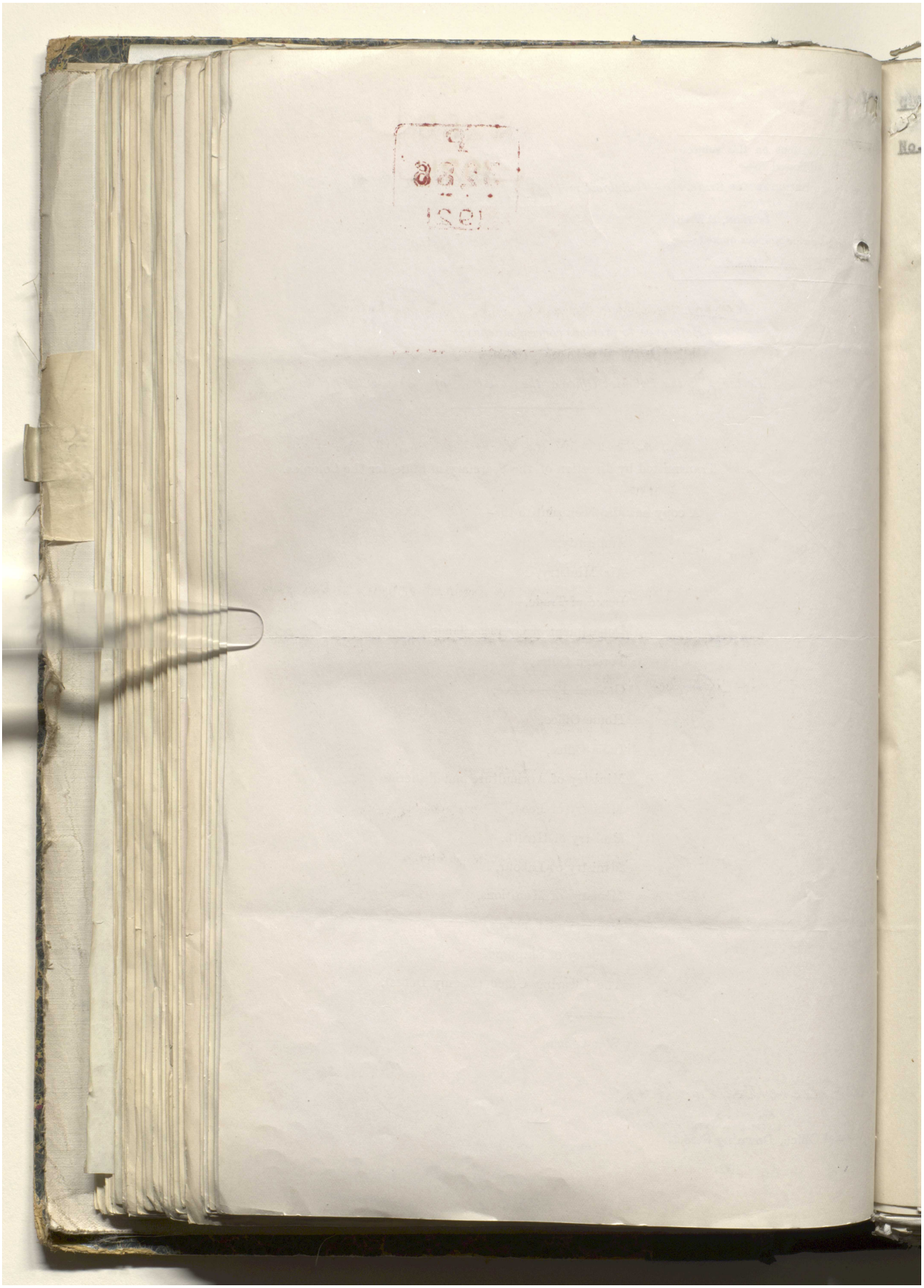

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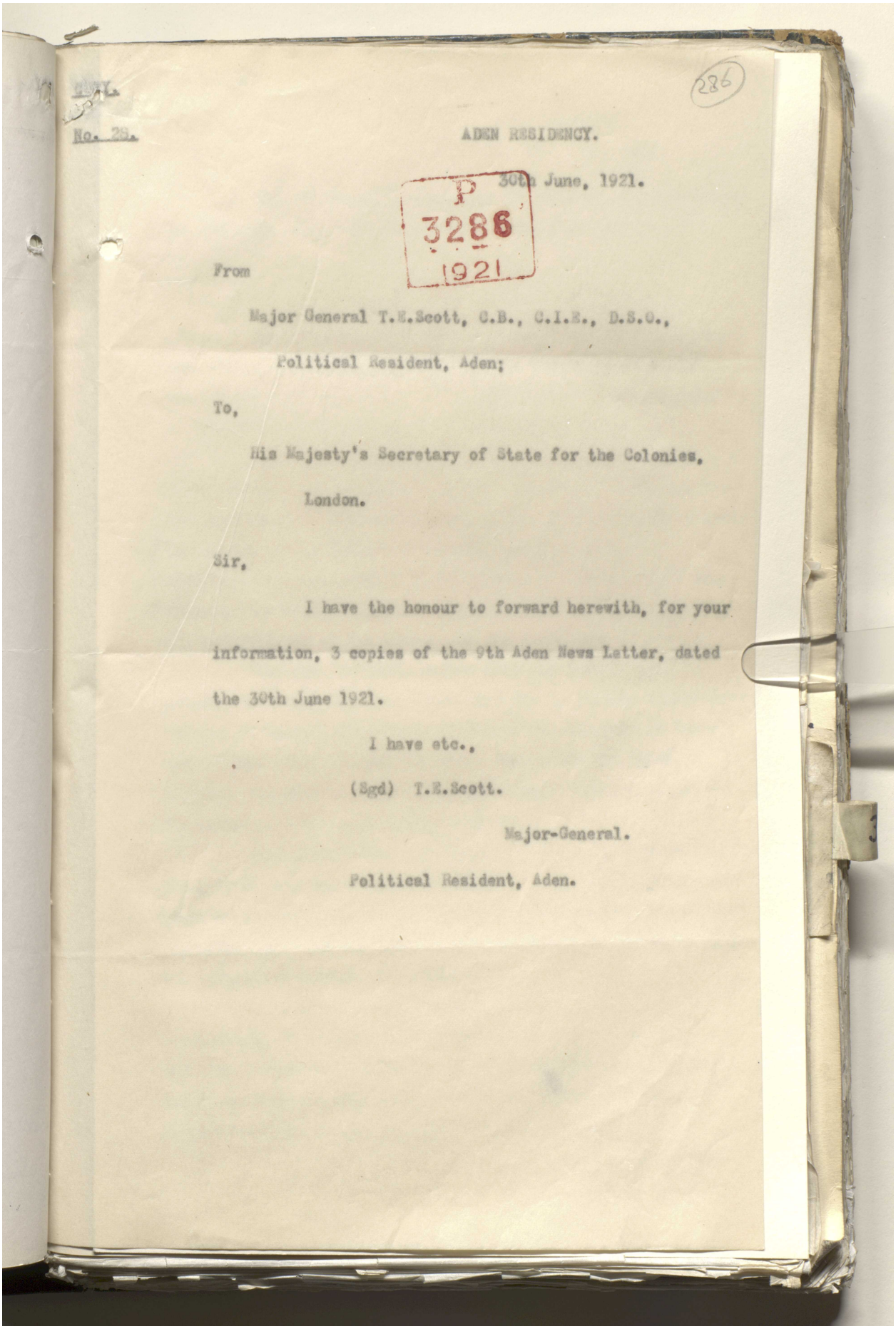

No. 28.

ADEN RESIDENCY.

30th June, 1921.

P 3286 1921

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,

Political Resident, Aden;

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,

London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, 3 copies of the 9th Aden News Letter, dated the 30th June 1921.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) T.E.Scott.

Major-General.

Political Resident, Aden.

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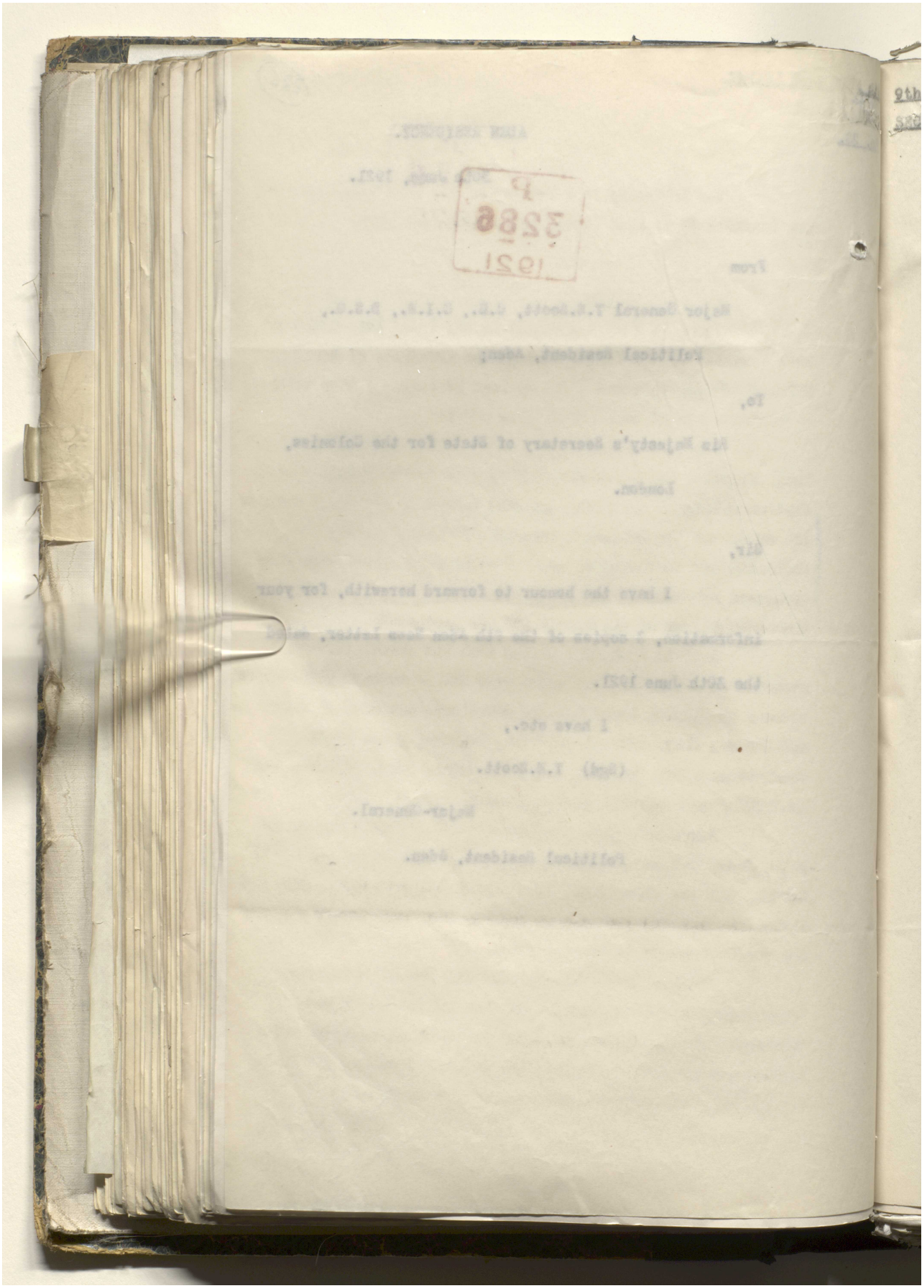

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9th ADEN NEWS LETTER.
SECRET.

(287)

ADEN RESIDENCY.
30th June, 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 10th June 1921.

TIHAMA.

There is a strong rumour in the Yemen that Zabid has been occupied by the Idrisi through the treachery of Sayed Mahomed Ad Dari referred to in my last letter. I have received no confirmation of this report from Hodeida.

The Zabid Agent reports that Sayed Ambari of Zabid, a local notable, has received a letter from Mahmud Nadhim stating that according to the latest reports from very reliable sources the morale of the British Government has been entirely shattered and that most of their Eastern possessions have been conquered by Mustafa Kemal. Sayed Ambari is warned against the machinations of the Idrisi and his partizans.

Captain Fazluddin states that the recent Imamic reverses at Jabel Bura and Reima were due to serious differences between Al Mikdad, Sayed Mahomed Ash Shami, the Amil of Reima and Uzbashi Yahya Effendi-er-Radmi, Commanding the Zeidi Regulars and that the loss among the Imamic Regulars alone was 180 killed and an equal number wounded.

Travellers from the Yemen report severe fighting in Jabel Reima and Bura. According to them the Zeidis have lost heavily and are deserting. The Idrisi has captured 3 guns and 4 machine guns and the Imam is said to have sent urgent demands for reinforcements to his tribesmen.

Captain Fazluddin reports that one of the Imam's Lieutenants at Malhan, Sheikh Radman, who was one of the principal Sheikhs of Arhabs, a sub-tribe of the Hashids, was treacherously murdered by some other Zeidi tribe at Uzlatul Urjain and that in consequence there have been violent

dissensions

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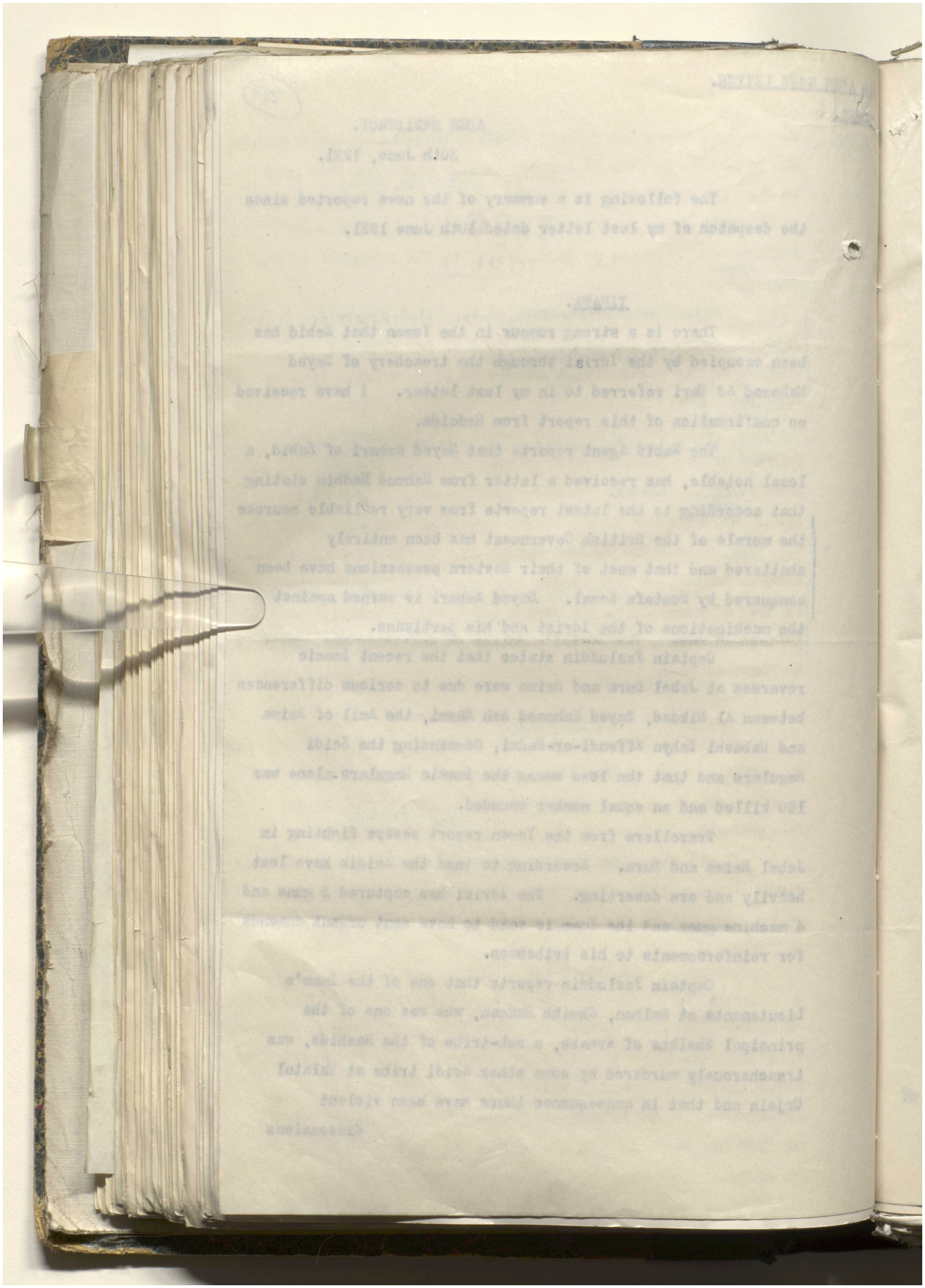

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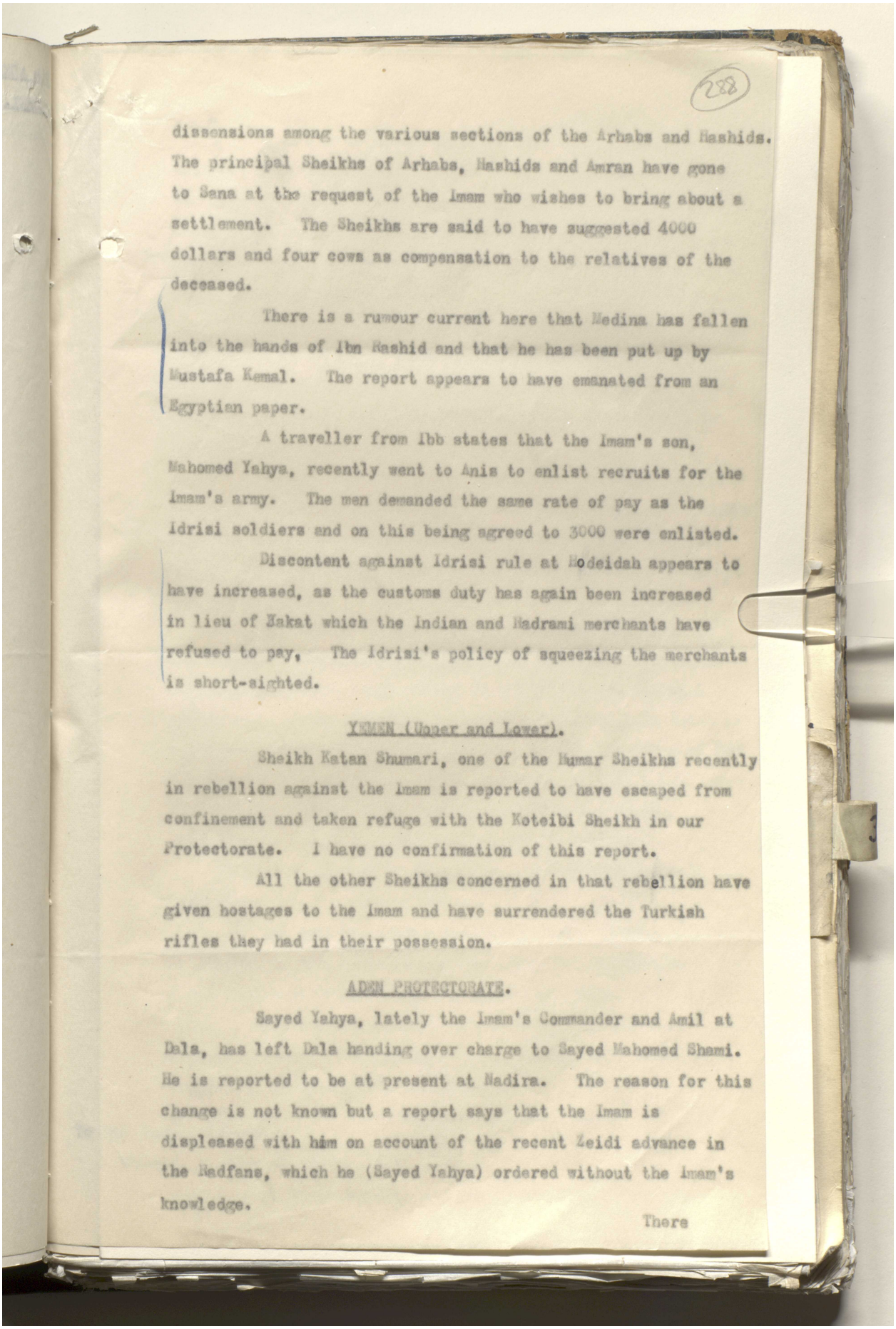

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dissensions among the various sections of the Arhabs and Hashids. The principal Sheikhs of Arhabs, Hashids and Amran have gone to Sana at the request of the Imam who wishes to bring about a settlement. The Sheikhs are said to have suggested 4000 dollars and four cows as compensation to the relatives of the deceased.

There is a rumour current here that Medina has fallen into the hands of Ibn Rashid and that he has been put up by Mustafa Kemal. The report appears to have emanated from an Egyptian paper.

A traveller from Ibb states that the Imam's son, Mahomed Yahya, recently went to Anis to enlist recruits for the Imam's army. The men demanded the same rate of pay as the Idrisi soldiers and on this being agreed to 3000 were enlisted.

Discontent against Idrisi rule at Hodeidah appears to have increased, as the customs duty has again been increased in lieu of Zakat which the Indian and Hadrami merchants have refused to pay. The Idrisi's policy of squeezing the merchants is short-sighted.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

Sheikh Katan Shumari, one of the Humar Sheikhs recently in rebellion against the Imam is reported to have escaped from confinement and taken refuge with the Koteibi Sheikh in our Protectorate. I have no confirmation of this report.

All the other Sheikhs concerned in that rebellion have given hostages to the Imam and have surrendered the Turkish rifles they had in their possession.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Sayed Yahya, lately the Imam's Commander and Amil at Dala, has left Dala handing over charge to Sayed Mahomed Shami. He is reported to be at present at Nadira. The reason for this change is not known but a report says that the Imam is displeased with him on account of the recent Zeidi advance in the Radfans, which he (Sayed Yahya) ordered without the Imam's knowledge.

There

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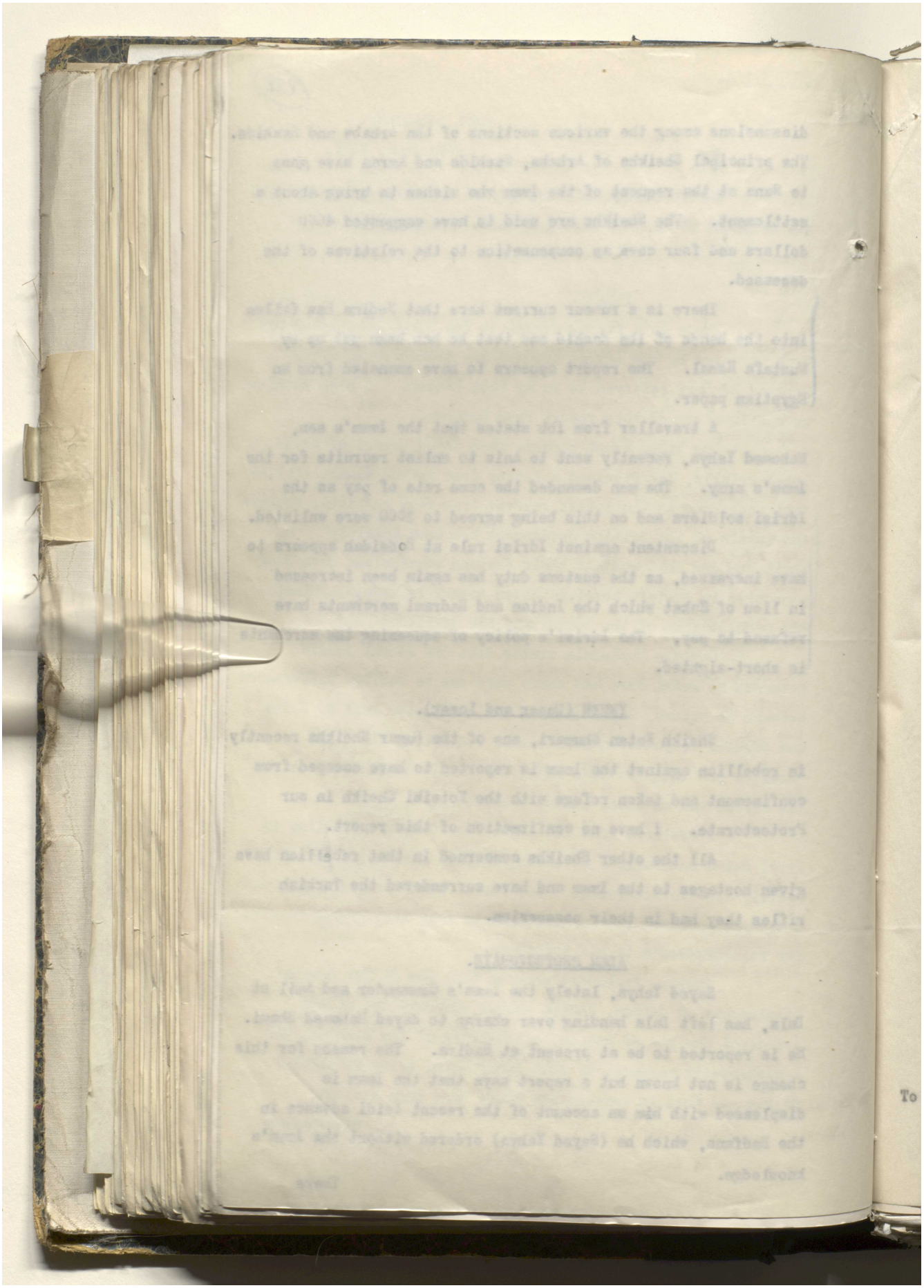

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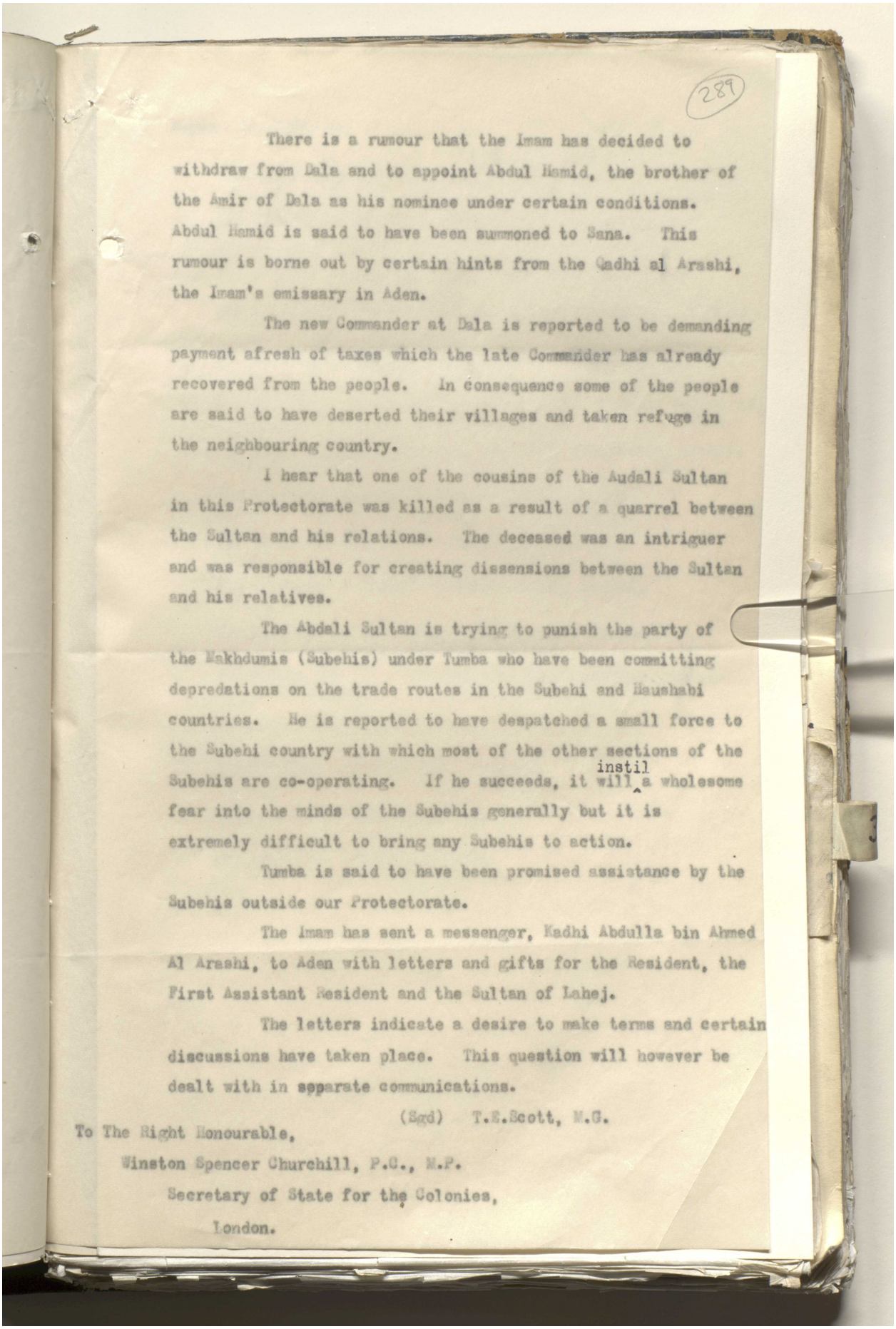

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There is a rumour that the Imam has decided to withdraw from Dala and to appoint Abdul Hamid, the brother of the Amir of Dala as his nominee under certain conditions. Abdul Hamid is said to have been summoned to Sana. This rumour is borne out by certain hints from the Qadhi al Arashi, the Imam's emissary in Aden.

The new Commander at Dala is reported to be demanding payment afresh of taxes which the late Commander has already recovered from the people. In consequence some of the people are said to have deserted their villages and taken refuge in the neighbouring country.

I hear that one of the cousins of the Audali Sultan in this Protectorate was killed as a result of a quarrel between the Sultan and his relations. The deceased was an intriguer and was responsible for creating dissensions between the Sultan and his relatives.

The Abdali Sultan is trying to punish the party of the Makhdumis (Subehis) under Tumba who have been committing depredations on the trade routes in the Subehi and Haushabi countries. He is reported to have despatched a small force to the Subehi country with which most of the other sections of the Subehis are co-operating. If he succeeds, it will instil a wholesome fear into the minds of the Subehis generally but it is extremely difficult to bring any Subehis to action.

Tumba is said to have been promised assistance by the Subehis outside our Protectorate.

The Imam has sent a messenger, Kadhi Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Arashi, to Aden with letters and gifts for the Resident, the First Assistant Resident and the Sultan of Lahej.

The letters indicate a desire to make terms and certain discussions have taken place. This question will however be dealt with in separate communications.

(Sgd) T.E.Scott, M.C.

To The Right Honourable,
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

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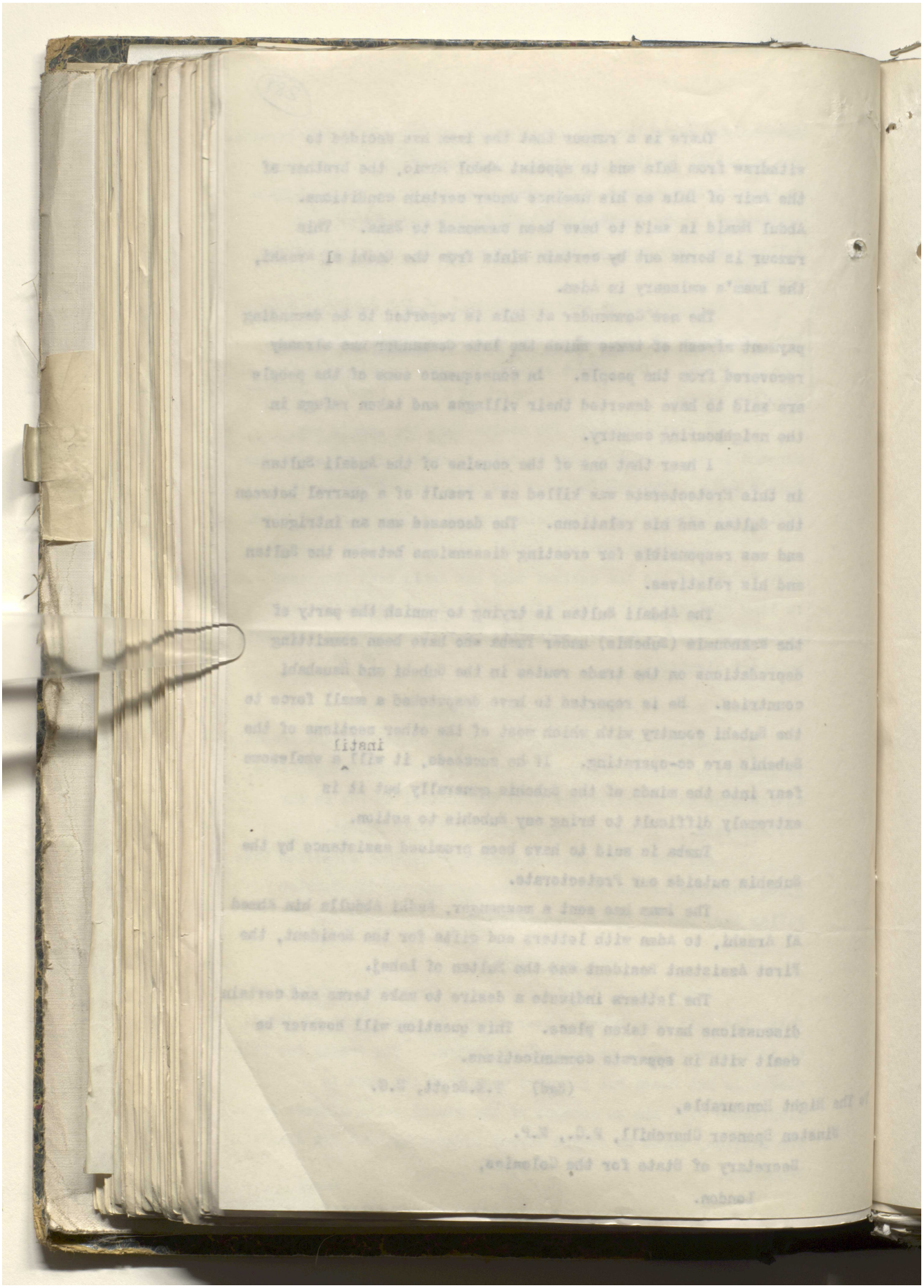

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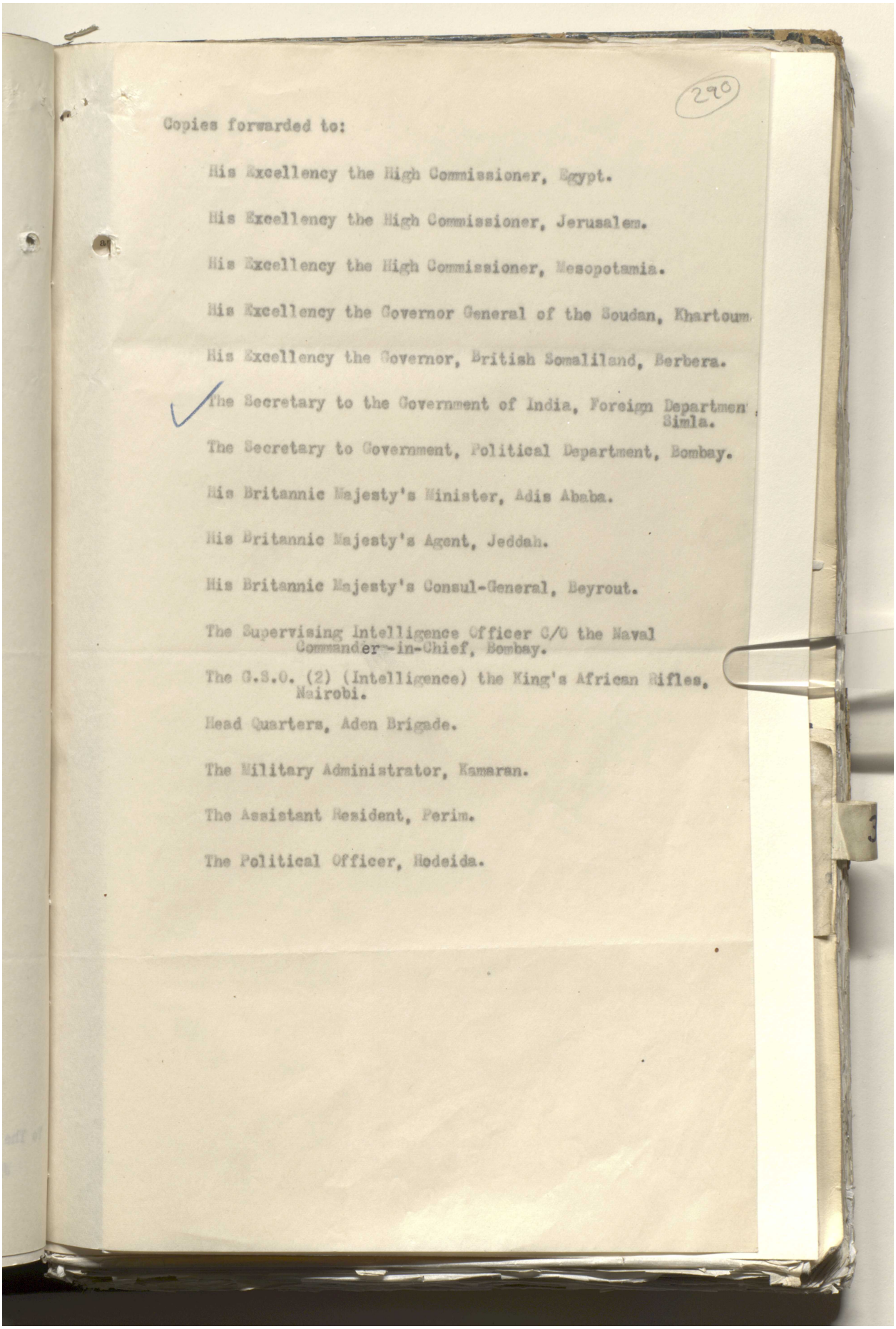

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The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa.

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Beyrout.

The Supervising Intelligence Officer C/O the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.

The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi.

Head Quarters, Aden Brigade.

The Military Administrator, Kamaran.

The Assistant Resident, Perim.

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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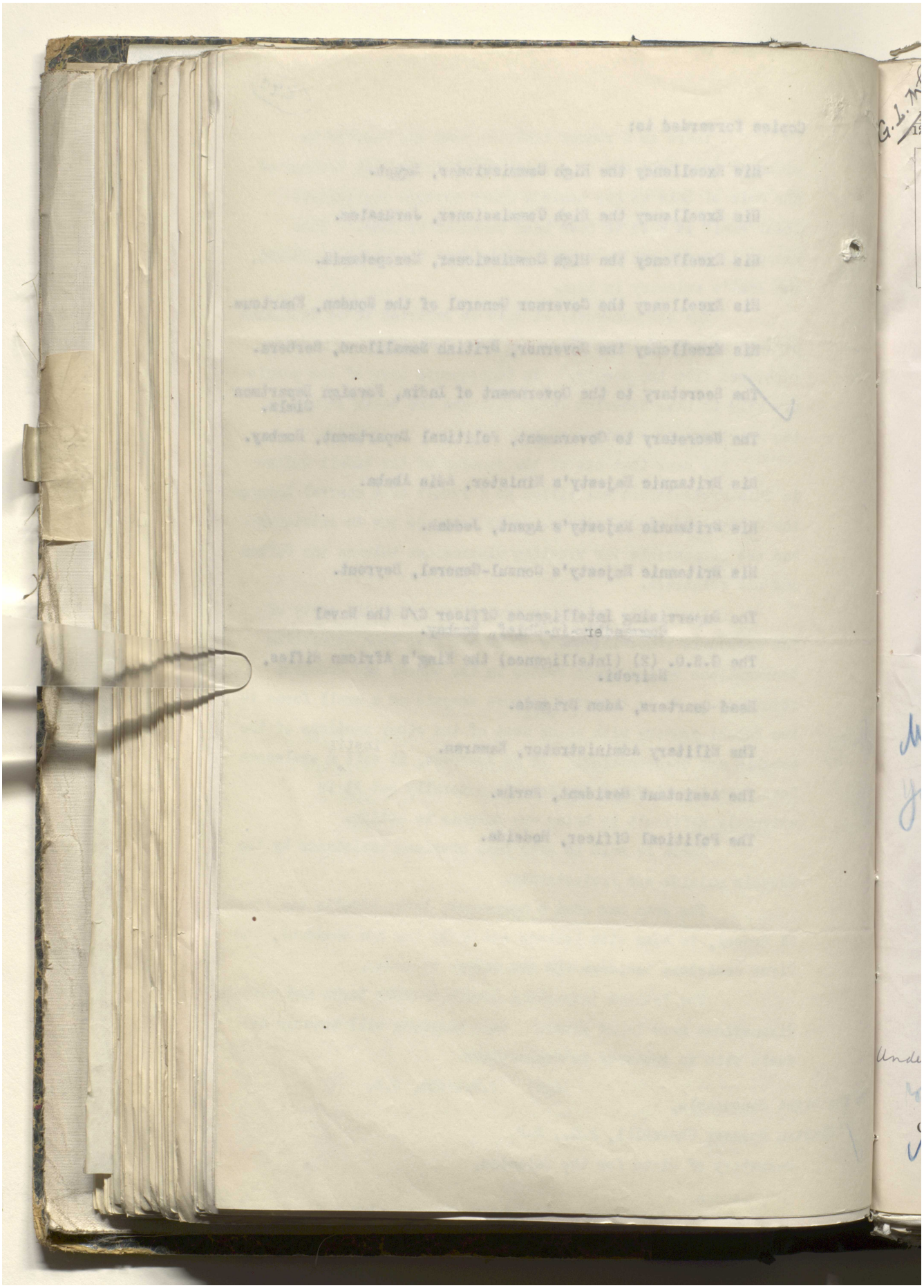

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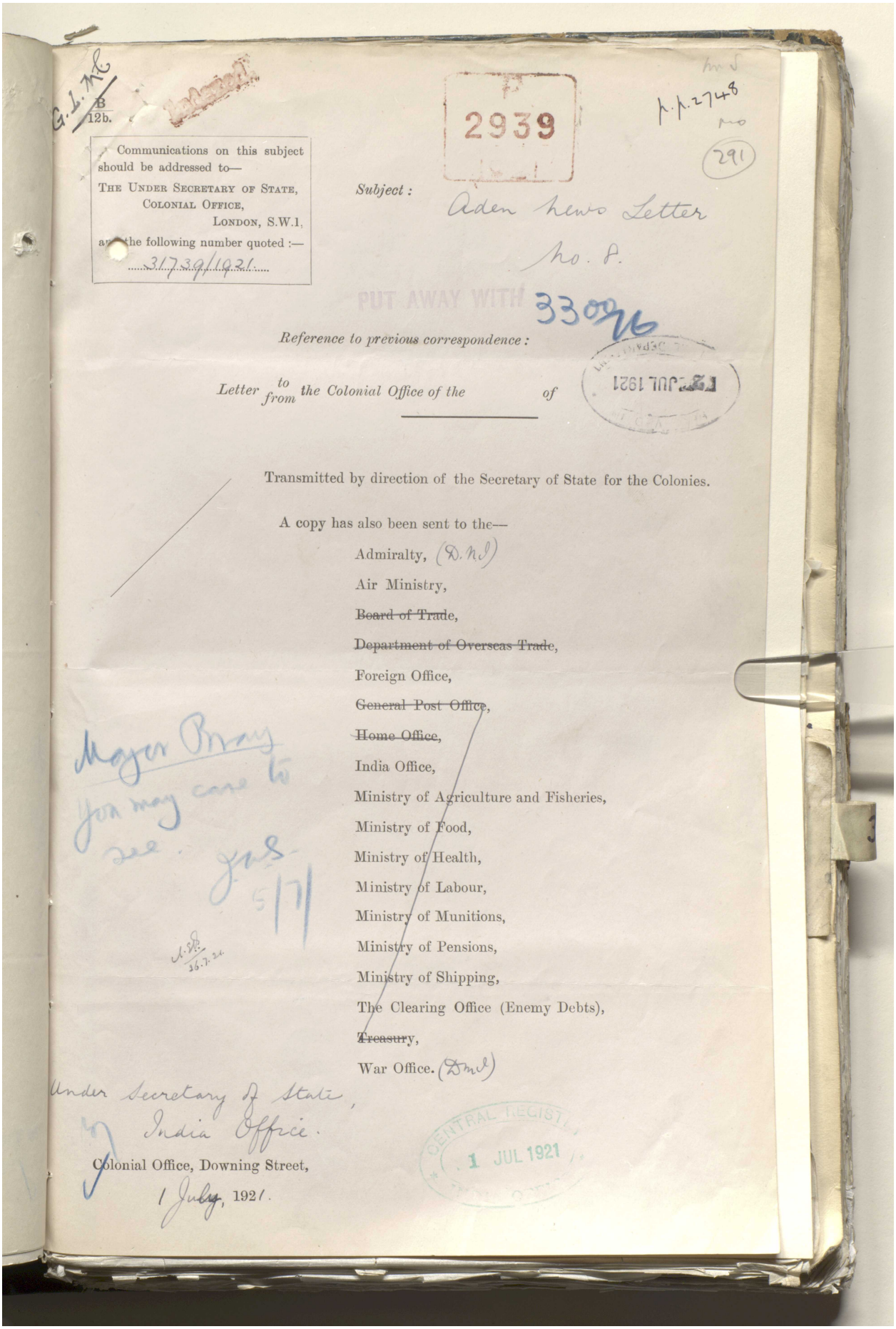

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2939

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COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
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31739/1921

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~~Home Office~~,
India Office,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Ministry of Food,
Ministry of Health,
Ministry of Labour,
Ministry of Munitions,
Ministry of Pensions,
Ministry of Shipping,
The Clearing Office (Enemy Debts),
~~Treasury~~,
War Office. (D. Nd)

Major Bray
You may care to see.
J.R.S.
5/7

A.S.B.
26.7.21.

Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
1 July, 1921.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
1 JUL 1921

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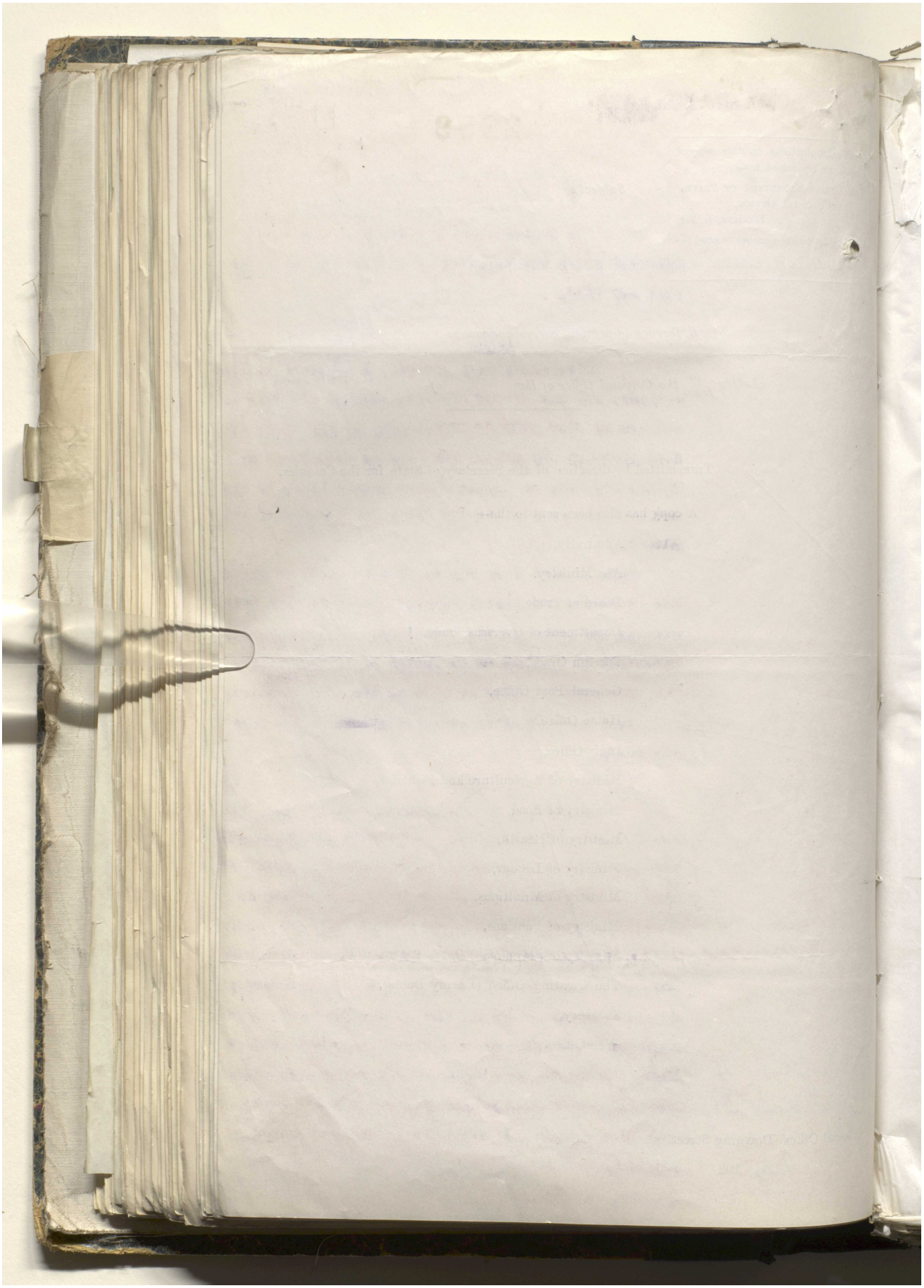

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Enclosure to Aden desp. No. 22

8th ADEN NEWS LETTER.
SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
10th June 1921.

(292)

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The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 23rd May 1921.

ASIR.

Lieutenant Naji Effendi, a Baghdadi ex-Turkish officer, who was in the Idrisi's service for some time informs me that Abha is undoubtedly in the hands of Bin Saud although the actual garrison is only about 20 men. Tithes etc. are collected in Bin Saud's name. In Northern Asir Bin Saud holds the hills and the Idrisi the plains.

Naji Effendi also states that in order to please the Wahabis, the Idrisi removed the domes from several mosques and tombs in his territory. (In this connection attention is invited to my letter of 5th May 1921).

The Wahabi leader at Abha is the Amir Shawaish.

Naji Effendi anticipates an attack on the Imam by Bin Saud.

TIHAMA.

According to the news received by the Political Officer, Hodeida, from his Menakha and Bajil agent, the Idrisi troops occupied the village of "Attar" which they had been besieging since their last attack on Jabel Bura. This was the last place the Zeidis were holding on the borders between Jabel Reima and Bura. The Idrisi troops also occupied Bait el Manama, an important place in Jabel Reima, after a sanguinary engagement, in which 2500 Zeidi soldiers under 9 Imamic lieutenants took part. The Zeidis were defeated and retired in disorder leaving behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The Zeidi losses are estimated at 300 killed and 300 wounded, and those of the Idrisi at 50 killed and 20 wounded.

The

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(293)

The ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, is reported to have gone to Sana from Menakha to meet an ex-Turkish Major Hasan-el-Jandari, who is said to have arrived at Sana via Aden and Lahej from Constantinople with letters. He is said to have brought news that the British morale has been badly shattered by Mustafa Kemal Pasha and that on receipt of official lists from Mahmud Nadhim Pasha all Turkish officials in the Yemen will receive their pay.

This individual appears to be identical with Hass Effendi al Gindari referred to in my official letter No.10 dated 27th April 1921.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, states that he has not been able to discover the nature of the correspondence which the Imam and the ex Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, are said to be carrying on with the Italians through Abdul Shakoor, the Italian agent at Khoka.

Abdullah bin Ahmad bin Wazir arrived at Zabeed on 1st May with 600 Zeidi troops, one gun and 55 cases of ammunition. On the arrival of these troops, the Amil, Sayed Mahomed ad Dair, was arrested and is kept in custody pending arrival of the newly appointed Amil, Khalfa, when Sayed Dari will be sent to Sana to be tried on charges of ill-treatment, religious persecutions and blackmailing, said to be brought against him by Zabeed merchants.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, states that Sayed Abdul Kader, the chief Mansab of Marawa paid him a visit on the 28th April last. Captain Fazluddin says that the Sayed is an intelligent and sensible man, but fanatical and bigoted. He hates the Imam, but seems to feel that the Mansabs of the Yemen, on the whole, have lost a good deal of their prestige through the influence of the Idrisi. Captain Fazluddin considers that this opinion is correct probably because the Idrisi, though conscious of the Mansab's hold on the popular mind, and consequently very scrupulously considerate in his treatment of them, does not pander to them as much as the Turkish Government did.

YEMEN

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294

YEMEN (Upper & Lower).

The Imam is proceeding with the reorganisation and training of his army under Turkish officers. Ibb is one of the training centres.

The Imam is reported to have fortified Sana and Shahara, his former capital, and to have removed all the valuables to the latter place.

If this report is true, the Imam probably believes in the truth of the many rumours floating about the Yemen that an attack by Bin Saud on the Imam is pending in the near future.

A man, who recently arrived from Sana, states that the Imam has been writing letters to Turks in Constantinople asking them to supply him with military stores and troops and to come and reoccupy the Yemen before it is taken by the English, who are putting everyone against him.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Exaggerated reports of the arrival of large reinforcements at Dala are rife. There is, however, no reason to believe that more than a couple of hundred men have arrived to replace the old garrison which had got out of control as reported in my last letter.

The Naushabi Sultan has refused to grant shelter any longer to Humar refugees from the Haviya district and in consequence an incident, which threatened at one time to cause further friction between ourselves and the Imam, has now closed.

The local leader Kayed Saleh made one raid across the Protectorate border in pursuit of fugitives but the attitude of Ali ibn Wazir, the Amil at Taiz was correct throughout.

I have just received news that the Qadhi al Arashi, who was the Imamic emissary at Aden for a considerable period during the war, has arrived at Lahej

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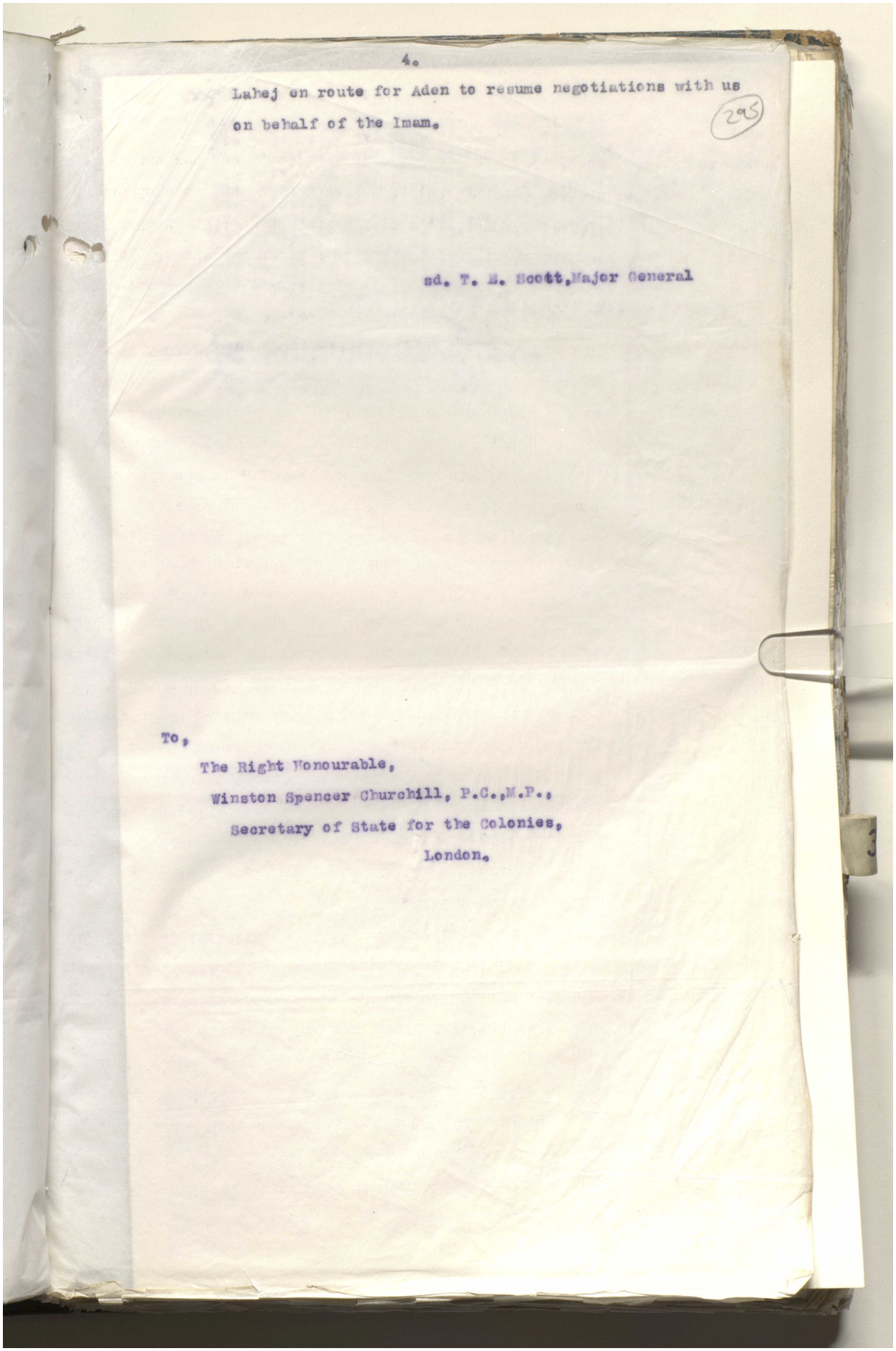

4.

Lahej en route for Aden to resume negotiations with us on behalf of the Imam.

(295)

sd. T. E. Scott, Major General

To,

The Right Honourable,
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
London.

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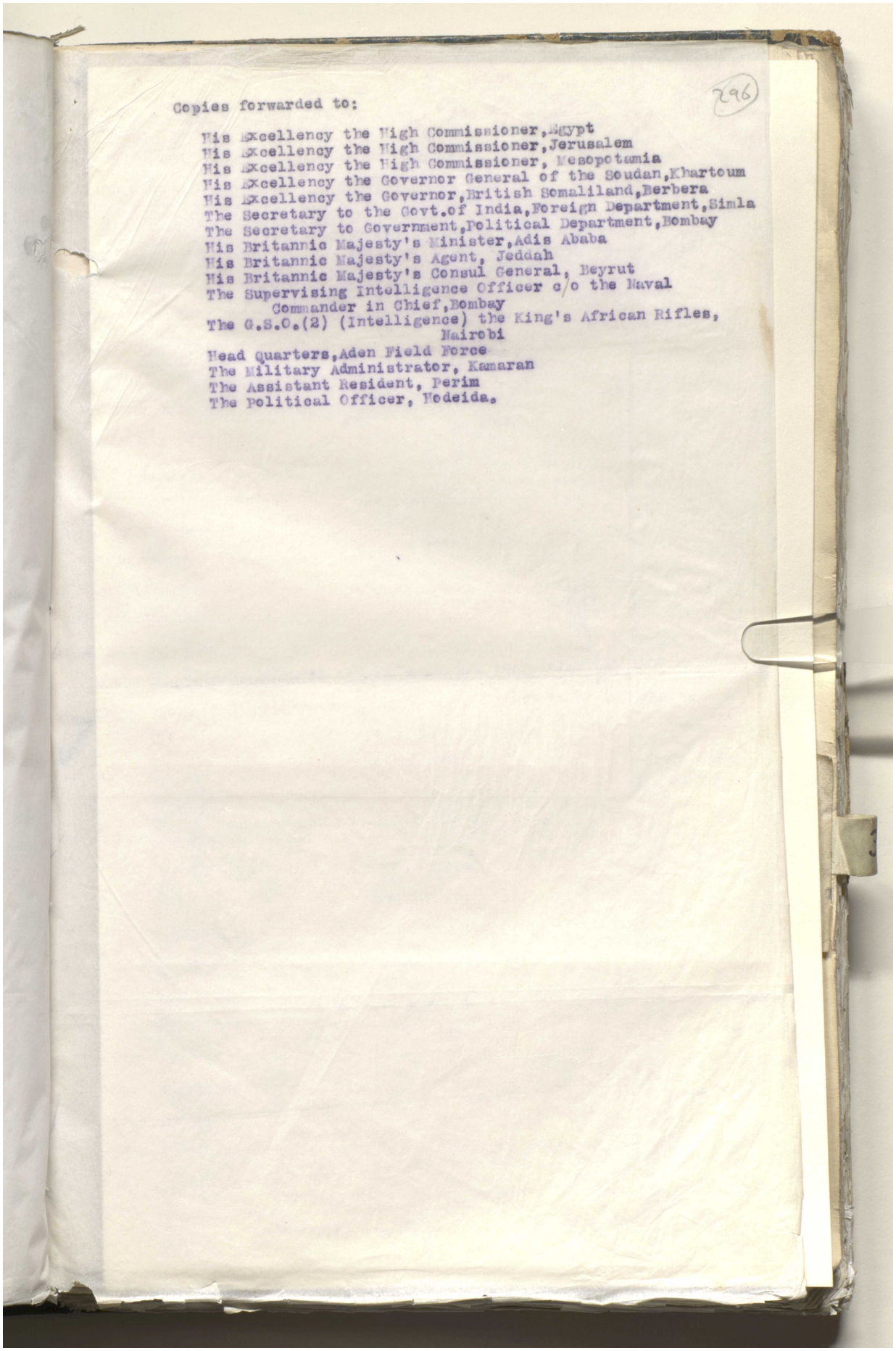

296

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His Excellency the High Commissioner,Jerusalem
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia
His Excellency the Governor General of the Soudan,Khartoum
His Excellency the Governor,British Somaliland,Berbera
The Secretary to the Govt.of India,Foreign Department,Simla
The Secretary to Government,Political Department,Bombay
His Britannic Majesty's Minister,Adis Ababa
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah
His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Beyrut
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander in Chief,Bombay
The G.S.O.(2) (Intelligence) the King's African Rifles, Nairobi
Head Quarters,Aden Field Force
The Military Administrator, Kamaran
The Assistant Resident, Perim
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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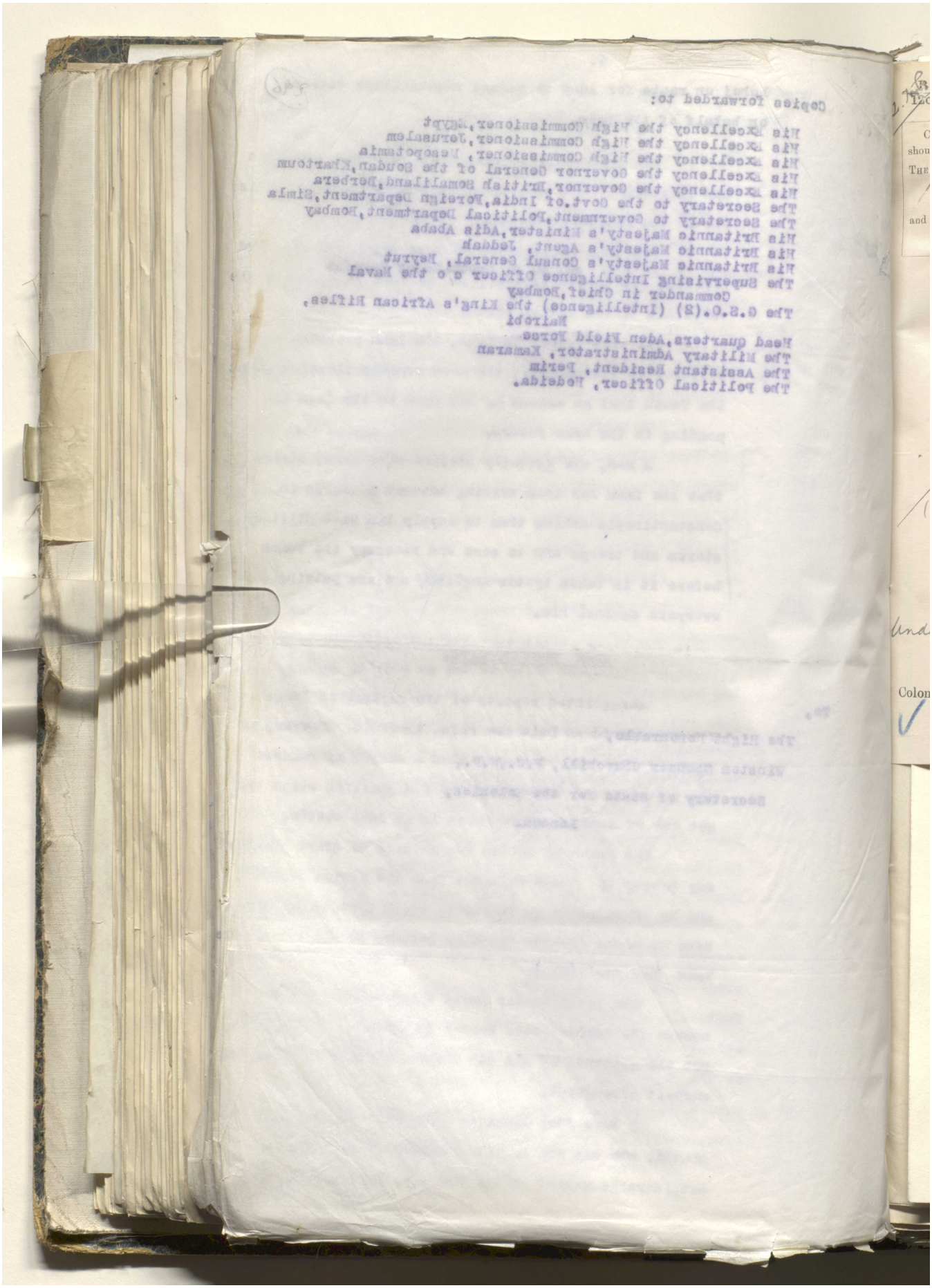

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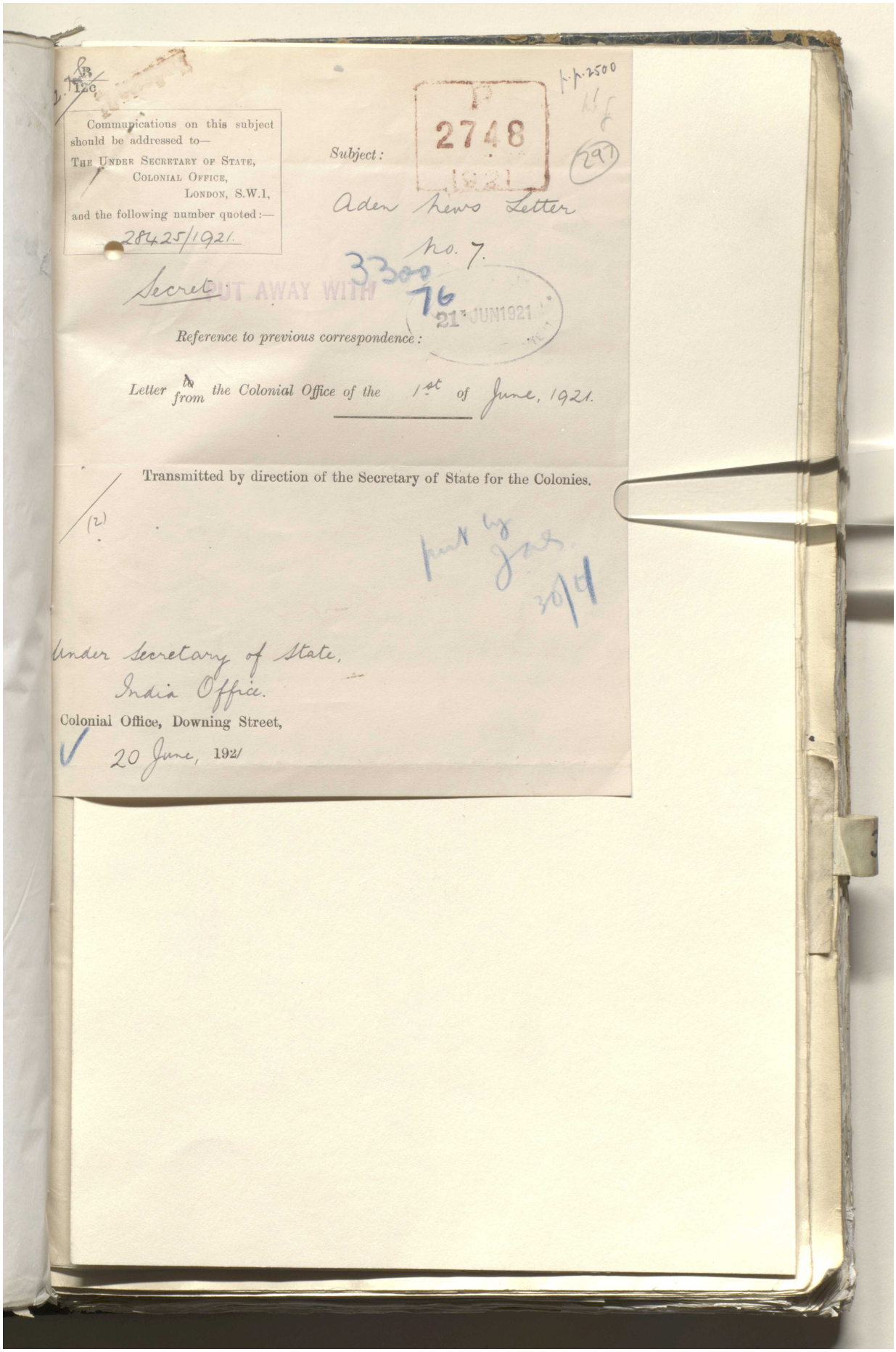

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
28425/1921.

2748

Subject: Aden News Letter no. 7.

Secret

3300/76

21 JUN 1921

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Colonial Office of the 1st of June, 1921.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(2)

Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
20 June, 1921

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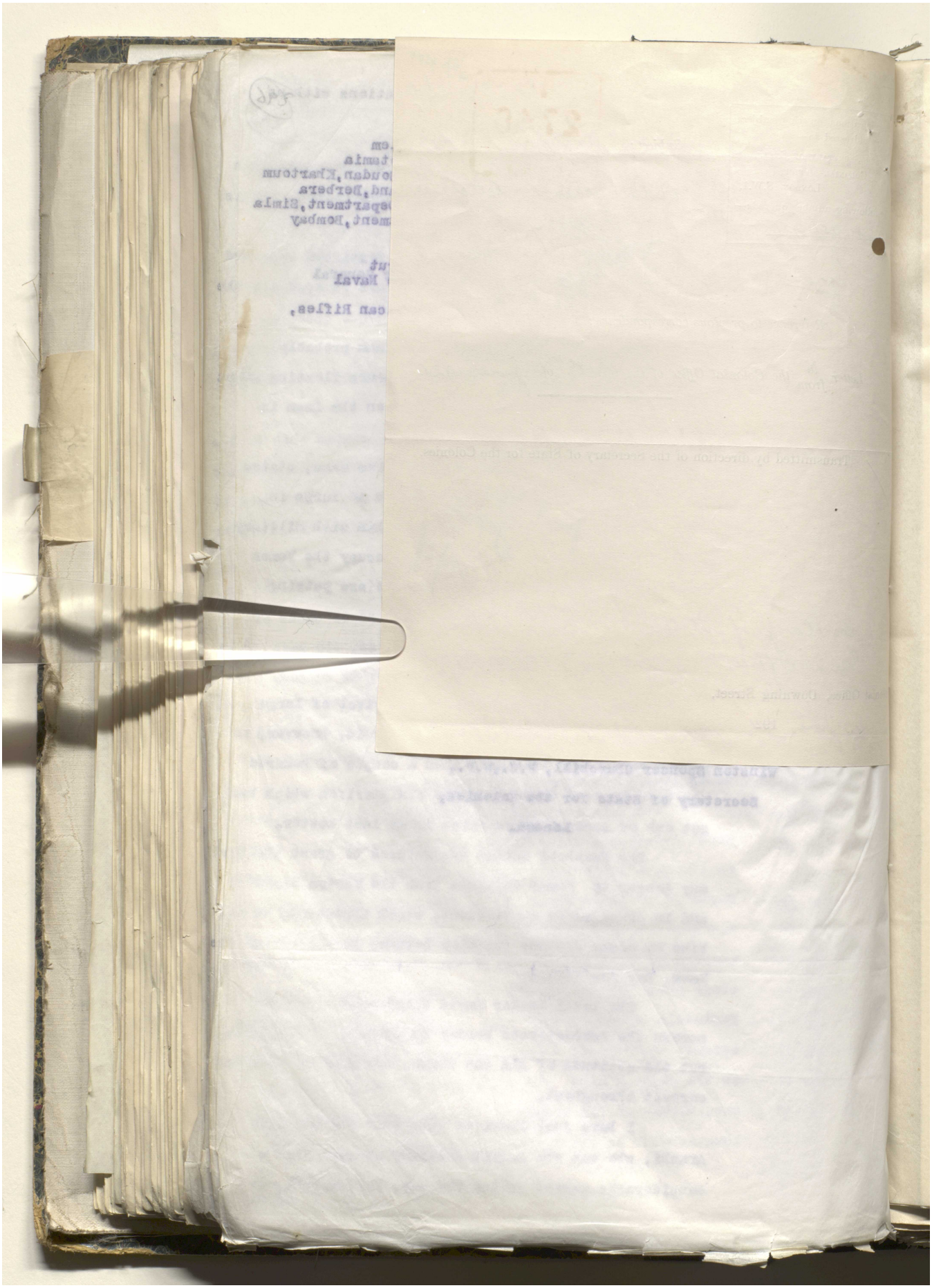

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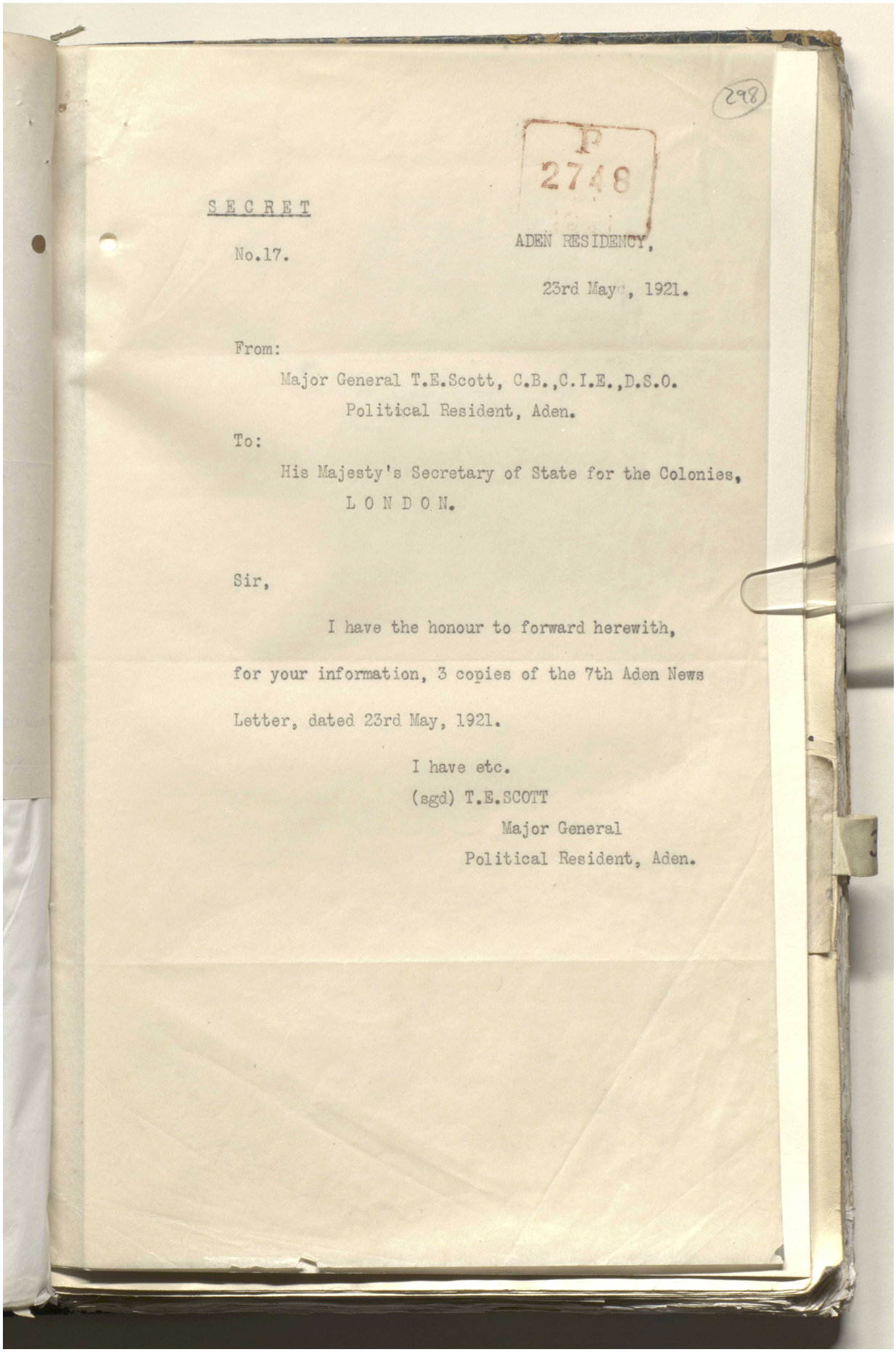

(298)

P
2748

S E C R E T

No.17.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

23rd May, 1921.

From:

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden.

To:

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
L O N D O N.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, 3 copies of the 7th Aden News Letter, dated 23rd May, 1921.

I have etc.
(sgd) T.E.SCOTT
Major General
Political Resident, Aden.

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SECRET

No.17.

ADEN RESIDENCY.

25rd May, 1921.

From:

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden.

To:

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,
L O N D O N.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith,

for your information, 3 copies of the 7th Aden News

Letter, dated 25rd May, 1921.

I have etc.

(sgd) T.E.SCOTT

Major General
Political Resident, Aden.

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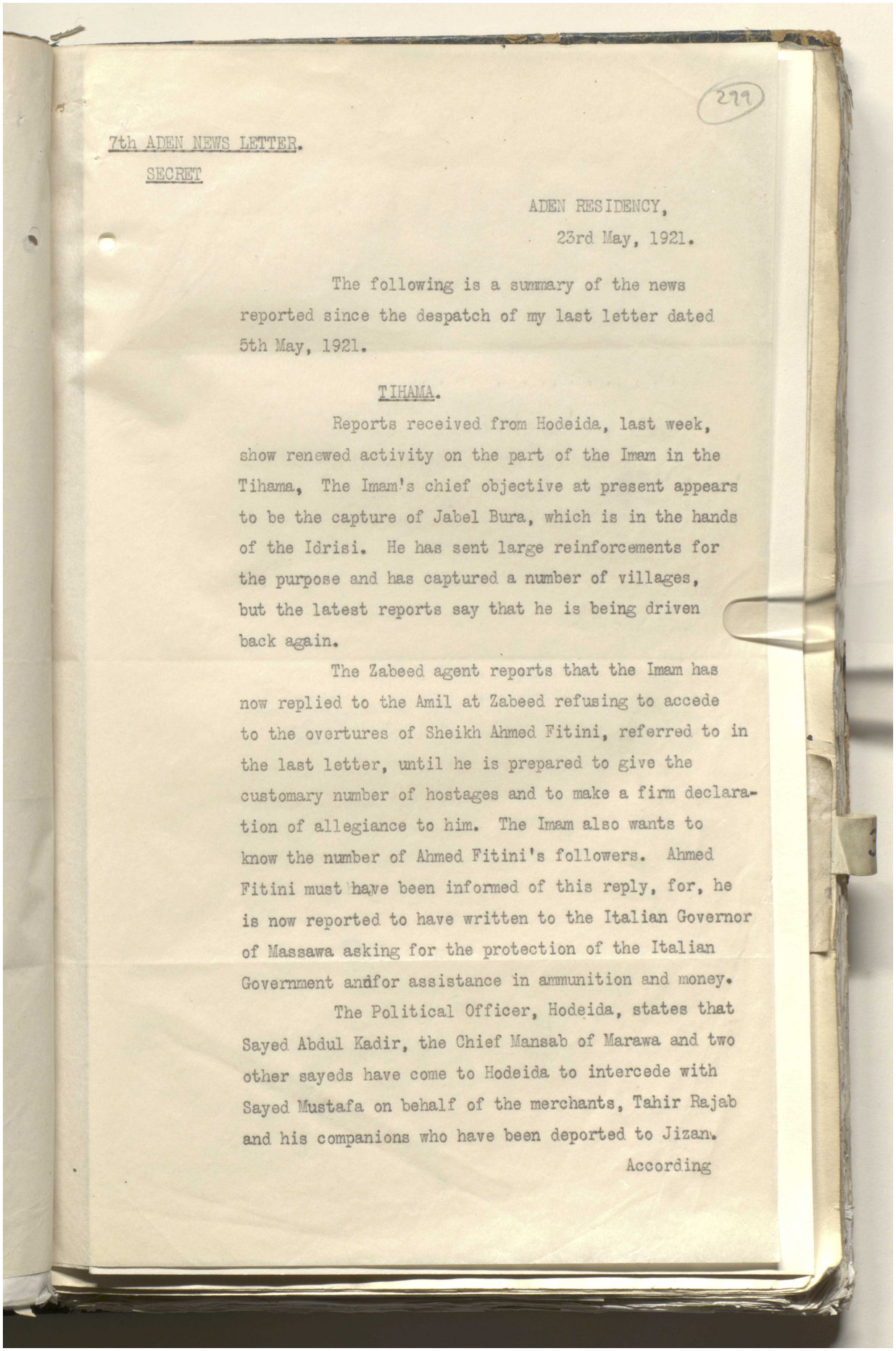

299

7th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET

ADEN RESIDENCY,
23rd May, 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 5th May, 1921.

TIHAMA.

Reports received from Hodeida, last week, show renewed activity on the part of the Imam in the Tihama, The Imam's chief objective at present appears to be the capture of Jabel Bura, which is in the hands of the Idrisi. He has sent large reinforcements for the purpose and has captured a number of villages, but the latest reports say that he is being driven back again.

The Zabeed agent reports that the Imam has now replied to the Amil at Zabeed refusing to accede to the overtures of Sheikh Ahmed Fitini, referred to in the last letter, until he is prepared to give the customary number of hostages and to make a firm declaration of allegiance to him. The Imam also wants to know the number of Ahmed Fitini's followers. Ahmed Fitini must have been informed of this reply, for, he is now reported to have written to the Italian Governor of Massawa asking for the protection of the Italian Government andfor assistance in ammunition and money.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, states that Sayed Abdul Kadir, the Chief Mansab of Marawa and two other sayeds have come to Hodeida to intercede with Sayed Mustafa on behalf of the merchants, Tahir Rajab and his companions who have been deported to Jizan.

According

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THE ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET

ADEN RESIDENCY,

23rd May, 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 5th May, 1921.

YEMEN.

Reports received from Hodeida, last week, show renewed activity on the part of the Imam in the Tihama. The Imam's chief objective at present appears to be the capture of Jabel Bura, which is in the hands of the Idrisi. He has sent large reinforcements for the purpose and has captured a number of villages, but the latest reports say that he is being driven back again.

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The Political Officer, Hodeida, states that Sayed Abdul Kadir, the Chief Mamash of Marawa and two other sayeds have come to Hodeida to intercede with Sayed Mustafa on behalf of the merchants, Tahir Hajab and his companions who have been deported to Ilaan.

According

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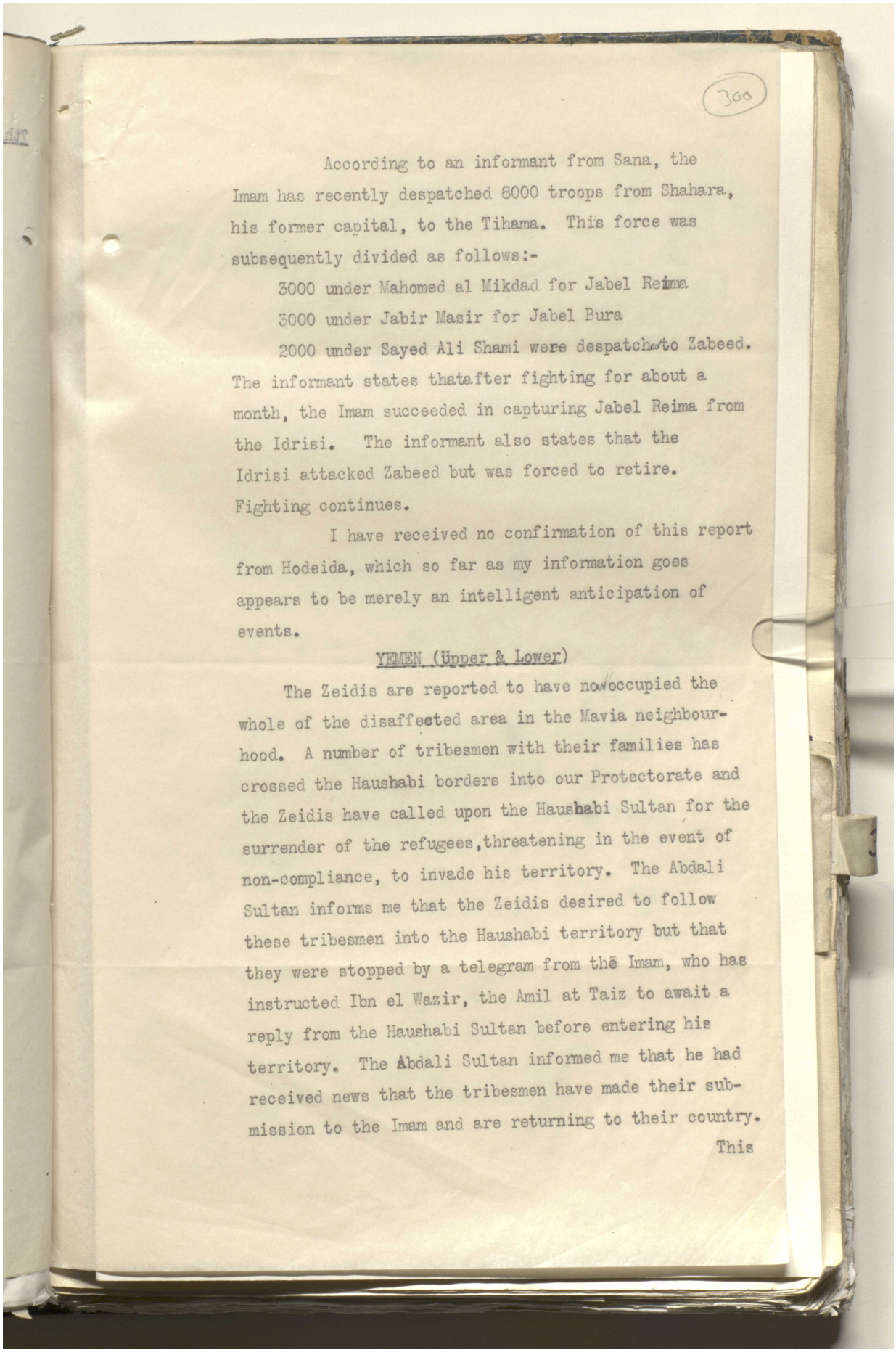

300

According to an informant from Sana, the Imam has recently despatched 8000 troops from Shahara, his former capital, to the Tihama. This force was subsequently divided as follows:-

3000 under Mahomed al Mikdad for Jabel Reima

3000 under Jabir Masir for Jabel Bura

2000 under Sayed Ali Shami were despatched to Zabeed.

The informant states that after fighting for about a month, the Imam succeeded in capturing Jabel Reima from the Idrisi. The informant also states that the Idrisi attacked Zabeed but was forced to retire. Fighting continues.

I have received no confirmation of this report from Hodeida, which so far as my information goes appears to be merely an intelligent anticipation of events.

YEMEN (Upper & Lower)

The Zeidis are reported to have now occupied the whole of the disaffected area in the Mavia neighbourhood. A number of tribesmen with their families has crossed the Haushabi borders into our Protectorate and the Zeidis have called upon the Haushabi Sultan for the surrender of the refugees, threatening in the event of non-compliance, to invade his territory. The Abdali Sultan informs me that the Zeidis desired to follow these tribesmen into the Haushabi territory but that they were stopped by a telegram from the Imam, who has instructed Ibn el Wazir, the Amil at Taiz to await a reply from the Haushabi Sultan before entering his territory. The Abdali Sultan informed me that he had received news that the tribesmen have made their submission to the Imam and are returning to their country.

This

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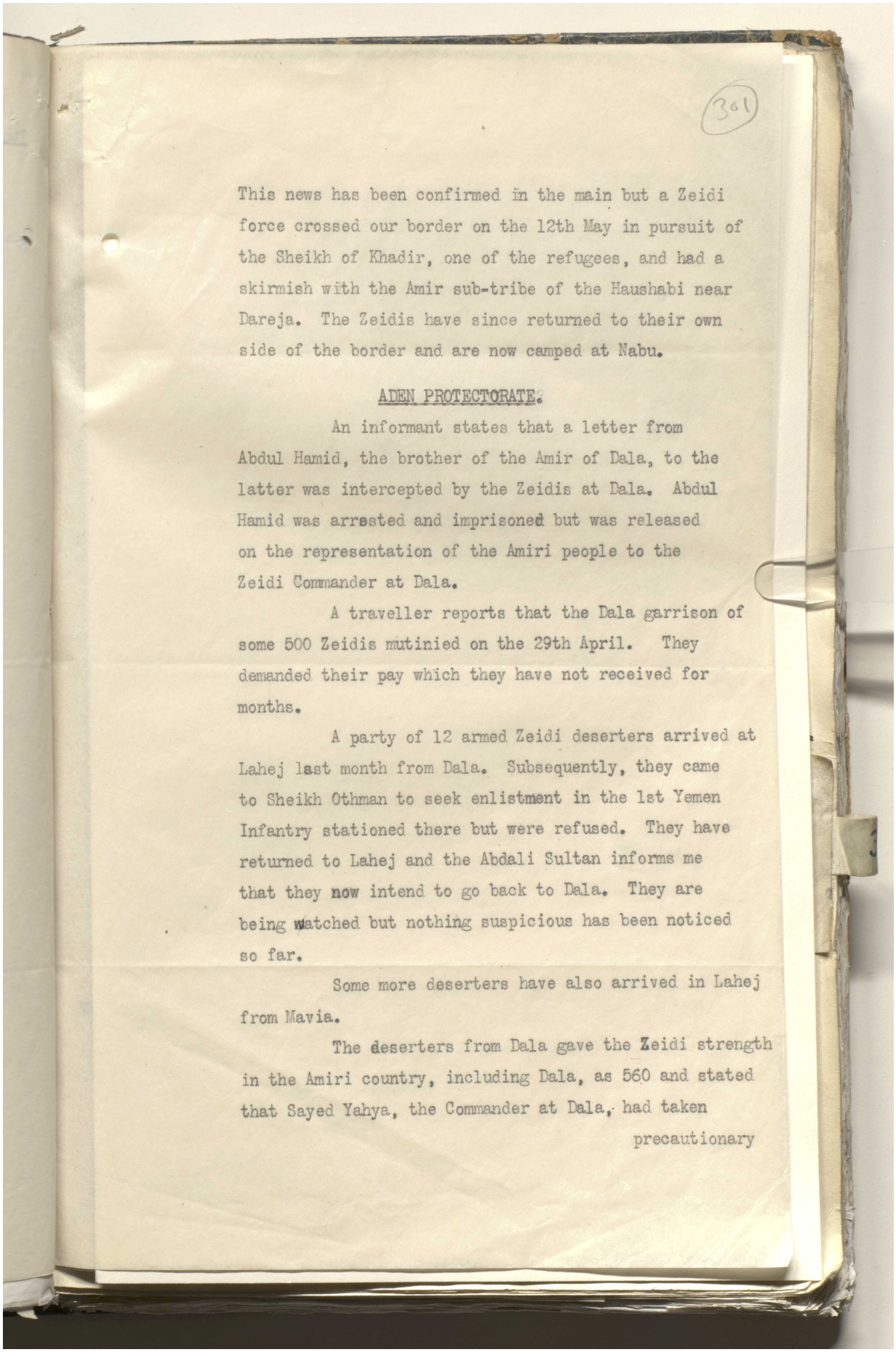

301

This news has been confirmed in the main but a Zeidi force crossed our border on the 12th May in pursuit of the Sheikh of Khadir, one of the refugees, and had a skirmish with the Amir sub-tribe of the Haushabi near Dareja. The Zeidis have since returned to their own side of the border and are now camped at Nabu.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

An informant states that a letter from Abdul Hamid, the brother of the Amir of Dala, to the latter was intercepted by the Zeidis at Dala. Abdul Hamid was arrested and imprisoned but was released on the representation of the Amiri people to the Zeidi Commander at Dala.

A traveller reports that the Dala garrison of some 500 Zeidis mutinied on the 29th April. They demanded their pay which they have not received for months.

A party of 12 armed Zeidi deserters arrived at Lahej last month from Dala. Subsequently, they came to Sheikh Othman to seek enlistment in the 1st Yemen Infantry stationed there but were refused. They have returned to Lahej and the Abdali Sultan informs me that they now intend to go back to Dala. They are being watched but nothing suspicious has been noticed so far.

Some more deserters have also arrived in Lahej from Mavia.

The deserters from Dala gave the Zeidi strength in the Amiri country, including Dala, as 560 and stated that Sayed Yahya, the Commander at Dala, had taken

precautionary

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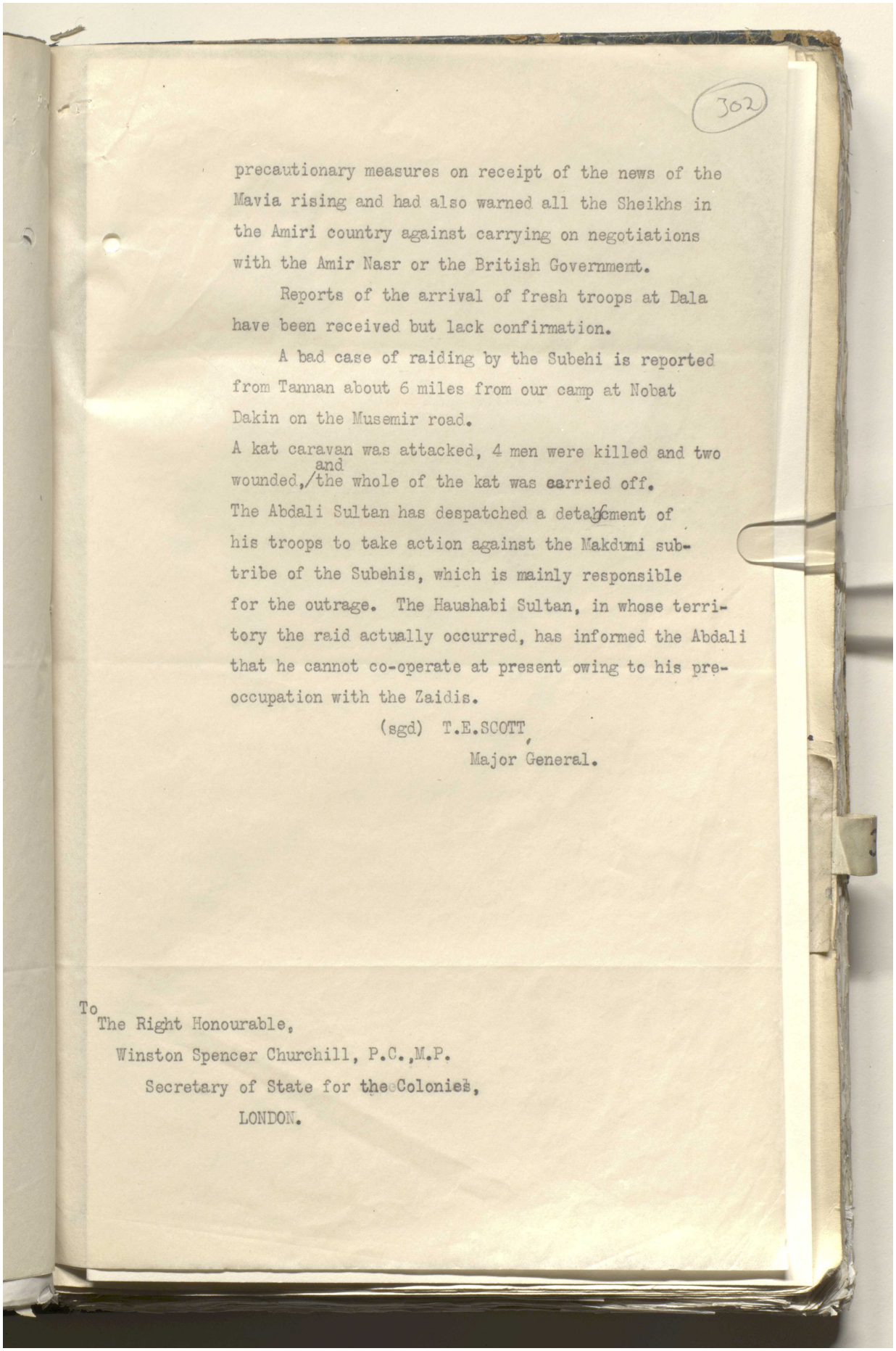

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precautionary measures on receipt of the news of the Mavia rising and had also warned all the Sheikhs in the Amiri country against carrying on negotiations with the Amir Nasr or the British Government.

Reports of the arrival of fresh troops at Dala have been received but lack confirmation.

A bad case of raiding by the Subehi is reported from Tannan about 6 miles from our camp at Nobat Dakin on the Musemir road.

A kat caravan was attacked, 4 men were killed and two wounded, and the whole of the kat was carried off.

The Abdali Sultan has despatched a detachment of his troops to take action against the Makdumi sub-tribe of the Subehis, which is mainly responsible for the outrage. The Haushabi Sultan, in whose territory the raid actually occurred, has informed the Abdali that he cannot co-operate at present owing to his pre-occupation with the Zaidis.

(sgd) T.E.SCOTT,
Major General.

To
The Right Honourable,
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C.,M.P.
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
LONDON.

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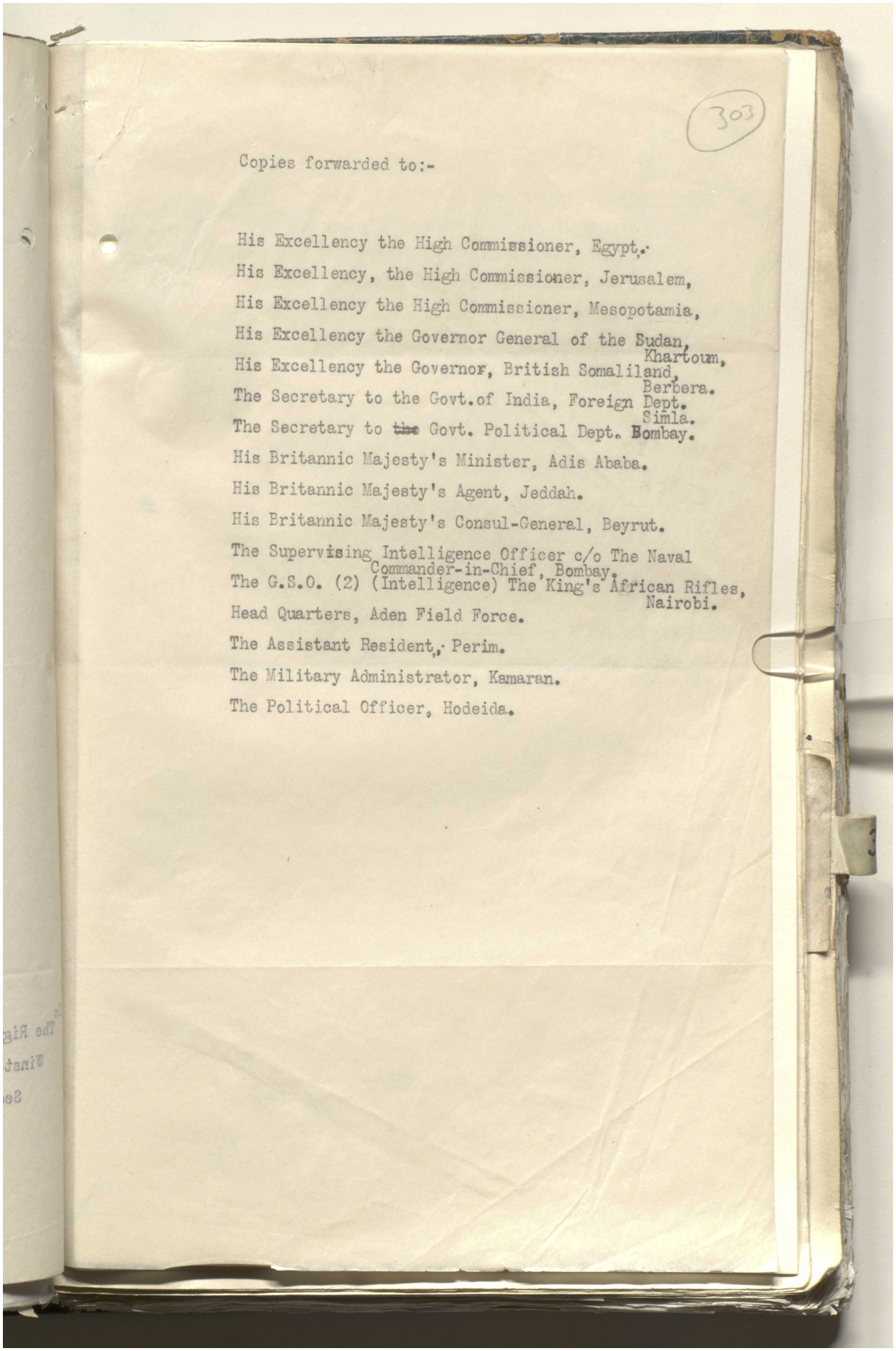

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His Excellency, the High Commissioner, Jerusalem,
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia,
His Excellency the Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum,
His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Govt.of India, Foreign Dept. Simla.
The Secretary to ~~the~~ Govt. Political Dept. Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa.
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Beyrut.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o The Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
The G.S.O. (2) (Intelligence) The King's African Rifles, Nairobi.
Head Quarters, Aden Field Force.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamaran.
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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His Excellency, the High Commissioner, Jerusalem.
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia.
His Excellency the Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum.
His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.
The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept. Simla.
The Secretary to the Govt. Political Dept. Bombay.
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa.
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.
His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Beyrut.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o The Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
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Head Quarters, Aden Field Force.
The Assistant Resident, Perim.
The Military Administrator, Kamaran.
The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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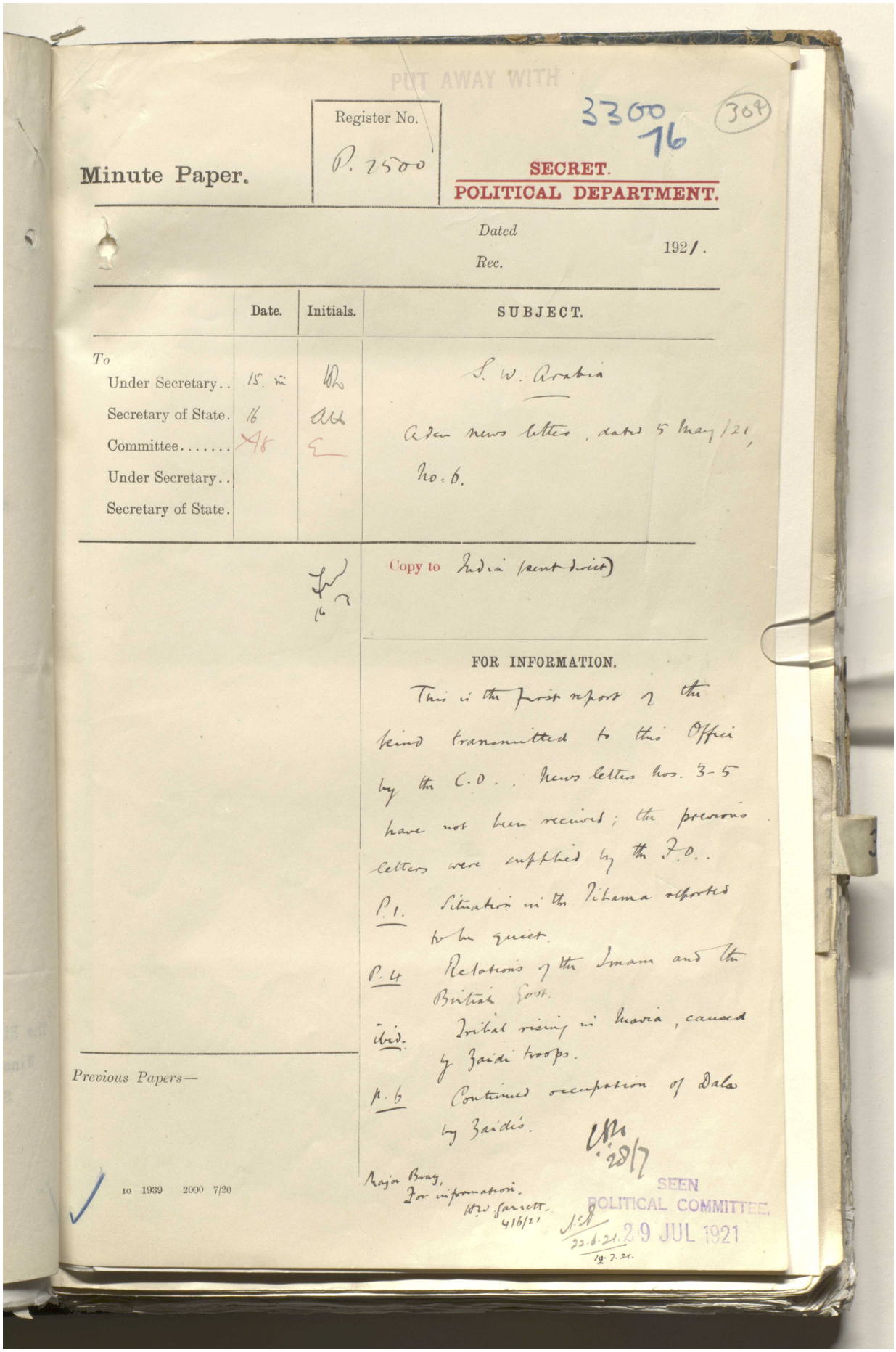

PUT AWAY WITH

3300/16 (304)

Minute Paper.

Register No. P. 2500

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1921.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			S. W. Arabia
Under Secretary..	15. vi		Aden news letters, dated 5 May/21,
Secretary of State.	16		No. 6.
Committee.....	18		
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to India (sent direct)

FOR INFORMATION.

This is the first report of the kind transmitted to this Office by the C.O.. News letters nos. 3-5 have not been received; the previous letters were supplied by the F.O..

P. 1. Situation in the Yemama reported to be quiet.

P. 4 Relations of the Imam and the British Govt.

ibid. Tribal rising in Nuqeia, caused by Zaidi troops.

p. 6 Continued occupation of Dala by Zaidis.

Previous Papers—

10 1939 2000 7/20

Major Bray, For information. 16/7 Garrett. 4/6/21

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE 29 JUL 1921

22.6.21. 19.7.21.

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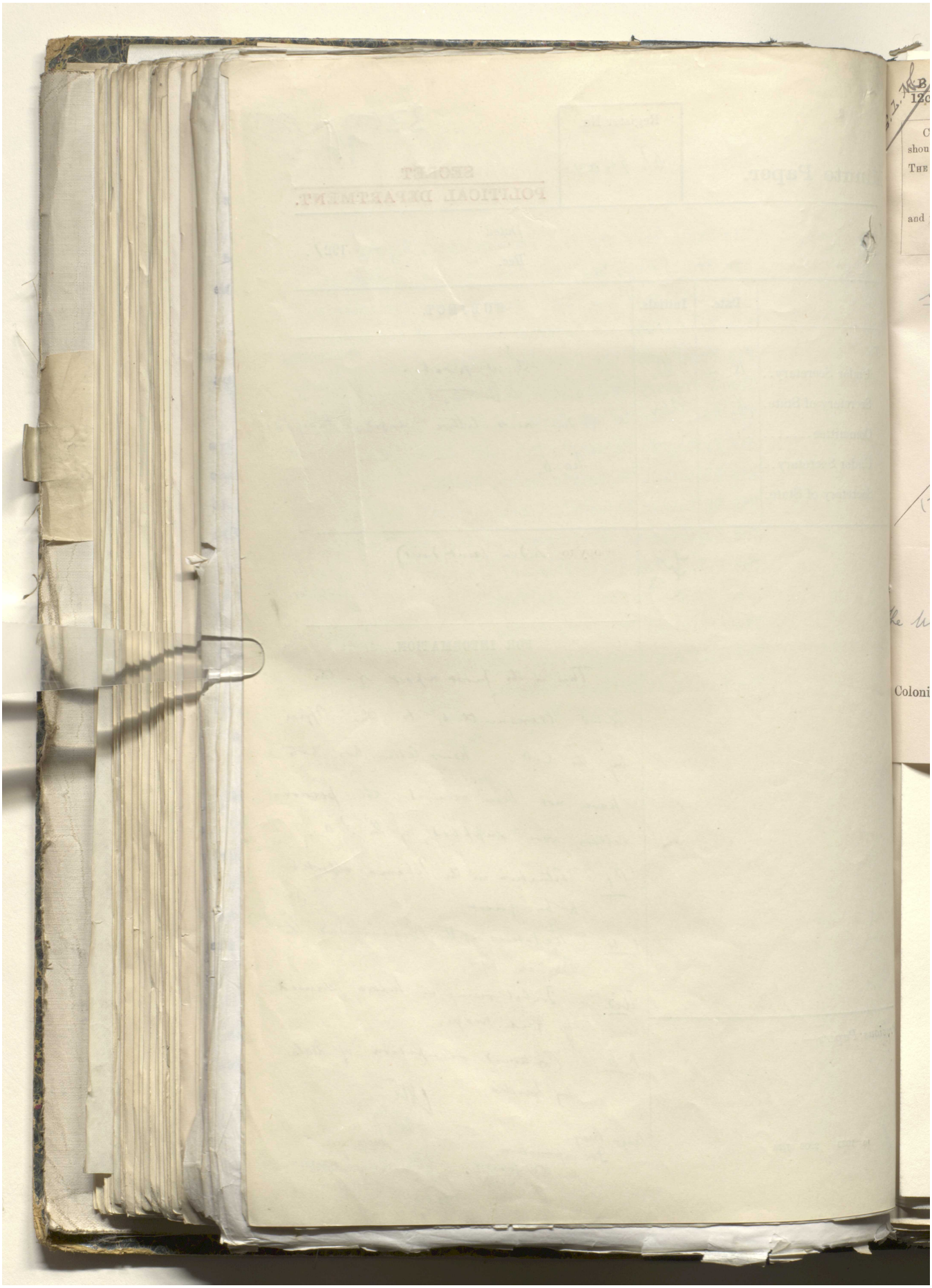

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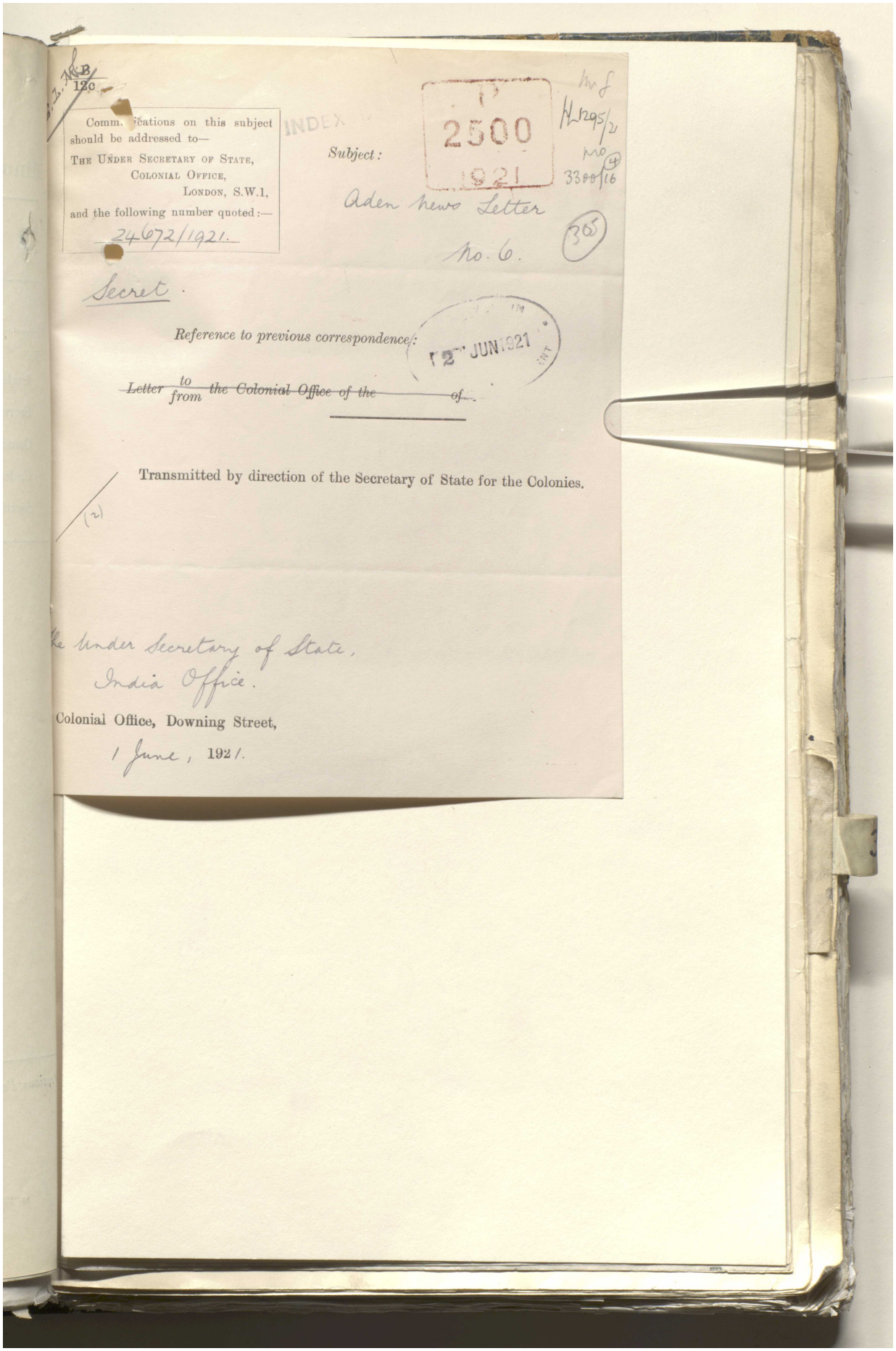

3. N.B 120

Comm. ications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—
24672/1921.

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P 2500 1921

Subject: Aden News Letter No. 6.

Mr f
W 1295/21
MO 3300/16
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Secret.

Reference to previous correspondence:

12 JUN 1921

~~Letter to from the Colonial Office of the of~~

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(2)

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
1 June, 1921.

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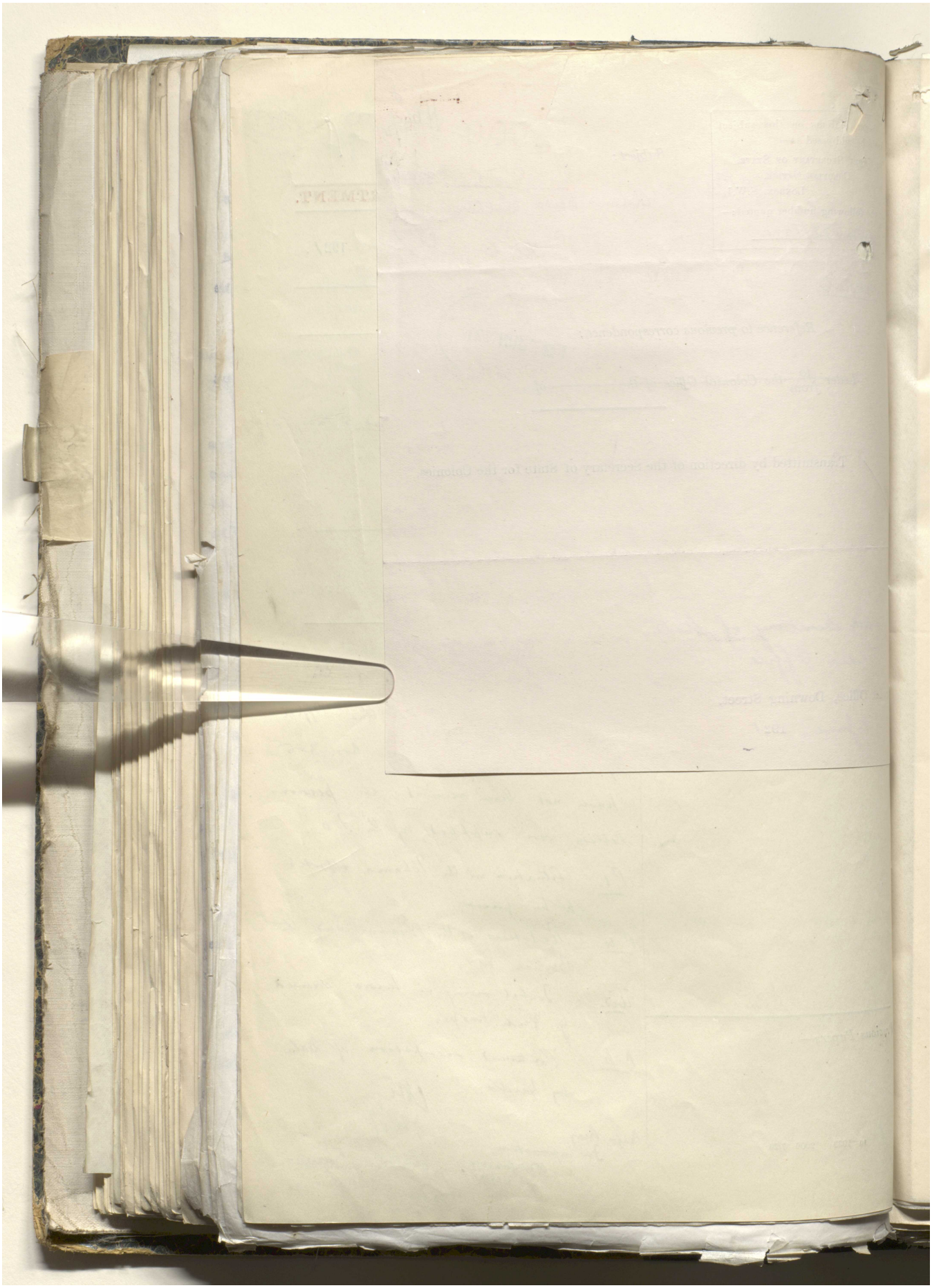

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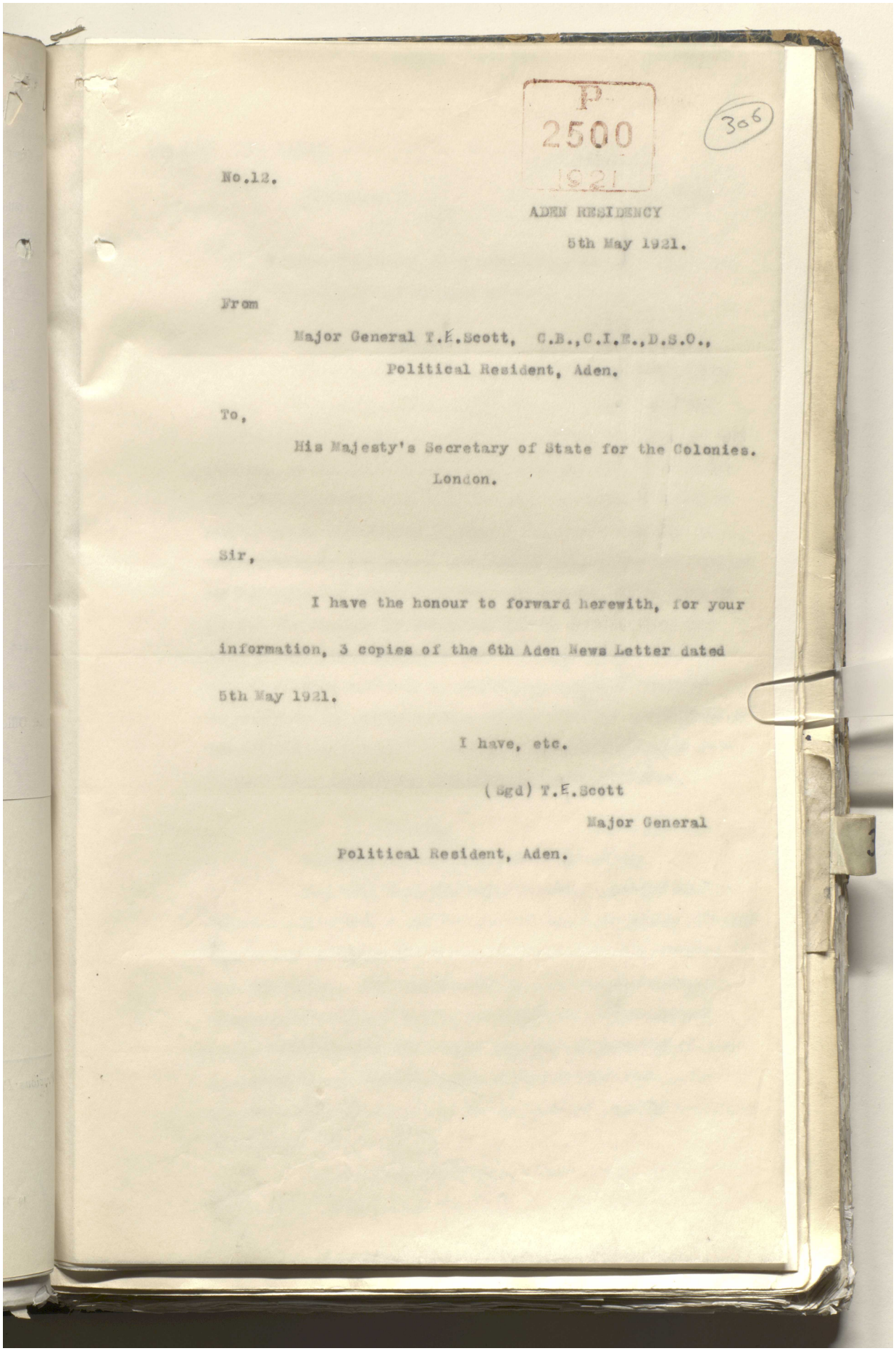

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No.12.

ADEN RESIDENCY

5th May 1921.

From

Major General T.E.Scott, C.B.,C.I.E.,D.S.O.,

Political Resident, Aden.

To,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, 3 copies of the 6th Aden News Letter dated 5th May 1921.

I have, etc.

(Sgd) T.E.Scott

Major General

Political Resident, Aden.

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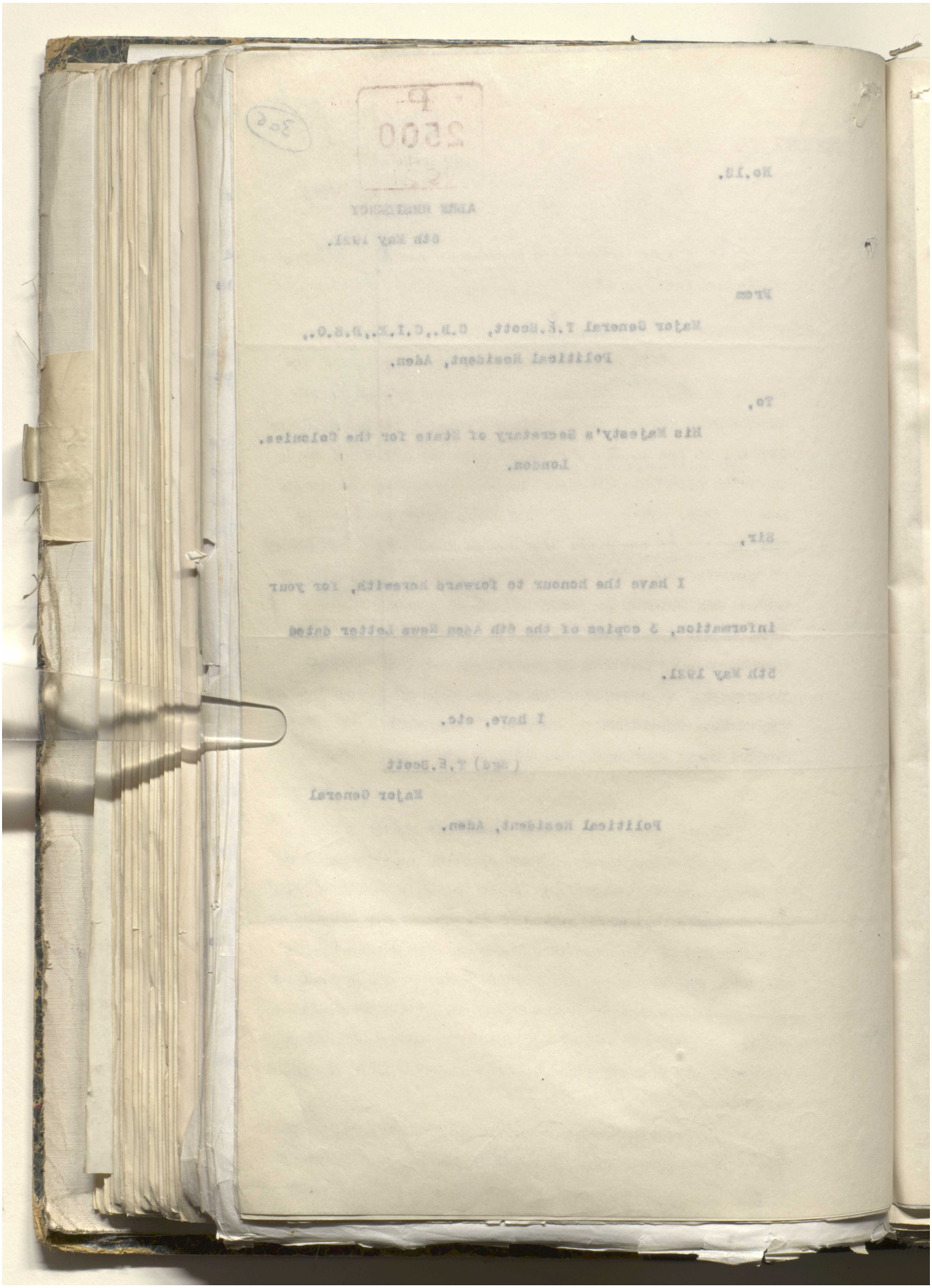

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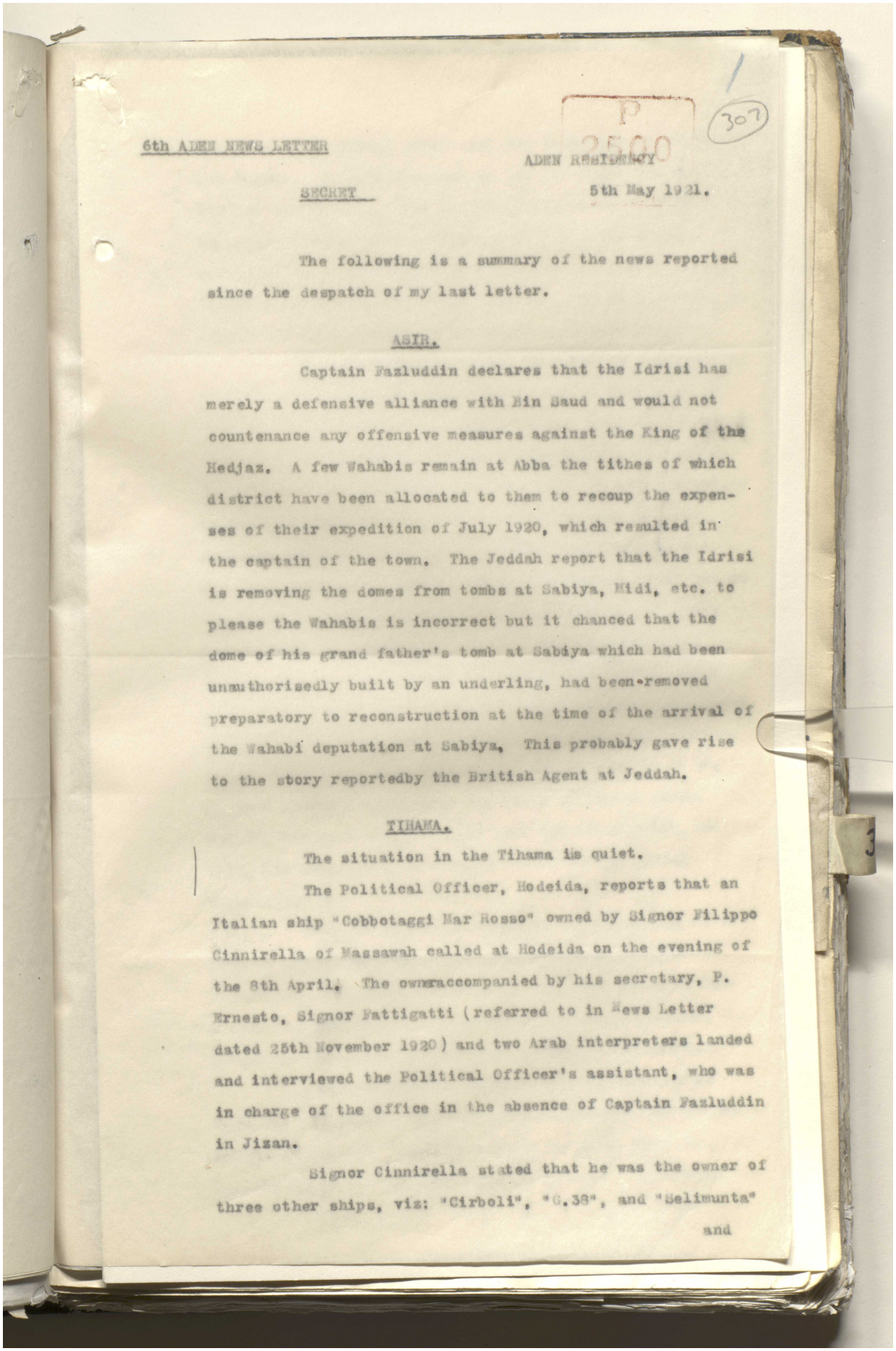

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6th ADEN NEWS LETTER

ADEN RESIDENCY

SECRET

5th May 1921.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin declares that the Idrisi has merely a defensive alliance with Bin Saud and would not countenance any offensive measures against the King of the Hedjaz. A few Wahabis remain at Abba the tithes of which district have been allocated to them to recoup the expenses of their expedition of July 1920, which resulted in the captain of the town. The Jeddah report that the Idrisi is removing the domes from tombs at Sabiya, Midi, etc. to please the Wahabis is incorrect but it chanced that the dome of his grand father's tomb at Sabiya which had been unauthorisedly built by an underling, had been removed preparatory to reconstruction at the time of the arrival of the Wahabi deputation at Sabiya. This probably gave rise to the story reportedby the British Agent at Jeddah.

TIHAMA.

The situation in the Tihama is quiet.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that an Italian ship "Cobbotaggi Mar Rosso" owned by Signor Filippo Cinnirella of Massawah called at Hodeida on the evening of the 8th April. The owneraccompanied by his secretary, P. Ernesto, Signor Pattigatti (referred to in News Letter dated 25th November 1920) and two Arab interpreters landed and interviewed the Political Officer's assistant, who was in charge of the office in the absence of Captain Fazluddin in Jizan.

Signor Cinnirella stated that he was the owner of three other ships, viz: "Cirboli", "C.38", and "Selimunta"

and

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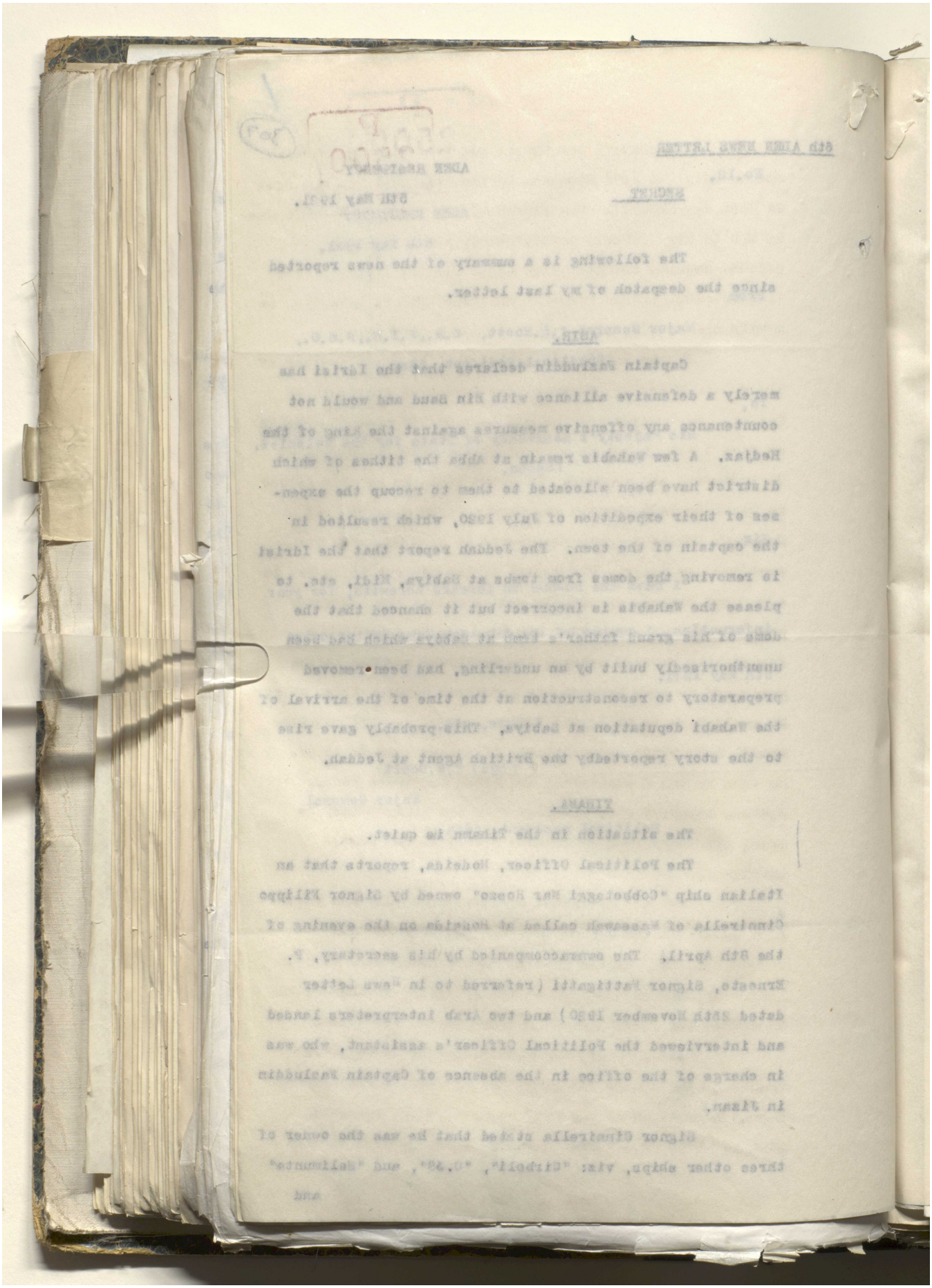

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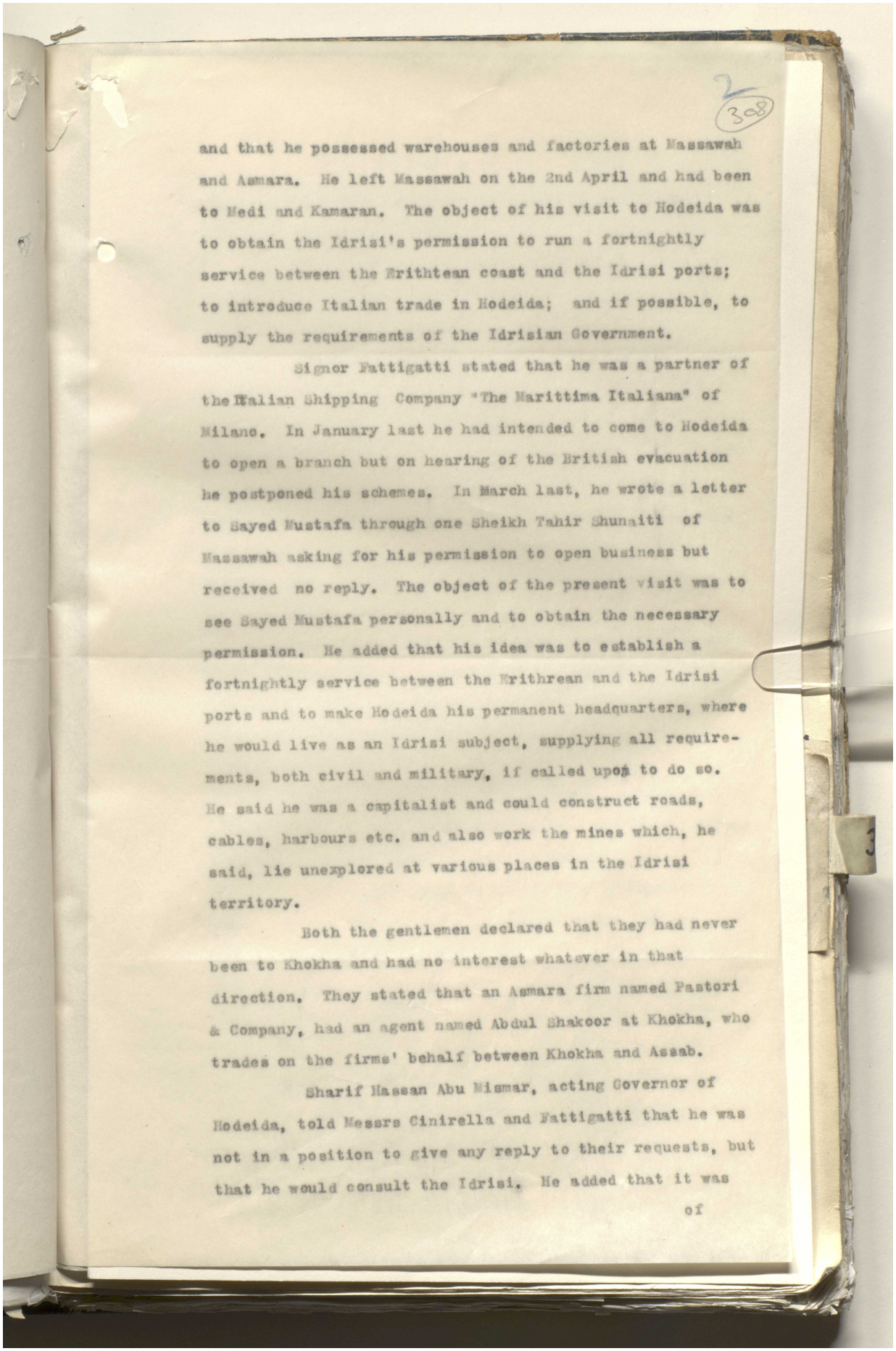

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and that he possessed warehouses and factories at Massawah and Asmara. He left Massawah on the 2nd April and had been to Medi and Kamaran. The object of his visit to Hodeida was to obtain the Idrisi's permission to run a fortnightly service between the Erithtean coast and the Idrisi ports; to introduce Italian trade in Hodeida; and if possible, to supply the requirements of the Idrisian Government.

Signor Fattigatti stated that he was a partner of the Italian Shipping Company "The Marittima Italiana" of Milano. In January last he had intended to come to Hodeida to open a branch but on hearing of the British evacuation he postponed his schemes. In March last, he wrote a letter to Sayed Mustafa through one Sheikh Tahir Shunaiti of Massawah asking for his permission to open business but received no reply. The object of the present visit was to see Sayed Mustafa personally and to obtain the necessary permission. He added that his idea was to establish a fortnightly service between the Erithrean and the Idrisi ports and to make Hodeida his permanent headquarters, where he would live as an Idrisi subject, supplying all requirements, both civil and military, if called upon to do so. He said he was a capitalist and could construct roads, cables, harbours etc. and also work the mines which, he said, lie unexplored at various places in the Idrisi territory.

Both the gentlemen declared that they had never been to Khokha and had no interest whatever in that direction. They stated that an Asmara firm named Pastori & Company, had an agent named Abdul Shakoor at Khokha, who trades on the firms' behalf between Khokha and Assab.

Sharif Hassan Abu Mismar, acting Governor of Hodeida, told Messrs Cinirella and Fattigatti that he was not in a position to give any reply to their requests, but that he would consult the Idrisi. He added that it was

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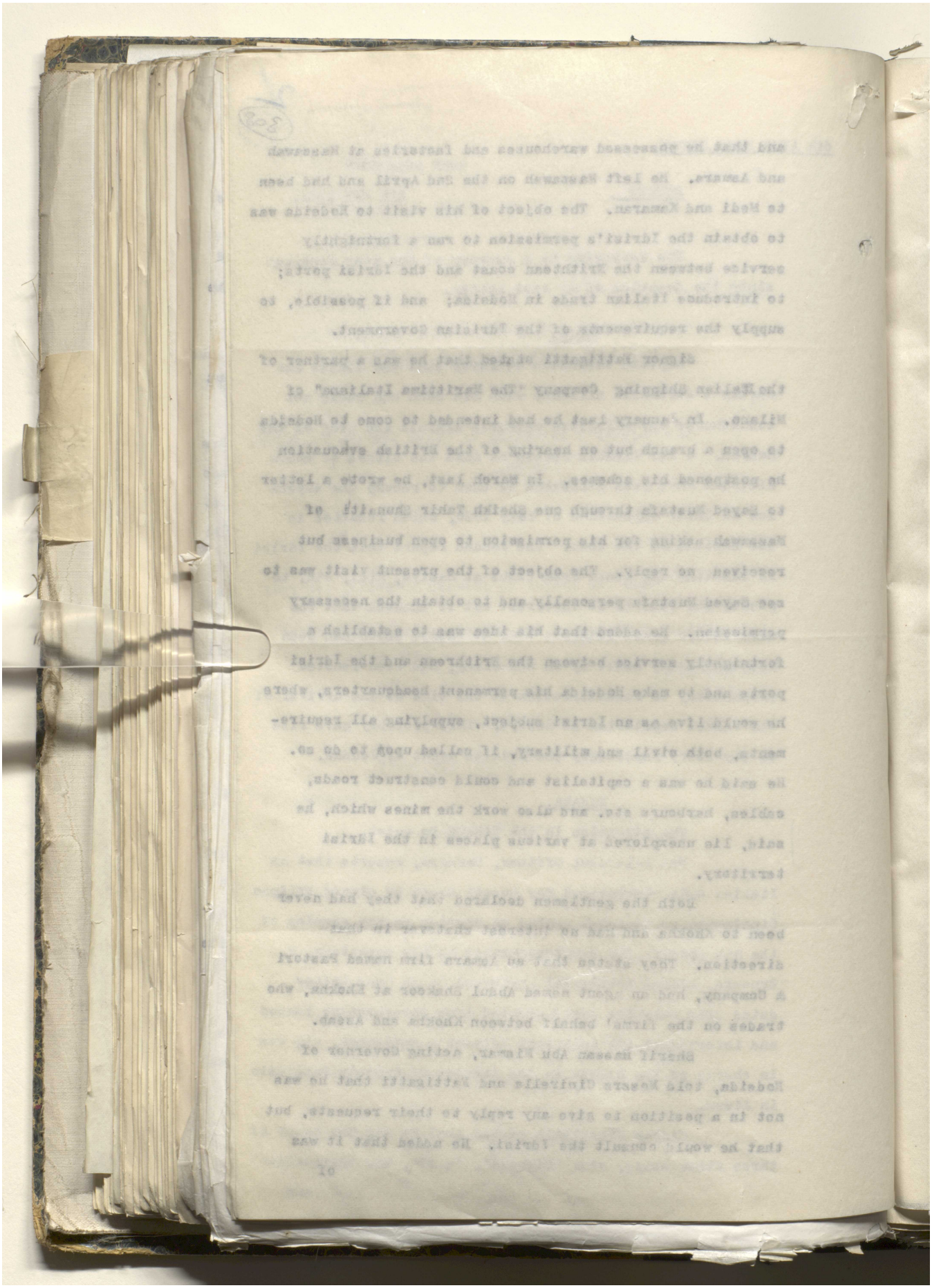

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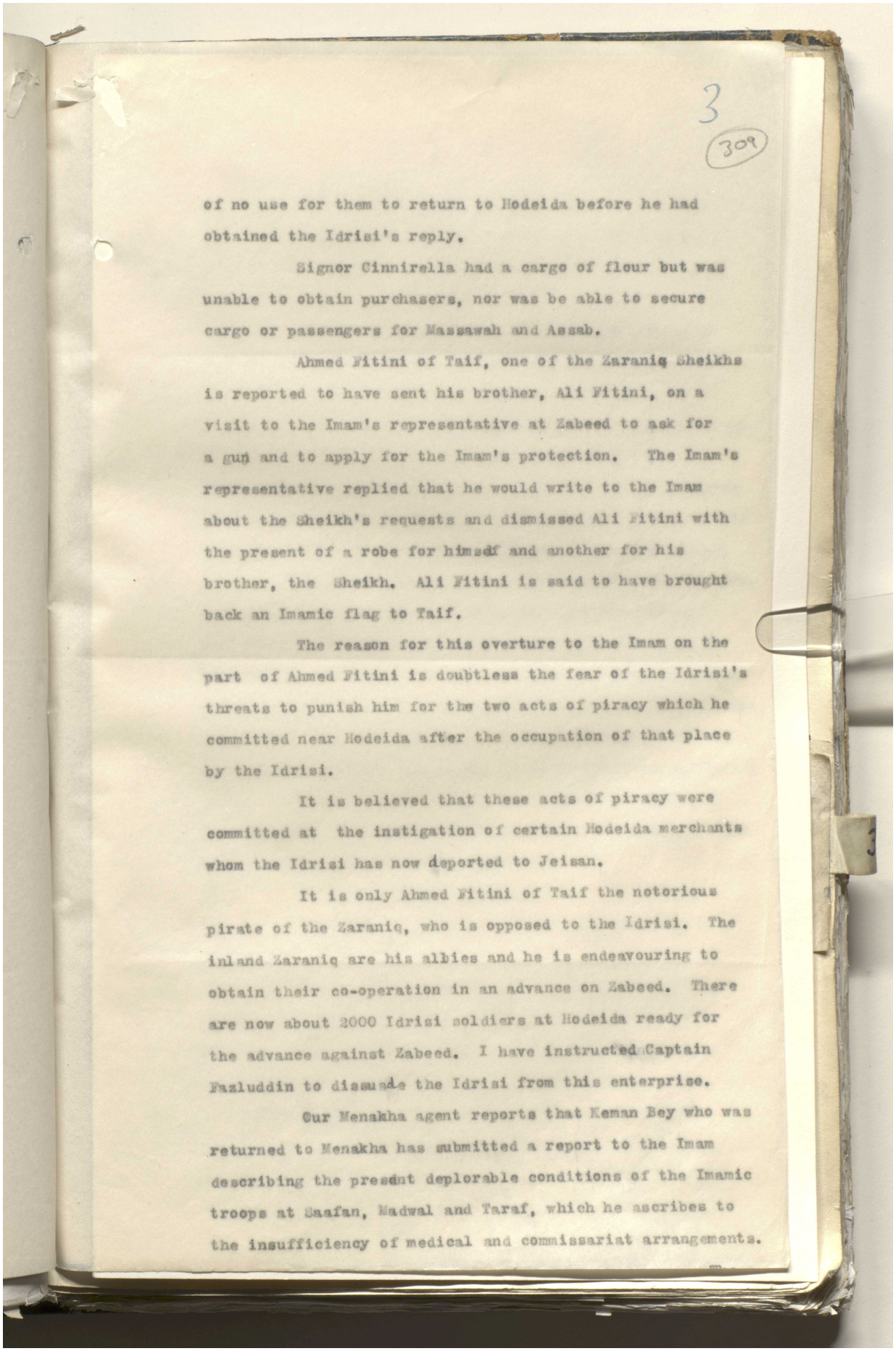

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of no use for them to return to Hodeida before he had obtained the Idrisi's reply.

Signor Cinnirella had a cargo of flour but was unable to obtain purchasers, nor was be able to secure cargo or passengers for Massawah and Assab.

Ahmed Fitini of Taif, one of the Zaraniq Sheikhs is reported to have sent his brother, Ali Fitini, on a visit to the Imam's representative at Zabeed to ask for a gun and to apply for the Imam's protection. The Imam's representative replied that he would write to the Imam about the Sheikh's requests and dismissed Ali Fitini with the present of a robe for himself and another for his brother, the Sheikh. Ali Fitini is said to have brought back an Imamic flag to Taif.

The reason for this overture to the Imam on the part of Ahmed Fitini is doubtless the fear of the Idrisi's threats to punish him for the two acts of piracy which he committed near Hodeida after the occupation of that place by the Idrisi.

It is believed that these acts of piracy were committed at the instigation of certain Hodeida merchants whom the Idrisi has now deported to Jeisan.

It is only Ahmed Fitini of Taif the notorious pirate of the Zaraniq, who is opposed to the Idrisi. The inland Zaraniq are his albies and he is endeavouring to obtain their co-operation in an advance on Zabeed. There are now about 2000 Idrisi soldiers at Hodeida ready for the advance against Zabeed. I have instructed Captain Fazluddin to dissuade the Idrisi from this enterprise.

Our Menakha agent reports that Keman Bey who was returned to Menakha has submitted a report to the Imam describing the present deplorable conditions of the Imamic troops at Saafan, Madwal and Taraf, which he ascribes to the insufficiency of medical and commissariat arrangements.

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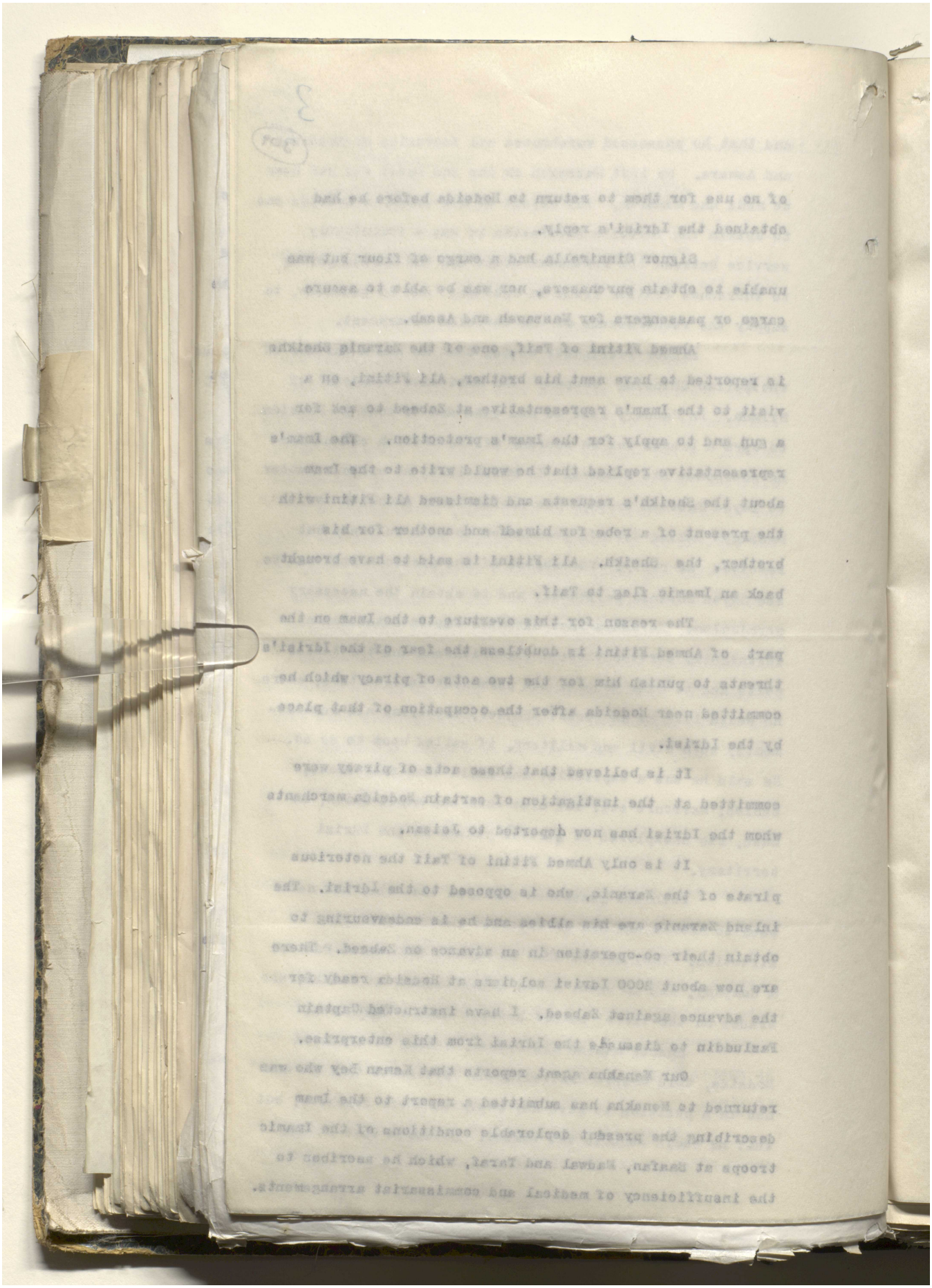

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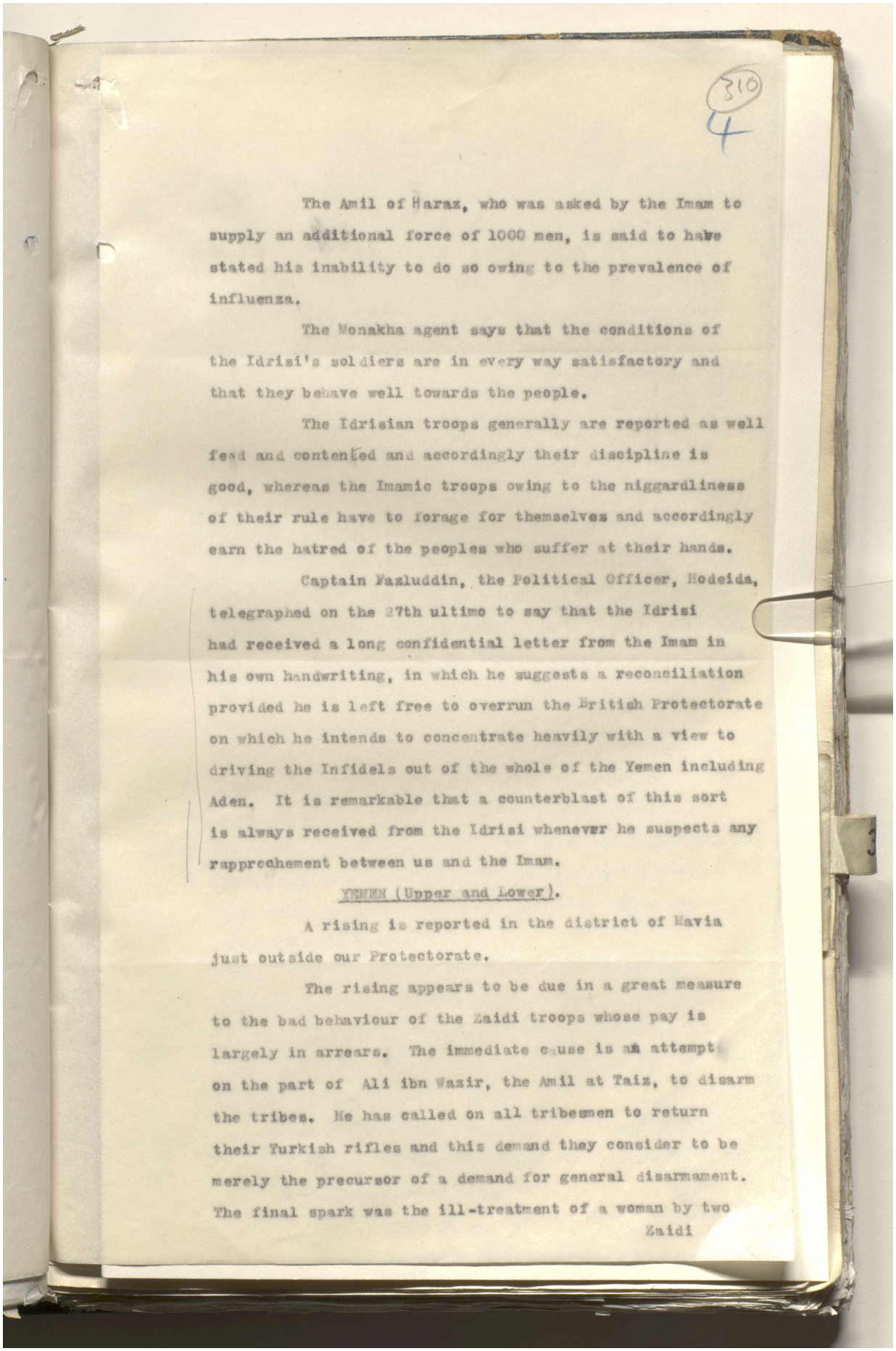

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The Amil of Haraz, who was asked by the Imam to supply an additional force of 1000 men, is said to have stated his inability to do so owing to the prevalence of influenza.

The Monakha agent says that the conditions of the Idrisi's soldiers are in every way satisfactory and that they behave well towards the people.

The Idrisian troops generally are reported as well fed and contented and accordingly their discipline is good, whereas the Imamic troops owing to the niggardliness of their rule have to forage for themselves and accordingly earn the hatred of the peoples who suffer at their hands.

Captain Fazluddin, the Political Officer, Hodeida, telegraphed on the 27th ultimo to say that the Idrisi had received a long confidential letter from the Imam in his own handwriting, in which he suggests a reconciliation provided he is left free to overrun the British Protectorate on which he intends to concentrate heavily with a view to driving the Infidels out of the whole of the Yemen including Aden. It is remarkable that a counterblast of this sort is always received from the Idrisi whenever he suspects any rapprochement between us and the Imam.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

A rising is reported in the district of Mavia just outside our Protectorate.

The rising appears to be due in a great measure to the bad behaviour of the Zaidi troops whose pay is largely in arrears. The immediate cause is an attempt on the part of Ali ibn Wazir, the Amil at Taiz, to disarm the tribes. He has called on all tribesmen to return their Turkish rifles and this demand they consider to be merely the precursor of a demand for general disarmament. The final spark was the ill-treatment of a woman by two

Zaidi

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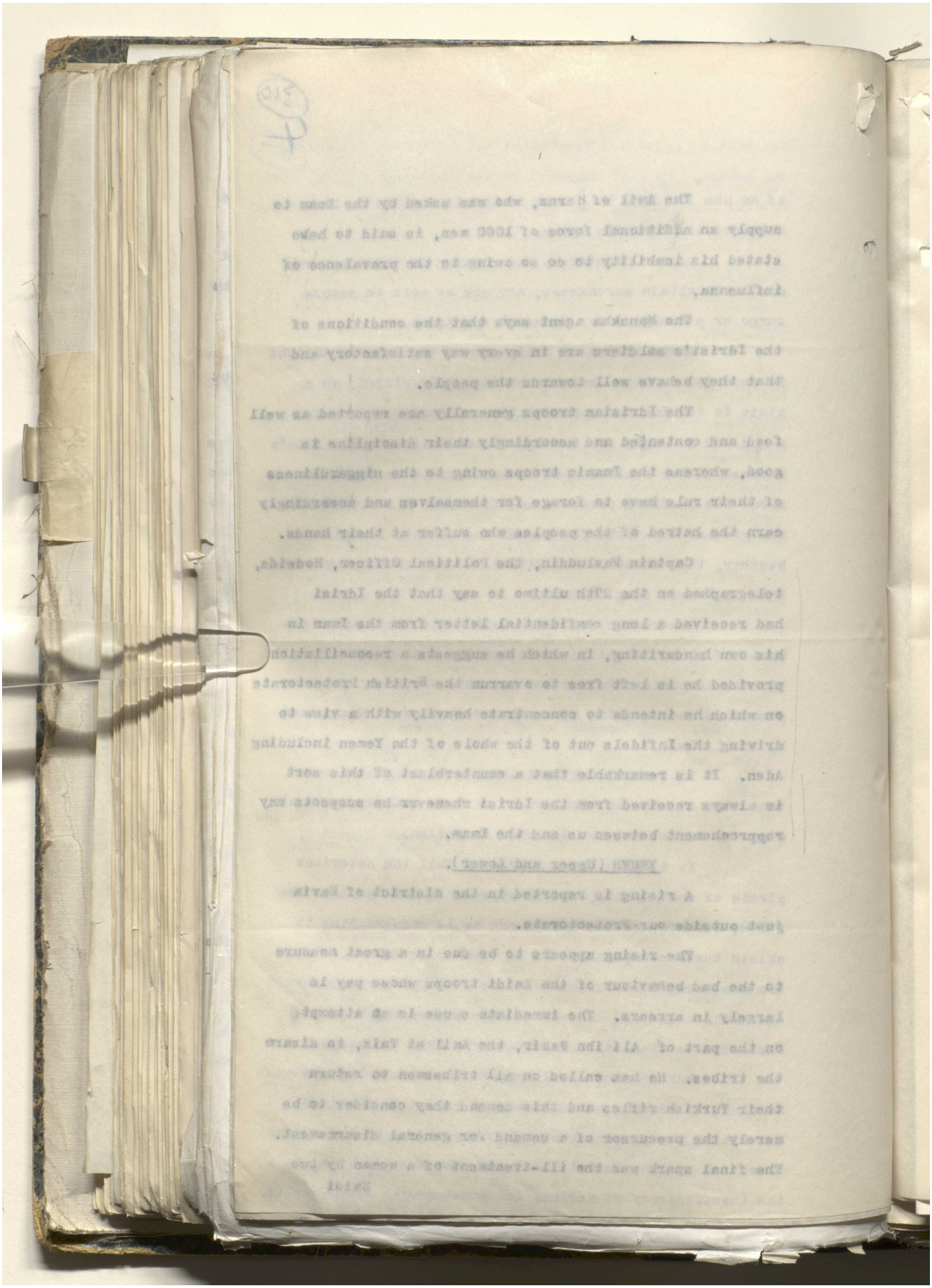

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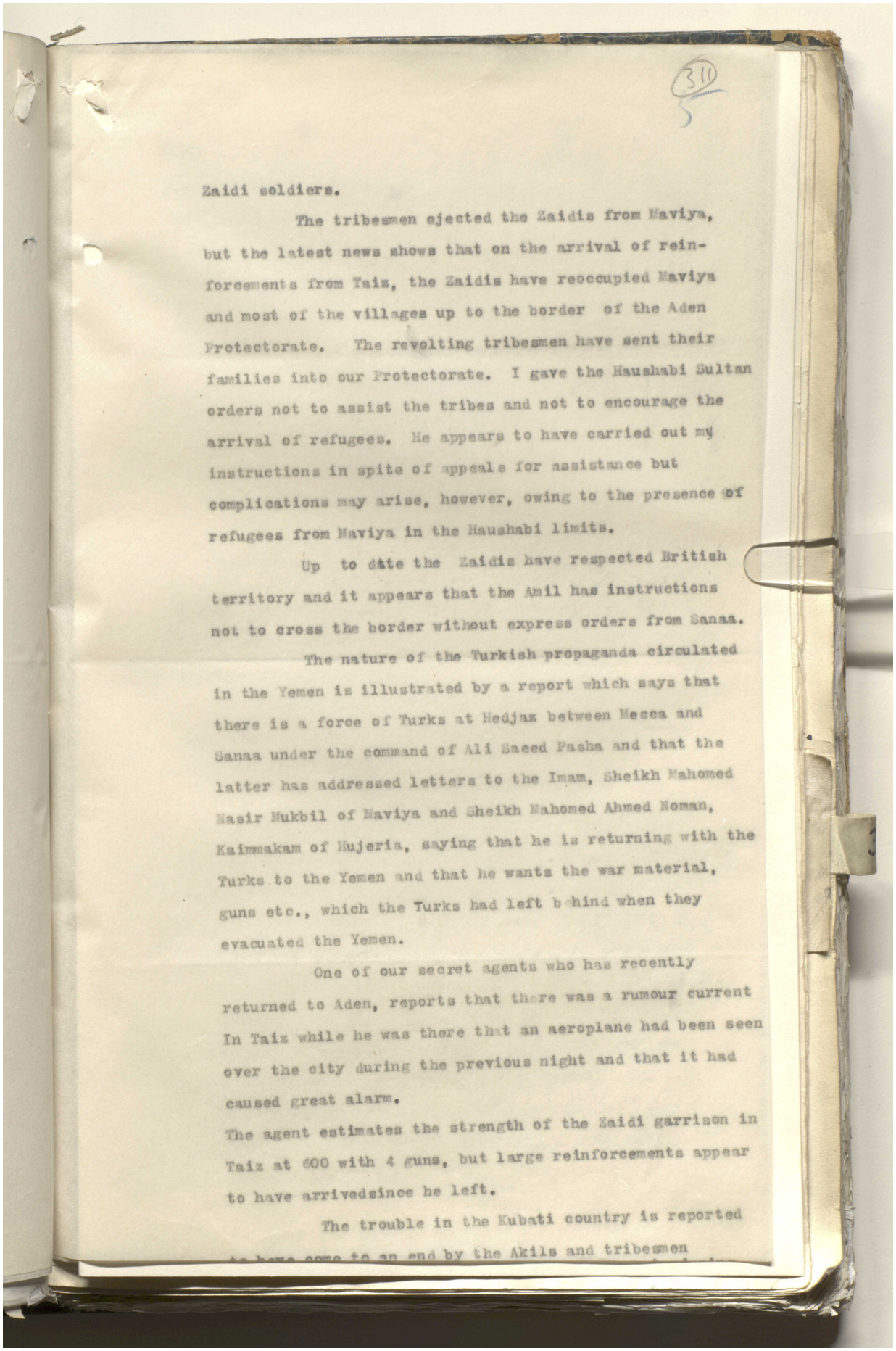

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Zaidi soldiers.

The tribesmen ejected the Zaidis from Maviya, but the latest news shows that on the arrival of reinforcements from Taiz, the Zaidis have reoccupied Maviya and most of the villages up to the border of the Aden Protectorate. The revolting tribesmen have sent their families into our Protectorate. I gave the Haushabi Sultan orders not to assist the tribes and not to encourage the arrival of refugees. He appears to have carried out my instructions in spite of appeals for assistance but complications may arise, however, owing to the presence of refugees from Maviya in the Haushabi limits.

Up to date the Zaidis have respected British territory and it appears that the Amil has instructions not to cross the border without express orders from Sanaa.

The nature of the Turkish propaganda circulated in the Yemen is illustrated by a report which says that there is a force of Turks at Hedjaz between Mecca and Sanaa under the command of Ali Saeed Pasha and that the latter has addressed letters to the Imam, Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil of Maviya and Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Noman, Kaimmakam of Mujeria, saying that he is returning with the Turks to the Yemen and that he wants the war material, guns etc., which the Turks had left behind when they evacuated the Yemen.

One of our secret agents who has recently returned to Aden, reports that there was a rumour current In Taiz while he was there that an aeroplane had been seen over the city during the previous night and that it had caused great alarm.

The agent estimates the strength of the Zaidi garrison in Taiz at 600 with 4 guns, but large reinforcements appear to have arrivedsince he left.

The trouble in the Kubati country is reported to have come to an end by the Akils and tribesmen

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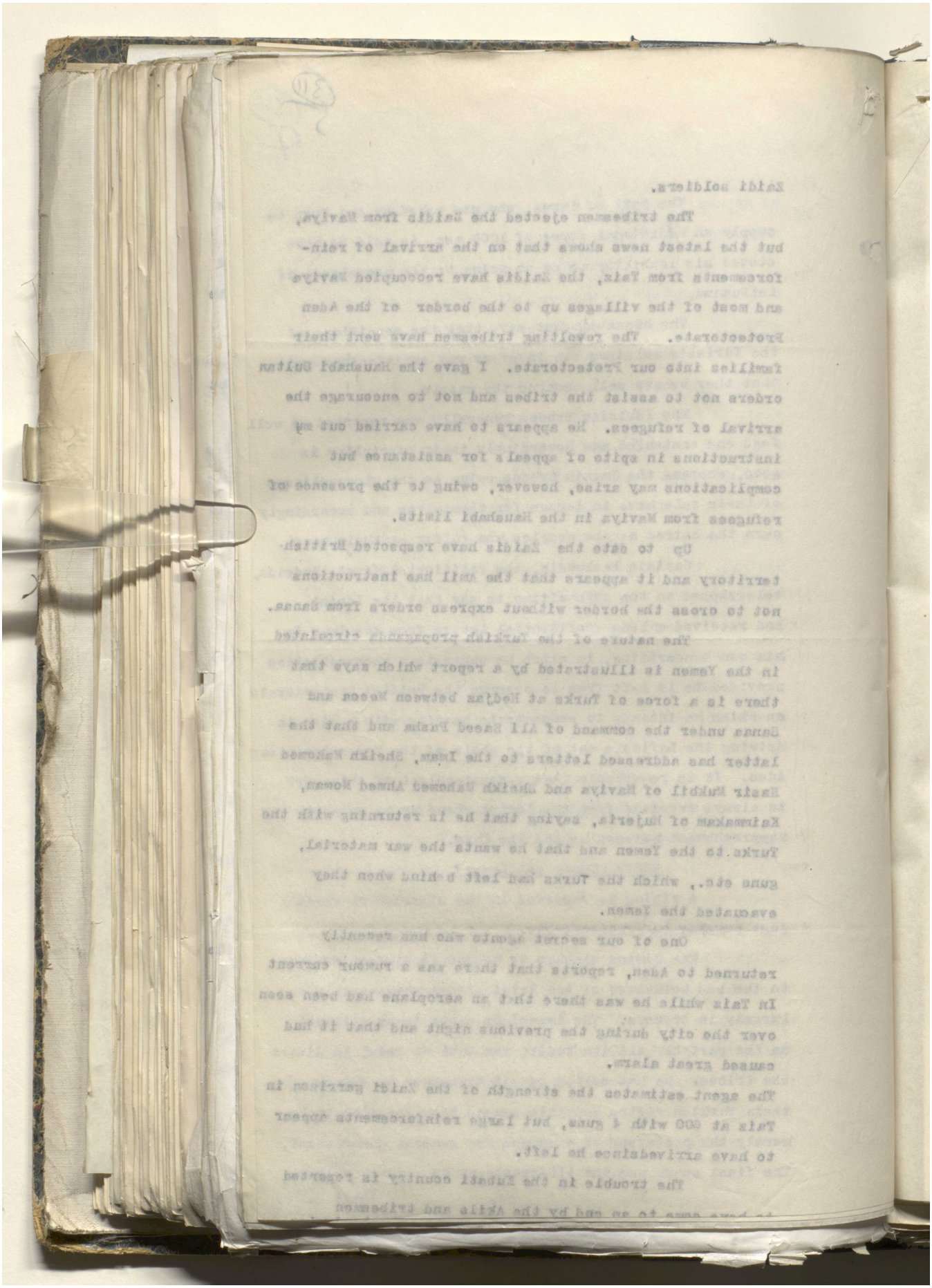

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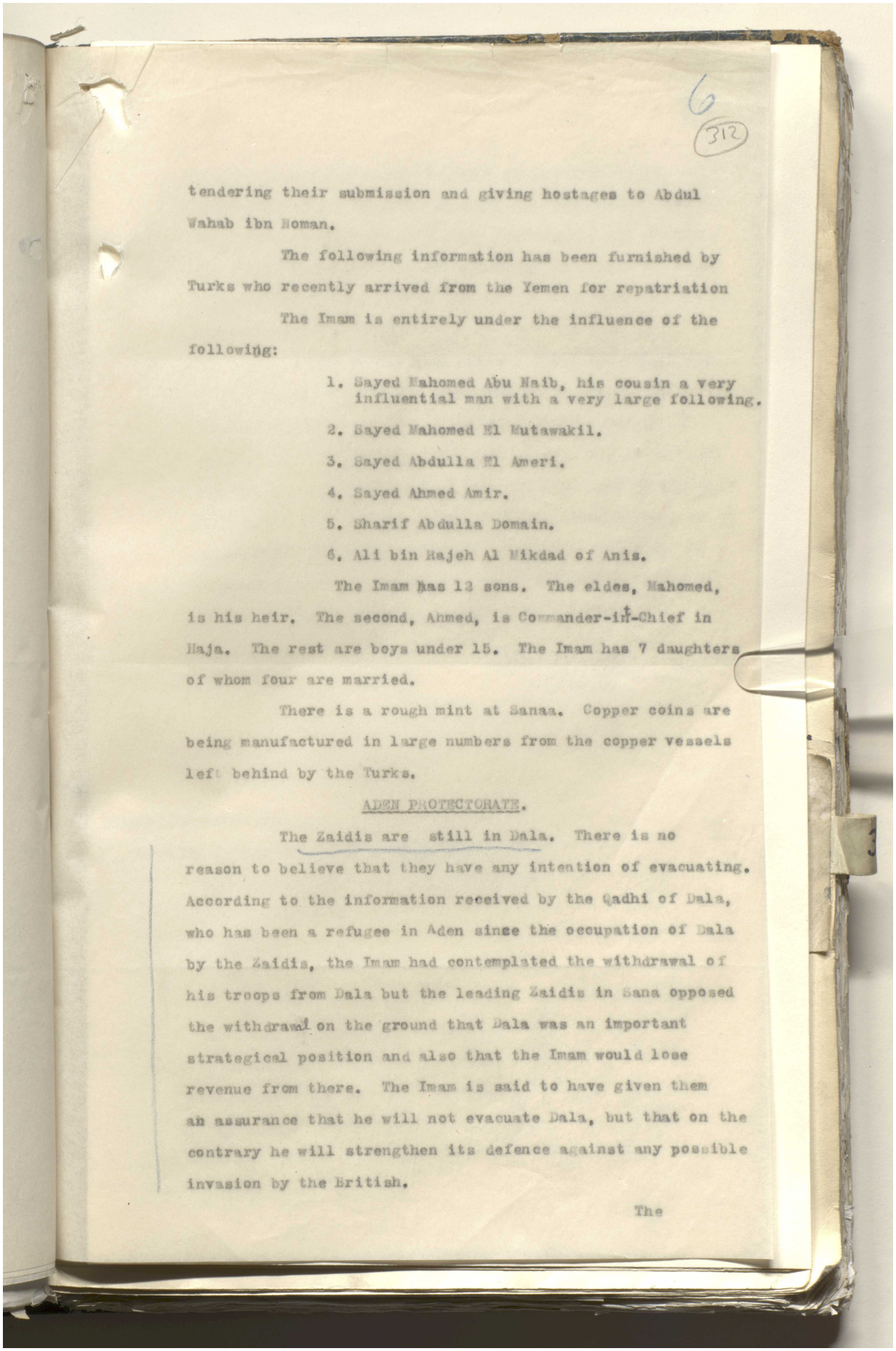

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tendering their submission and giving hostages to Abdul Wahab ibn Noman.

The following information has been furnished by Turks who recently arrived from the Yemen for repatriation

The Imam is entirely under the influence of the following:

1. Sayed Mahomed Abu Naib, his cousin a very influential man with a very large following.
2. Sayed Mahomed El Mutawakil.
3. Sayed Abdulla El Ameri.
4. Sayed Ahmed Amir.
5. Sharif Abdulla Domain.
6. Ali bin Rajeh Al Mikdad of Anis.

The Imam has 12 sons. The eldes, Mahomed, is his heir. The second, Ahmed, is Commander-in-Chief in Haja. The rest are boys under 15. The Imam has 7 daughters of whom four are married.

There is a rough mint at Sanaa. Copper coins are being manufactured in large numbers from the copper vessels left behind by the Turks.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Zaidis are still in Dala. There is no reason to believe that they have any intention of evacuating. According to the information received by the Qadhi of Dala, who has been a refugee in Aden since the occupation of Dala by the Zaidis, the Imam had contemplated the withdrawal of his troops from Dala but the leading Zaidis in Sana opposed the withdrawal on the ground that Dala was an important strategical position and also that the Imam would lose revenue from there. The Imam is said to have given them an assurance that he will not evacuate Dala, but that on the contrary he will strengthen its defence against any possible invasion by the British.

The

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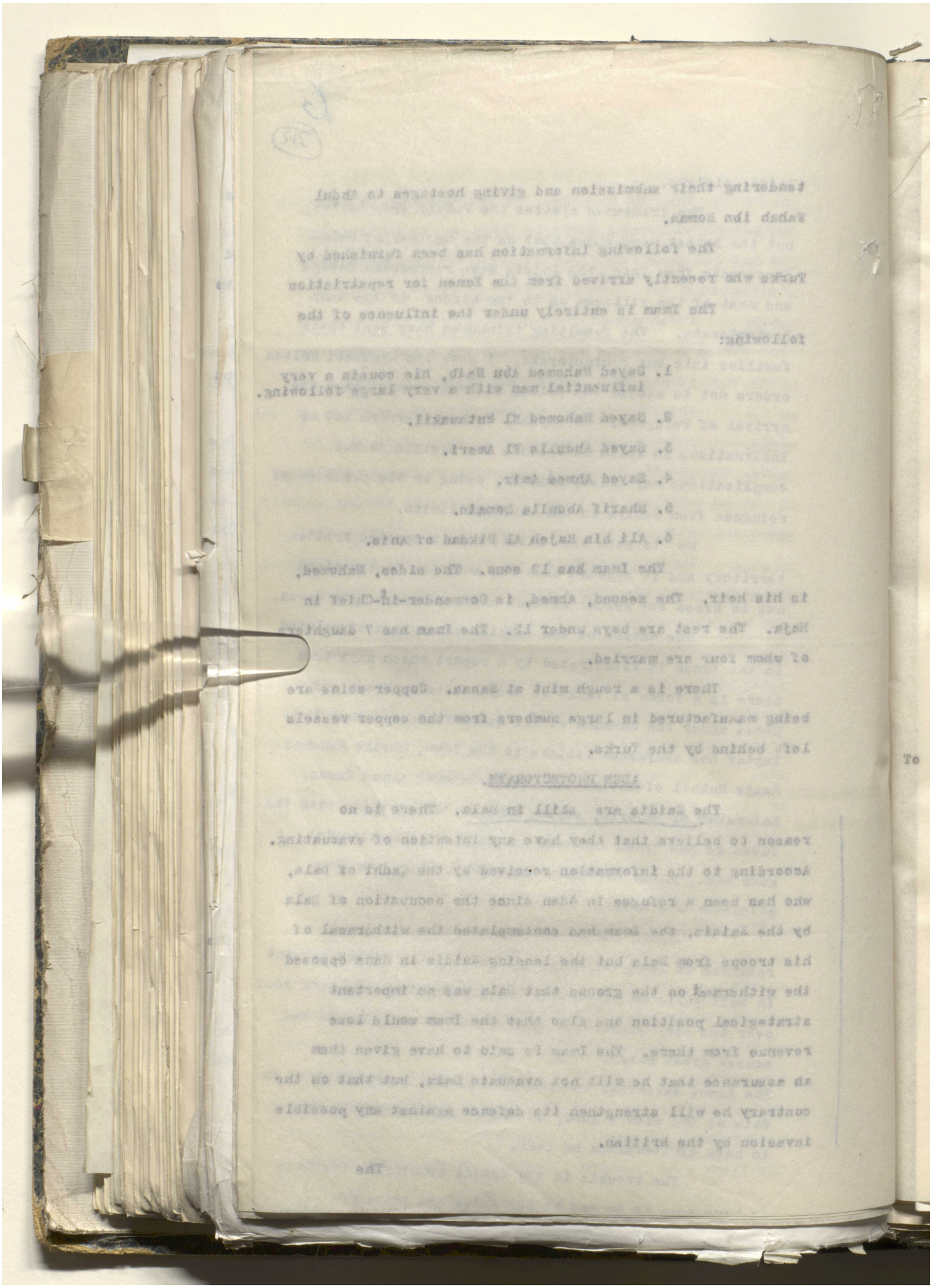

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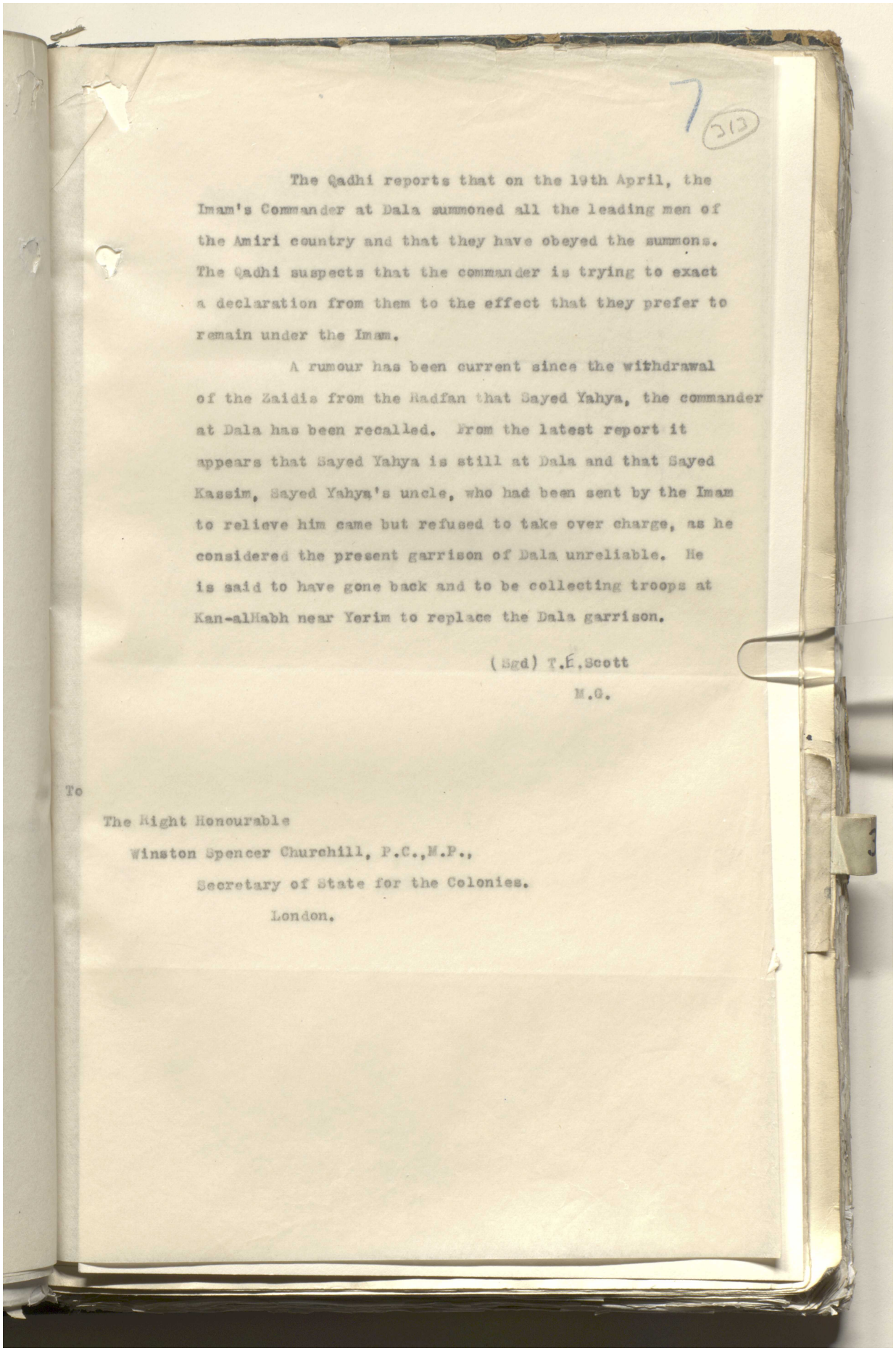

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The Qadhi reports that on the 19th April, the Imam's Commander at Dala summoned all the leading men of the Amiri country and that they have obeyed the summons. The Qadhi suspects that the commander is trying to exact a declaration from them to the effect that they prefer to remain under the Imam.

A rumour has been current since the withdrawal of the Zaidis from the Radfan that Sayed Yahya, the commander at Dala has been recalled. From the latest report it appears that Sayed Yahya is still at Dala and that Sayed Kassim, Sayed Yahya's uncle, who had been sent by the Imam to relieve him came but refused to take over charge, as he considered the present garrison of Dala unreliable. He is said to have gone back and to be collecting troops at Kan-alHabh near Yerim to replace the Dala garrison.

(Sgd) T.E.Scott
M.C.

To

The Right Honourable
Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C.,M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.
London.

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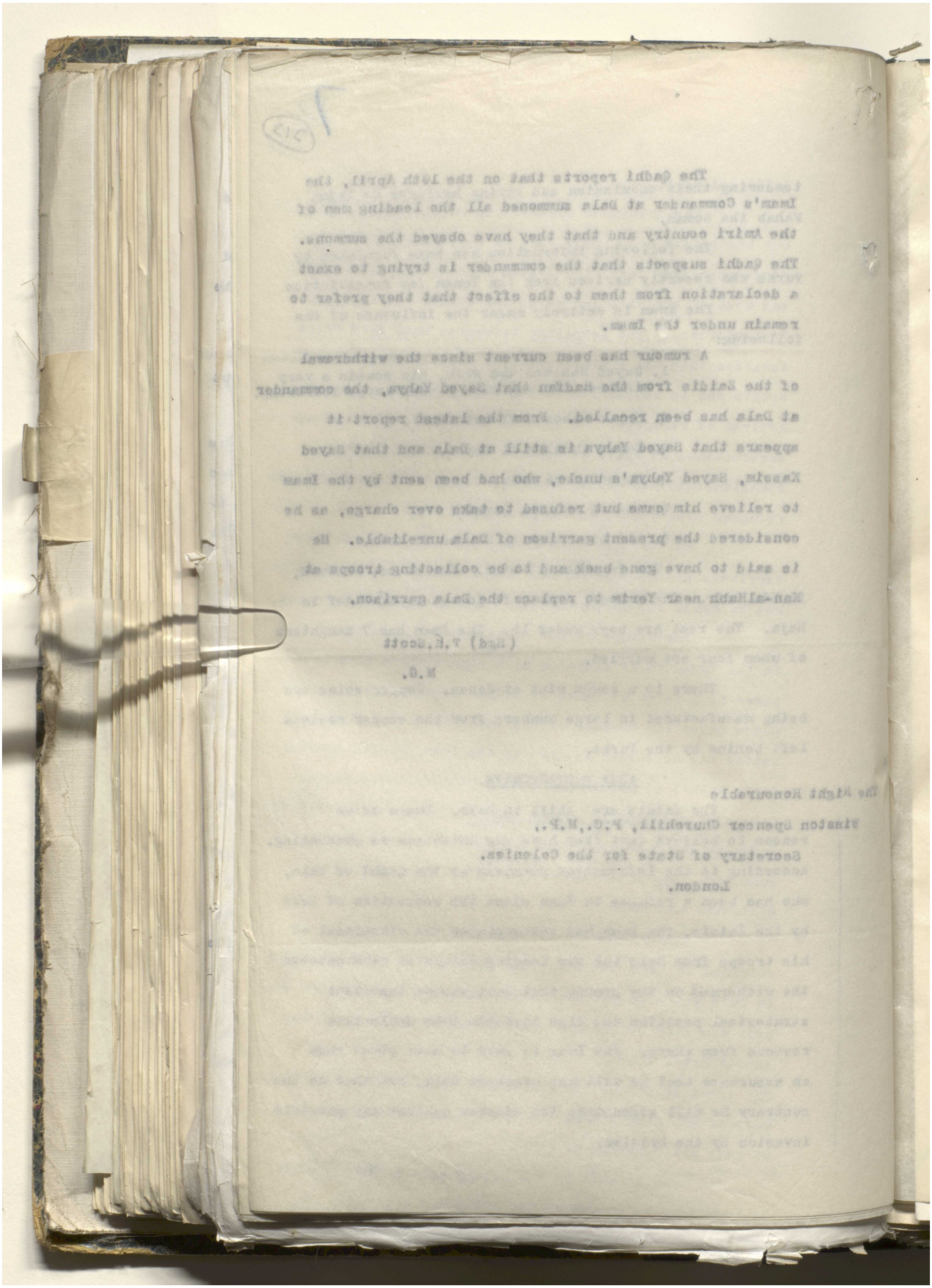

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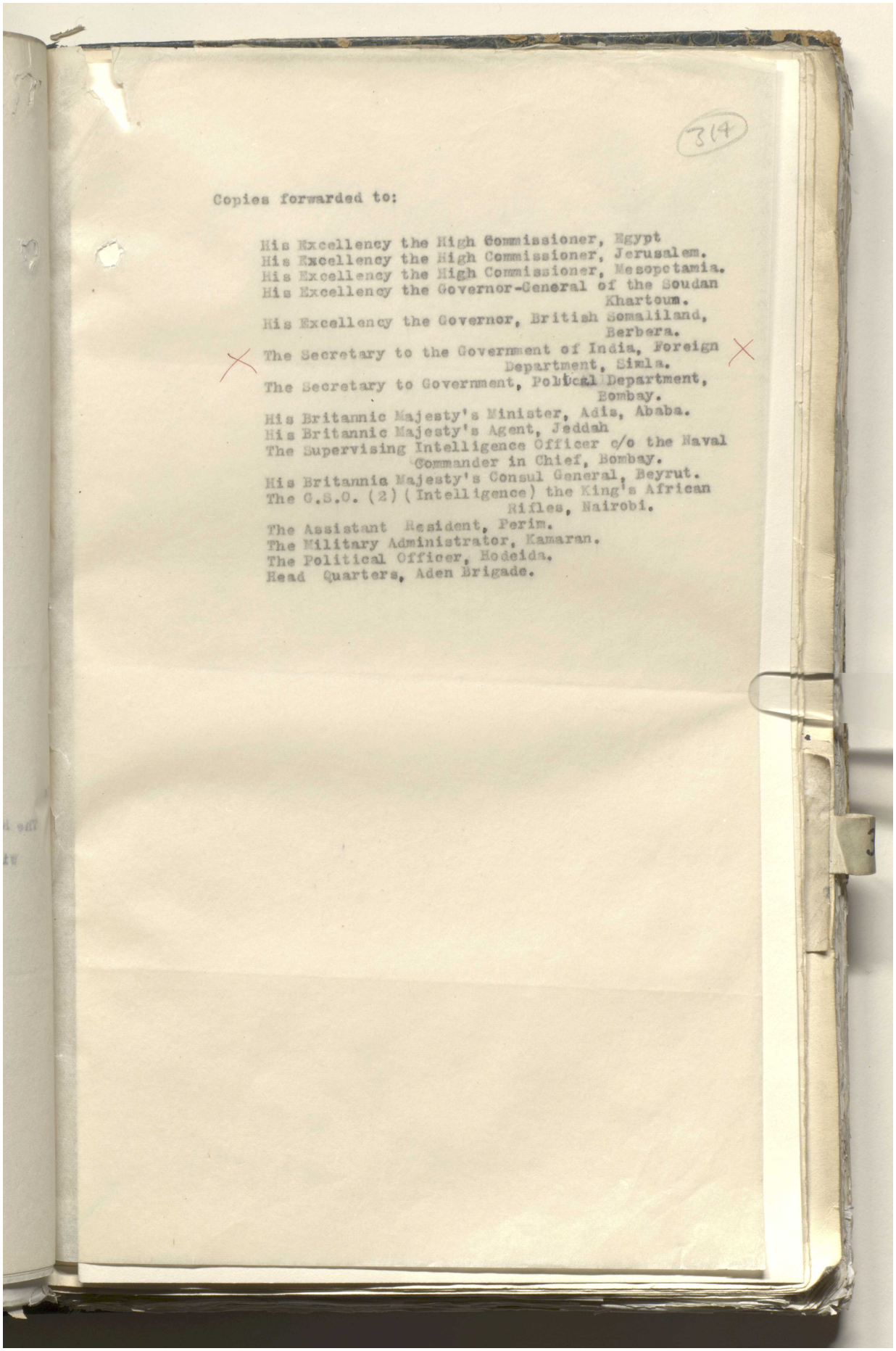

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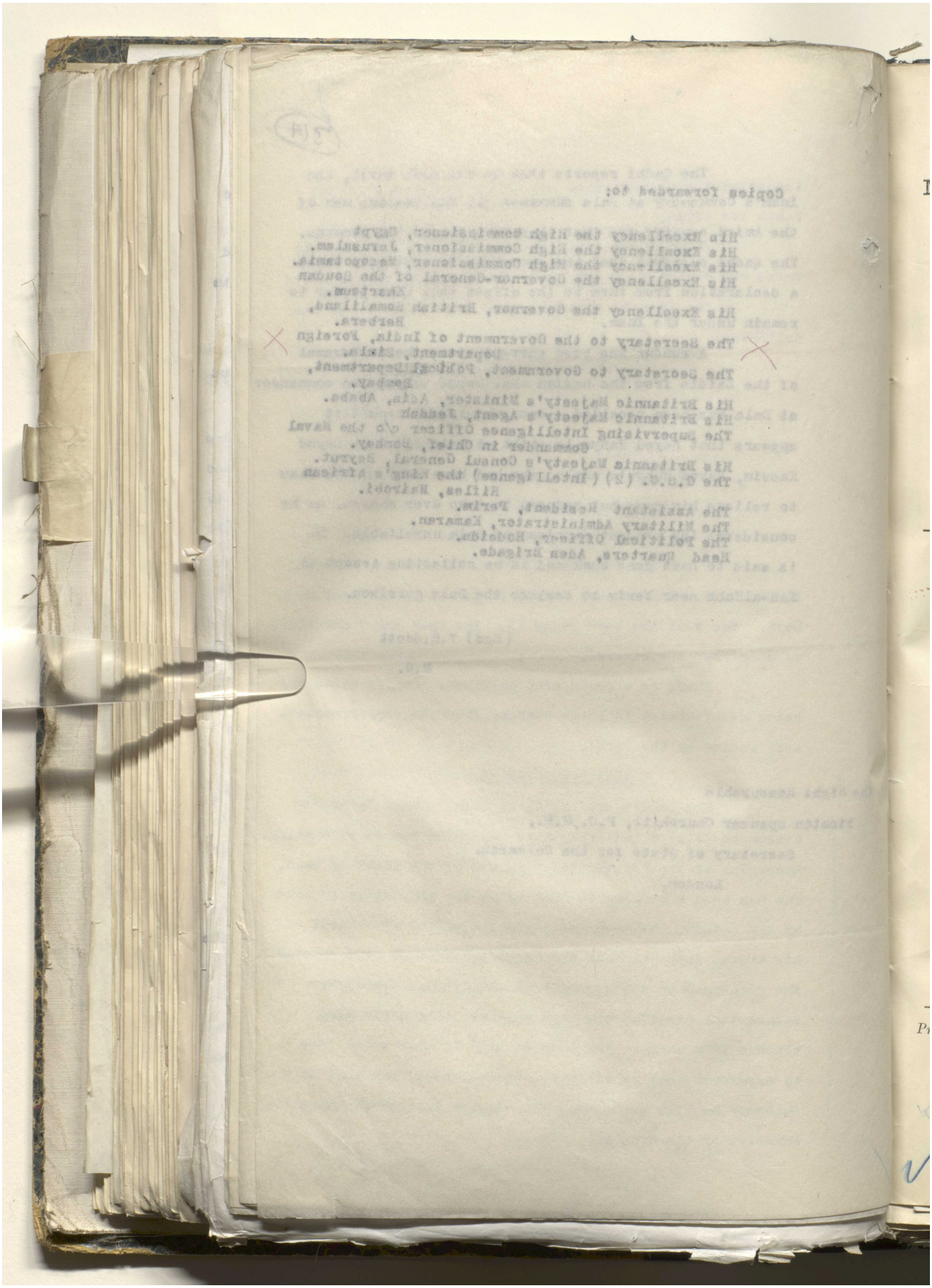

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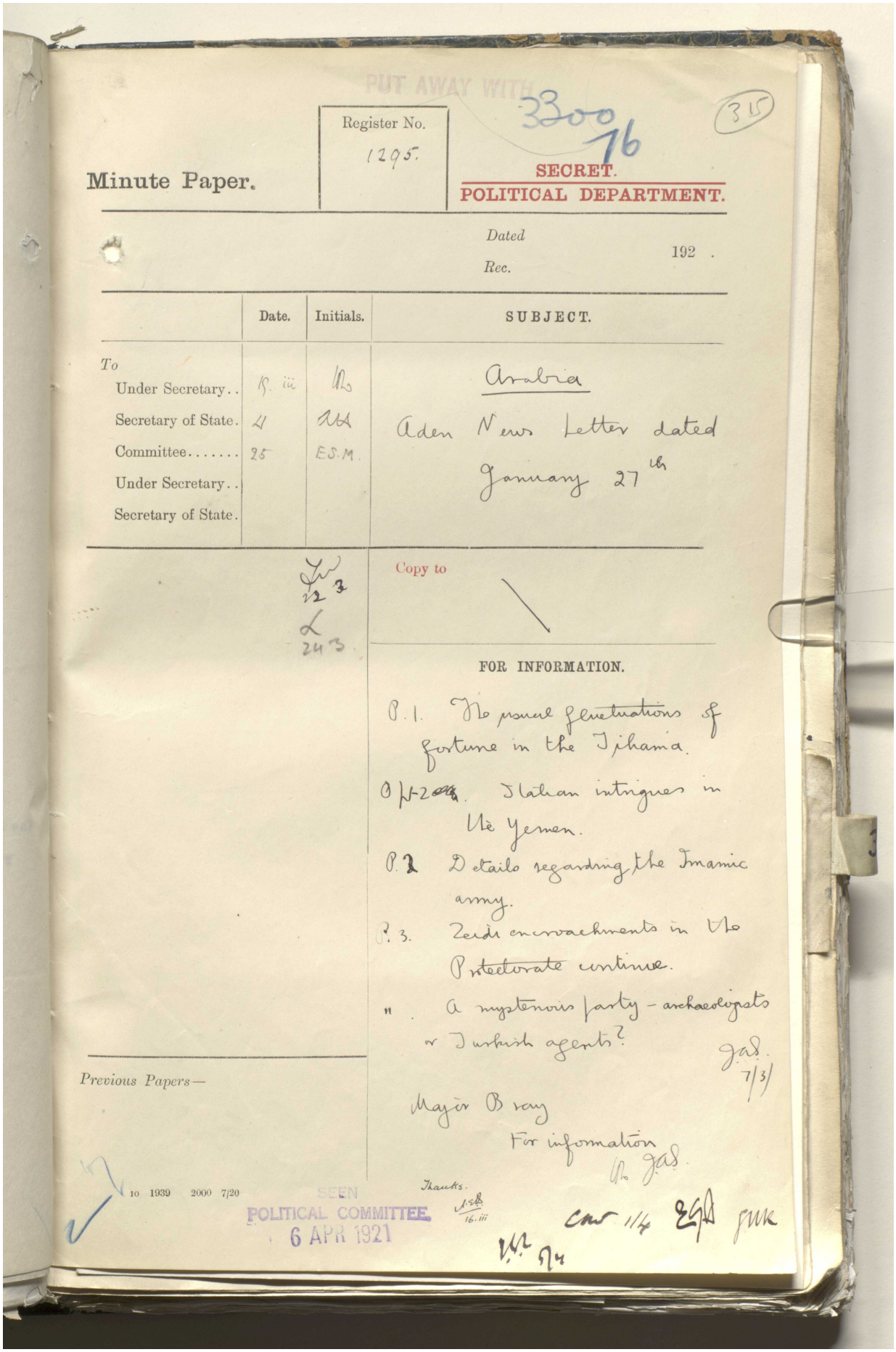

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315

Minute Paper.

Register No. 1295.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Arabia
Under Secretary..	8. iii	WS	
Secretary of State.	4	AA	Aden News Letter dated
Committee.....	25	E.S.M.	January 27th
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

P.1. No general fluctuations of fortune in the Jihama.

P.1-2. Italian intrigues in the Yemen.

P.2 Details regarding the Imamic army.

P.3. Zaidi encroachments in the Protectorate continue.

" A mysterious party - archaeologists or Turkish agents?

J.A.S. 7/3/

Major Bray
For information
W. J.A.S.

Previous Papers—

10 1939 2000 7/20

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
6 APR 1921

Thanks. J.A.S. 16.iii

Can 11/4 E.S.M. JMK

W.C. 7/4

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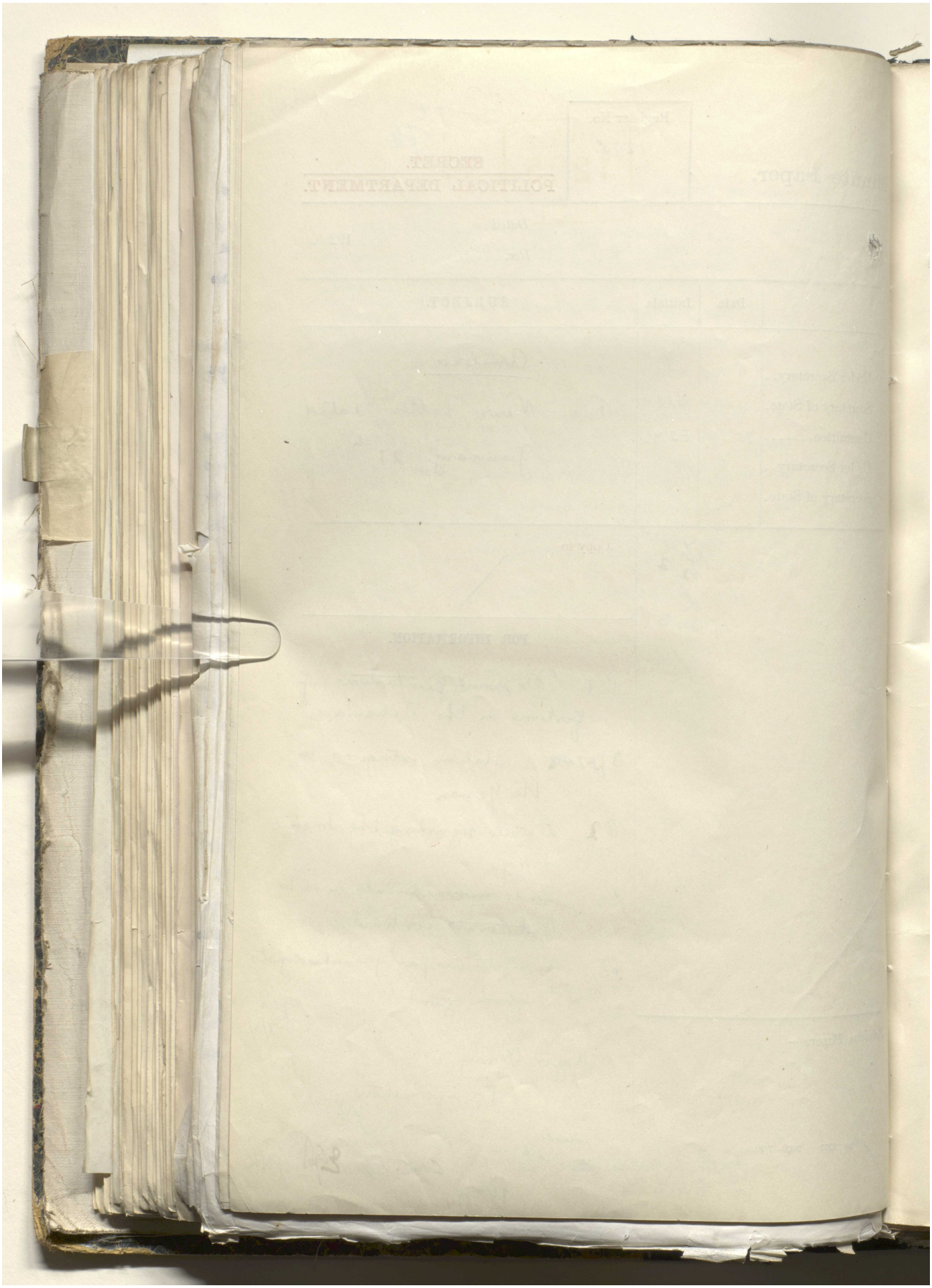

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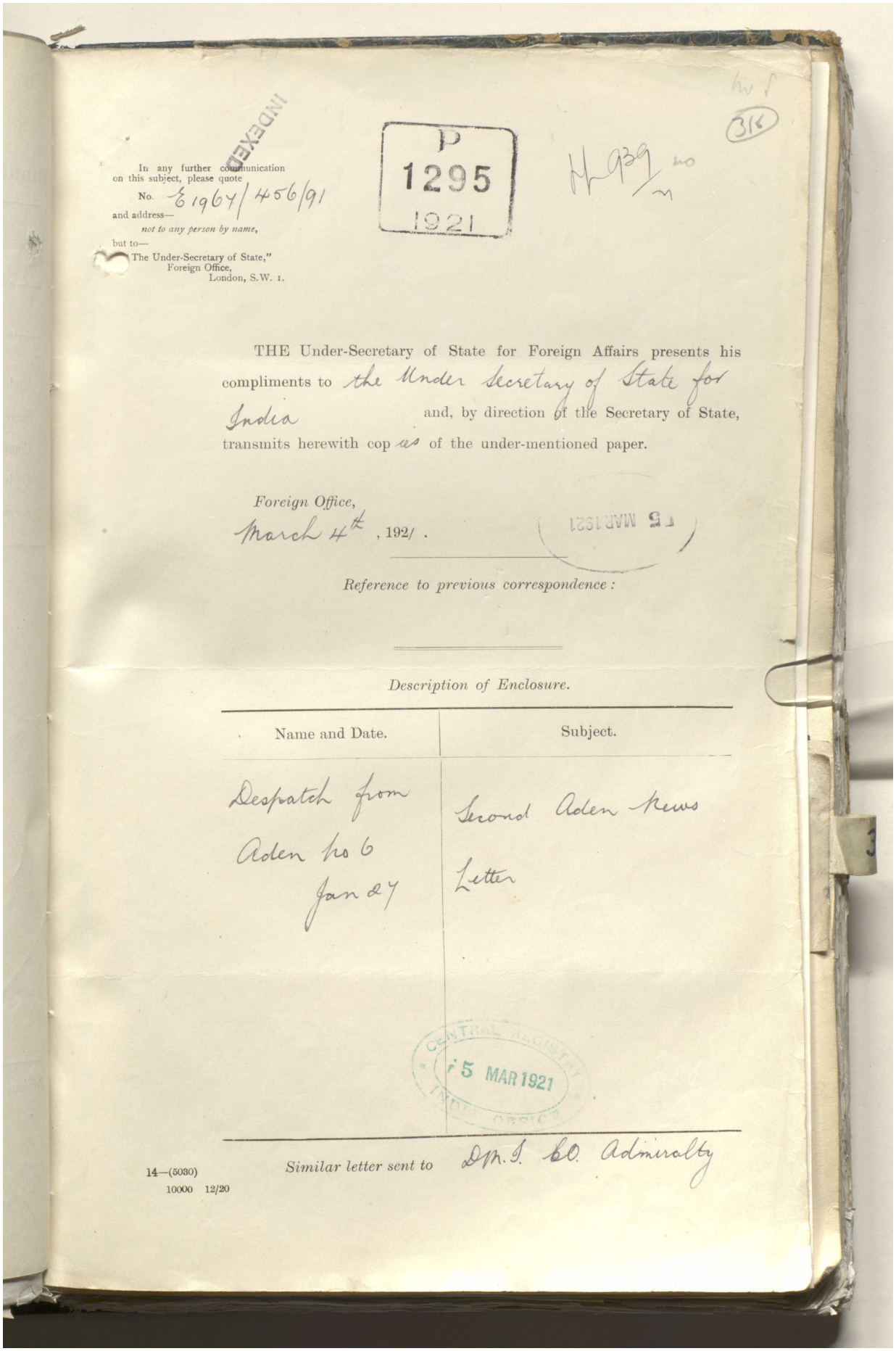

INDEXED

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 1964/456/91
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
March 4th, 1921.

15 MAR 1921

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch from Aden No 6 Jan 24	Second Aden News Letter

CENTRAL REGISTRY
15 MAR 1921
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to D.M.I. & C. Admiralty

14—(5030)
10000 12/20

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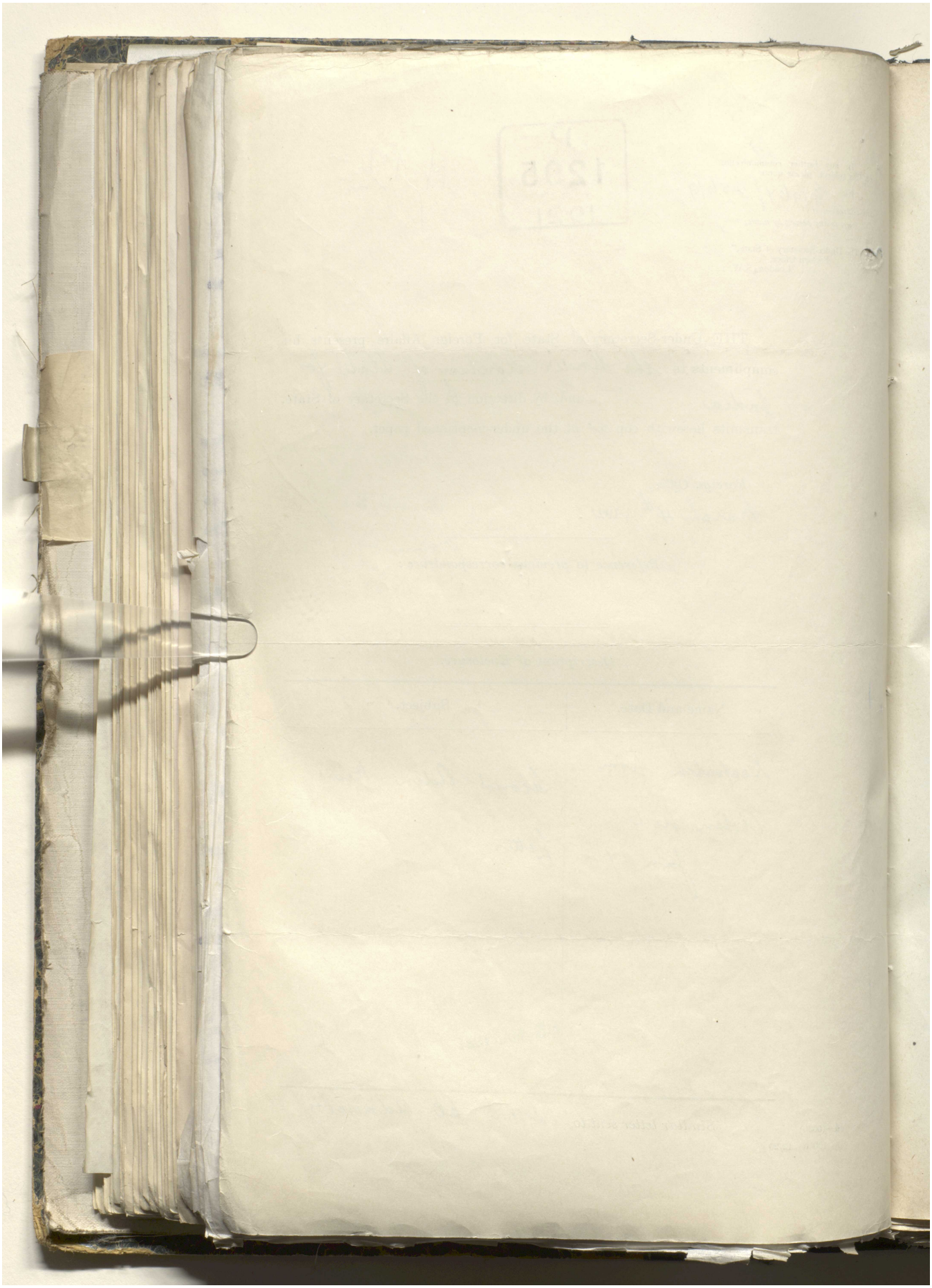

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P
1295
1921

(317)

EASTERN (ARABIA). [February 14.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

E 1967/456/91] No. 1.

Political Resident, Aden, to Earl Curzon.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 6. Secret.)

My Lord, *Aden, January* 27, 1921.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the second Aden News Letter, dated the 27th January, 1921.

I have, &c.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

Enclosure in No. 1.

Second Aden News Letter.

(Secret.)

THE following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter, dated the 12th January, 1921 :—

TIHAMA.

The latest reports from Hodeidá indicate a temporary Imamic occupation of Hujjeila, which was subsequently reoccupied by the Idrisi. The report that certain Quhra leaders were wounded and missing is now found to be incorrect. The Menakha-Bajil agent writes that the Idrisi and Quhras are fully prepared to check any Imamic advance on Tihama, strong rumours of which still continue. It would appear that the pro-Imamic Party in Hodeida is responsible for the circulation of much false news of Imamic victories. This party consists of Tahir Rajab and five other merchants who have been assisting Mahmud Nadhim in his propaganda work. They are said to have laid a scheme before the Imam, which has been strongly backed by the ex-Vali, for the occupation of the Tihama by the Imam pending the return of the Turks. The first step is stated to be the despatch by the Imam of a big expedition to drive the Idrisi out of the Tihama, as the latter, being our ally, is not considered by the schemers a fit ruler for Hodeida. The Imam has been assured that the British evacuation of Hodeida could easily be arranged once a big force entered the Tihama. It is said that under this scheme it is provided that the ex-Vali with his Turkish party should administer the whole of the Tihama with the exception of Hodeida, which is to be administered by the merchants themselves under the supervision of the Vali. The Imam is said to be sceptical about the scheme.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, states that with the exception of Tahir Rajab and party, all the people in Hodeida, as well as the Tihama tribesmen, are willing to accept the Idrisi rule in preference to that of the Imam.

Tahir Rajab and party are reported to have sent letters to Constantinople with a Turkish official who recently left for Constantinople viâ Aden. No particulars as to their contents are known.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports the death of Munassar Haghir Maruf, the sheikh of the northern Zaraniqs, at the end of last month.

One of our secret agents reports that Abdul Shakeer, the Italian agent at Khoka, has been buying land and houses at Khoka and Kataba, and exporting and importing goods to and from Italian ports by a weekly service of dhows.

The telegraph line between Zabeed and Hais is reported to have been completed. The line between Zabeed and Taiz is still under construction.

Our agent at Zabeed reports that the Imamic Inspector of Public Works, Sayed Abdulla Ibrahim, referred to in previous letters, has returned to Sana, and that during his stay at Khoka he built two military barracks at the public expense. The agent states that the revenue of Zabeed last year amounted to 7,500 dollars, whereas this year the people were forced to pay 25,000 dollars.

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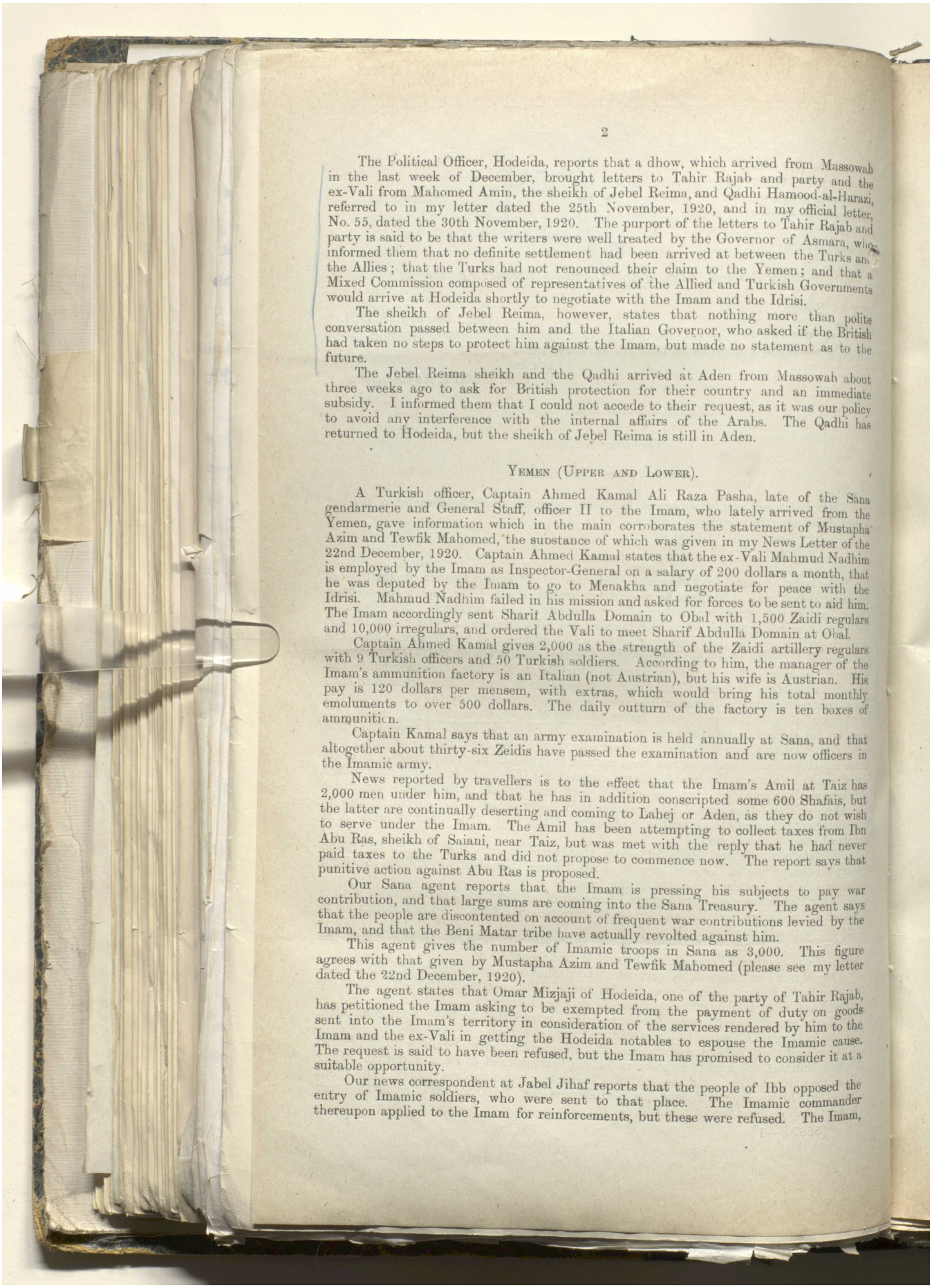

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that a dhow, which arrived from Massowah in the last week of December, brought letters to Tahir Rajab and party and the ex-Vali from Mahomed Amin, the sheikh of Jebel Reima, and Qadhi Hamood-al-Harazi, referred to in my letter dated the 25th November, 1920, and in my official letter, No. 55, dated the 30th November, 1920. The purport of the letters to Tahir Rajab and party is said to be that the writers were well treated by the Governor of Asmara, who informed them that no definite settlement had been arrived at between the Turks and the Allies; that the Turks had not renounced their claim to the Yemen; and that a Mixed Commission composed of representatives of the Allied and Turkish Governments would arrive at Hodeida shortly to negotiate with the Imam and the Idrisi.

The sheikh of Jebel Reima, however, states that nothing more than polite conversation passed between him and the Italian Governor, who asked if the British had taken no steps to protect him against the Imam, but made no statement as to the future.

The Jebel Reima sheikh and the Qadhi arrived at Aden from Massowah about three weeks ago to ask for British protection for their country and an immediate subsidy. I informed them that I could not accede to their request, as it was our policy to avoid any interference with the internal affairs of the Arabs. The Qadhi has returned to Hodeida, but the sheikh of Jebel Reima is still in Aden.

Yemen (Upper and Lower).

A Turkish officer, Captain Ahmed Kamal Ali Raza Pasha, late of the Sana gendarmerie and General Staff, officer II to the Imam, who lately arrived from the Yemen, gave information which in the main corroborates the statement of Mustapha Azim and Tewfik Mahomed, the substance of which was given in my News Letter of the 22nd December, 1920. Captain Ahmed Kamal states that the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadhim is employed by the Imam as Inspector-General on a salary of 200 dollars a month, that he was deputed by the Imam to go to Menakha and negotiate for peace with the Idrisi. Mahmud Nadhim failed in his mission and asked for forces to be sent to aid him. The Imam accordingly sent Sharif Abdulla Domain to Obal with 1,500 Zaidi regulars and 10,000 irregulars, and ordered the Vali to meet Sharif Abdulla Domain at Obal.

Captain Ahmed Kamal gives 2,000 as the strength of the Zaidi artillery regulars with 9 Turkish officers and 50 Turkish soldiers. According to him, the manager of the Imam's ammunition factory is an Italian (not Austrian), but his wife is Austrian. His pay is 120 dollars per mensem, with extras, which would bring his total monthly emoluments to over 500 dollars. The daily outturn of the factory is ten boxes of ammunition.

Captain Kamal says that an army examination is held annually at Sana, and that altogether about thirty-six Zeidis have passed the examination and are now officers in the Imamic army.

News reported by travellers is to the effect that the Imam's Amil at Taiz has 2,000 men under him, and that he has in addition conscripted some 600 Shafais, but the latter are continually deserting and coming to Lahej or Aden, as they do not wish to serve under the Imam. The Amil has been attempting to collect taxes from Ibn Abu Ras, sheikh of Saiani, near Taiz, but was met with the reply that he had never paid taxes to the Turks and did not propose to commence now. The report says that punitive action against Abu Ras is proposed.

Our Sana agent reports that the Imam is pressing his subjects to pay war contribution, and that large sums are coming into the Sana Treasury. The agent says that the people are discontented on account of frequent war contributions levied by the Imam, and that the Beni Matar tribe have actually revolted against him.

This agent gives the number of Imamic troops in Sana as 3,000. This figure agrees with that given by Mustapha Azim and Tewfik Mahomed (please see my letter dated the 22nd December, 1920).

The agent states that Omar Mizjaji of Hodeida, one of the party of Tahir Rajab, has petitioned the Imam asking to be exempted from the payment of duty on goods sent into the Imam's territory in consideration of the services rendered by him to the Imam and the ex-Vali in getting the Hodeida notables to espouse the Imamic cause. The request is said to have been refused, but the Imam has promised to consider it at a suitable opportunity.

Our news correspondent at Jabel Jihaf reports that the people of Ibb opposed the entry of Imamic soldiers, who were sent to that place. The Imamic commander thereupon applied to the Imam for reinforcements, but these were refused. The Imam,

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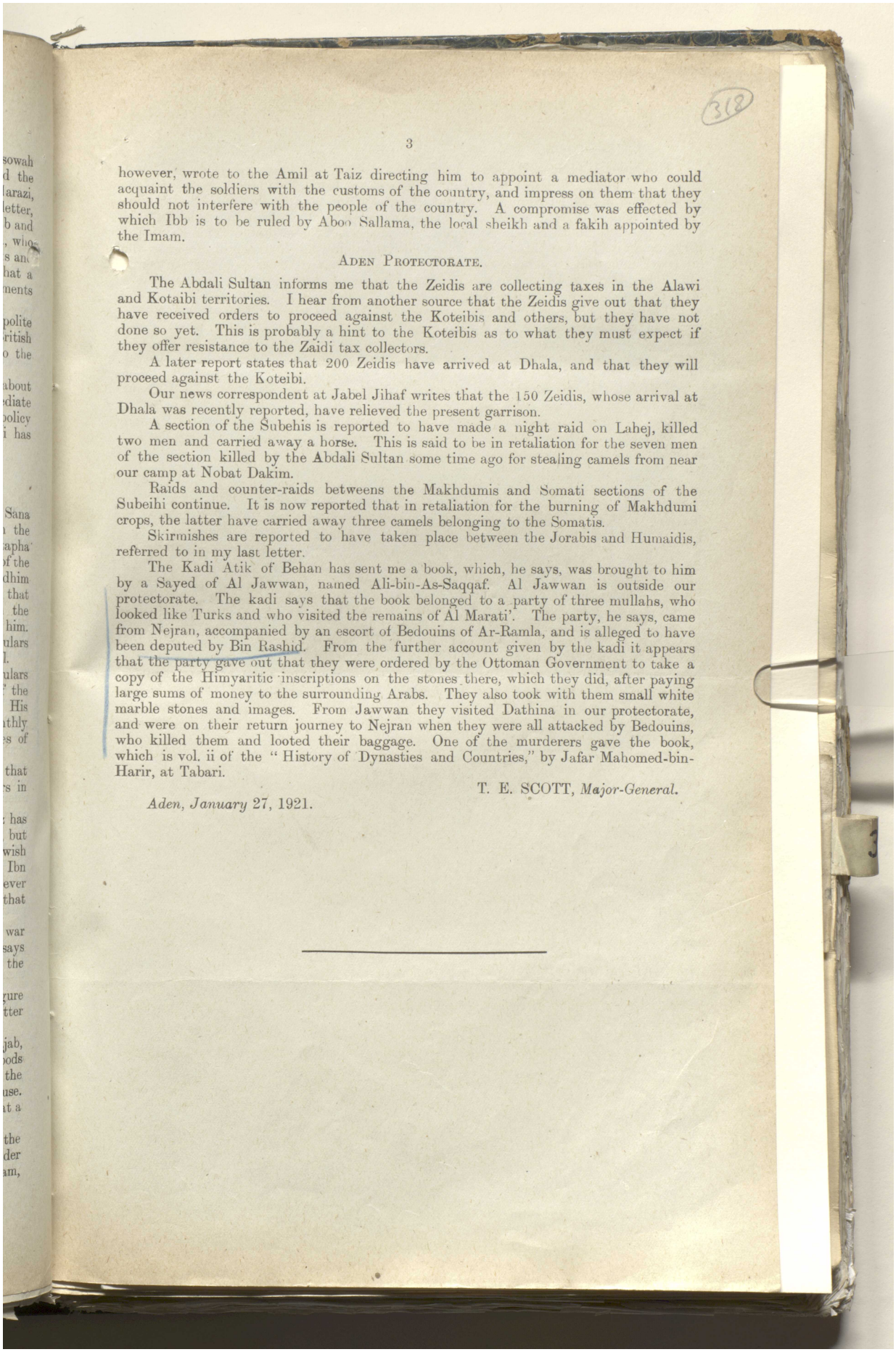

however, wrote to the Amil at Taiz directing him to appoint a mediator who could acquaint the soldiers with the customs of the country, and impress on them that they should not interfere with the people of the country. A compromise was effected by which Ibb is to be ruled by Aboo Sallama, the local sheikh and a fakih appointed by the Imam.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Abdali Sultan informs me that the Zeidis are collecting taxes in the Alawi and Kotaibi territories. I hear from another source that the Zeidis give out that they have received orders to proceed against the Koteibis and others, but they have not done so yet. This is probably a hint to the Koteibis as to what they must expect if they offer resistance to the Zaidi tax collectors.

A later report states that 200 Zeidis have arrived at Dhala, and that they will proceed against the Koteibi.

Our news correspondent at Jabel Jihaf writes that the 150 Zeidis, whose arrival at Dhala was recently reported, have relieved the present garrison.

A section of the Subehis is reported to have made a night raid on Lahej, killed two men and carried away a horse. This is said to be in retaliation for the seven men of the section killed by the Abdali Sultan some time ago for stealing camels from near our camp at Nobat Dakim.

Raids and counter-raids betweens the Makhdumis and Somati sections of the Subeihi continue. It is now reported that in retaliation for the burning of Makhdumi crops, the latter have carried away three camels belonging to the Somatis.

Skirmishes are reported to have taken place between the Jorabis and Humaidis, referred to in my last letter.

The Kadi Atik of Behan has sent me a book, which, he says, was brought to him by a Sayed of Al Jawwan, named Ali-bin-As-Saqqaf. Al Jawwan is outside our protectorate. The kadi says that the book belonged to a party of three mullahs, who looked like Turks and who visited the remains of Al Marati'. The party, he says, came from Nejran, accompanied by an escort of Bedouins of Ar-Ramla, and is alleged to have been deputed by Bin Rashid. From the further account given by the kadi it appears that the party gave out that they were ordered by the Ottoman Government to take a copy of the Himyaritic inscriptions on the stones there, which they did, after paying large sums of money to the surrounding Arabs. They also took with them small white marble stones and images. From Jawwan they visited Dathina in our protectorate, and were on their return journey to Nejran when they were all attacked by Bedouins, who killed them and looted their baggage. One of the murderers gave the book, which is vol. ii of the "History of Dynasties and Countries," by Jafar Mahomed-bin-Harir, at Tabari.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

Aden, January 27, 1921.

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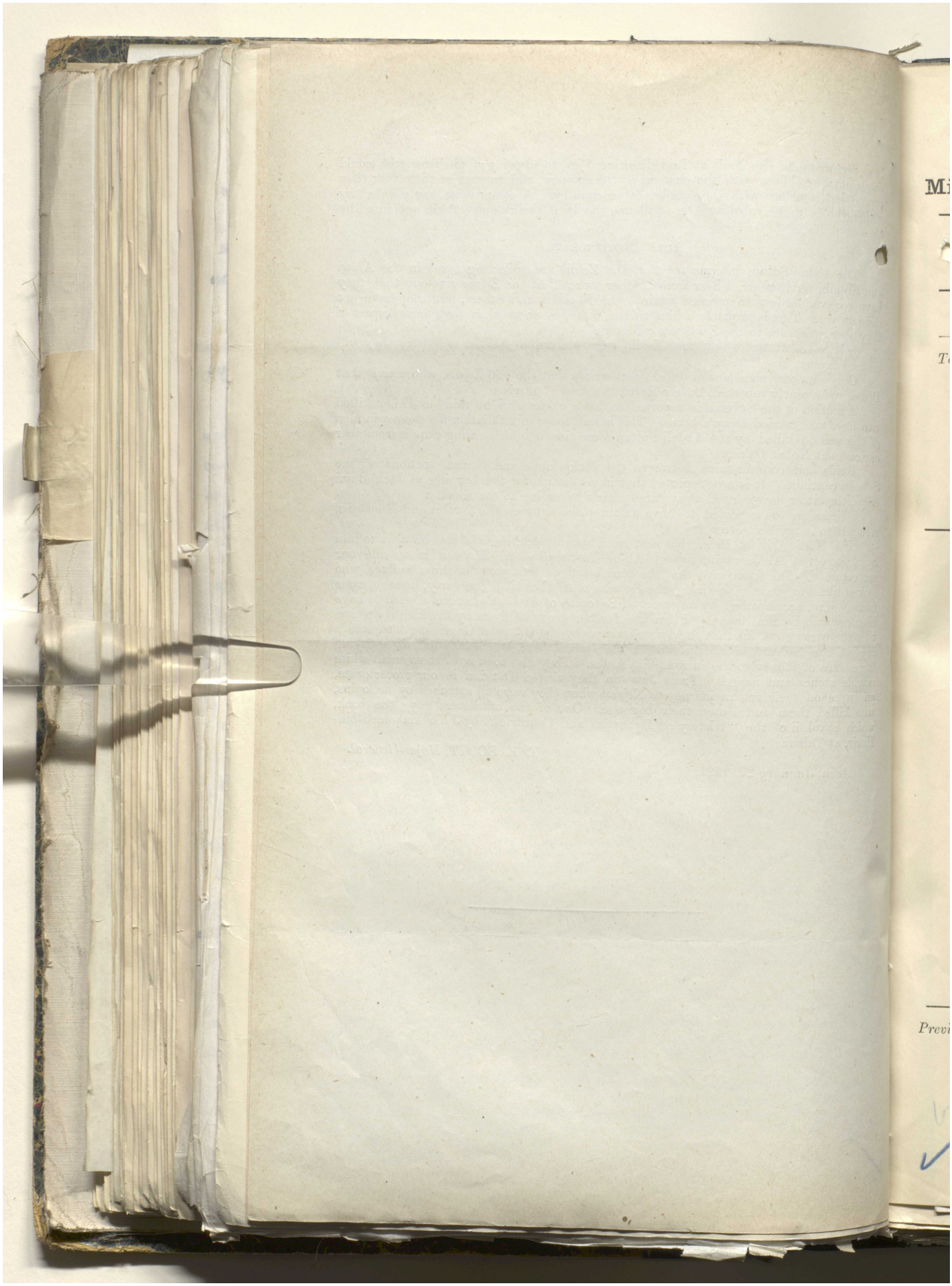

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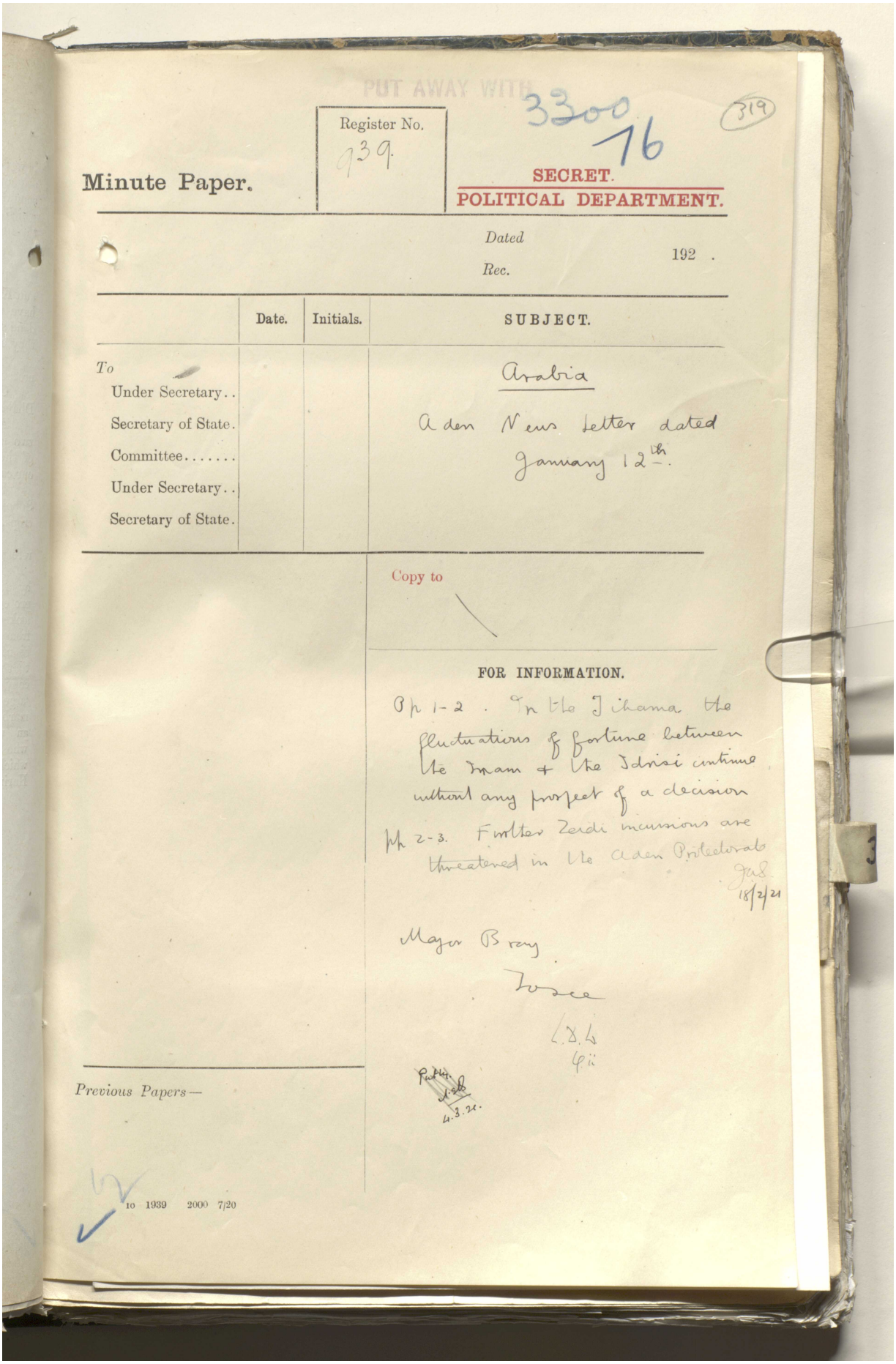

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(319)

Minute Paper.

Register No. 939.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Arabia
Under Secretary..			Aden News letter dated
Secretary of State.			January 12th.
Committee.....			
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

Pp 1-2. In the Jihama the fluctuations of fortune between the Imam & the Idrisi continue without any prospect of a decision

Pp 2-3. Further Zeidi incursions are threatened in the Aden Protectorate

J.A.S. 18/2/21

Major Bray

Forsee

L.S.4

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Previous Papers—

4.3.21.

10 1939 2000 7/20

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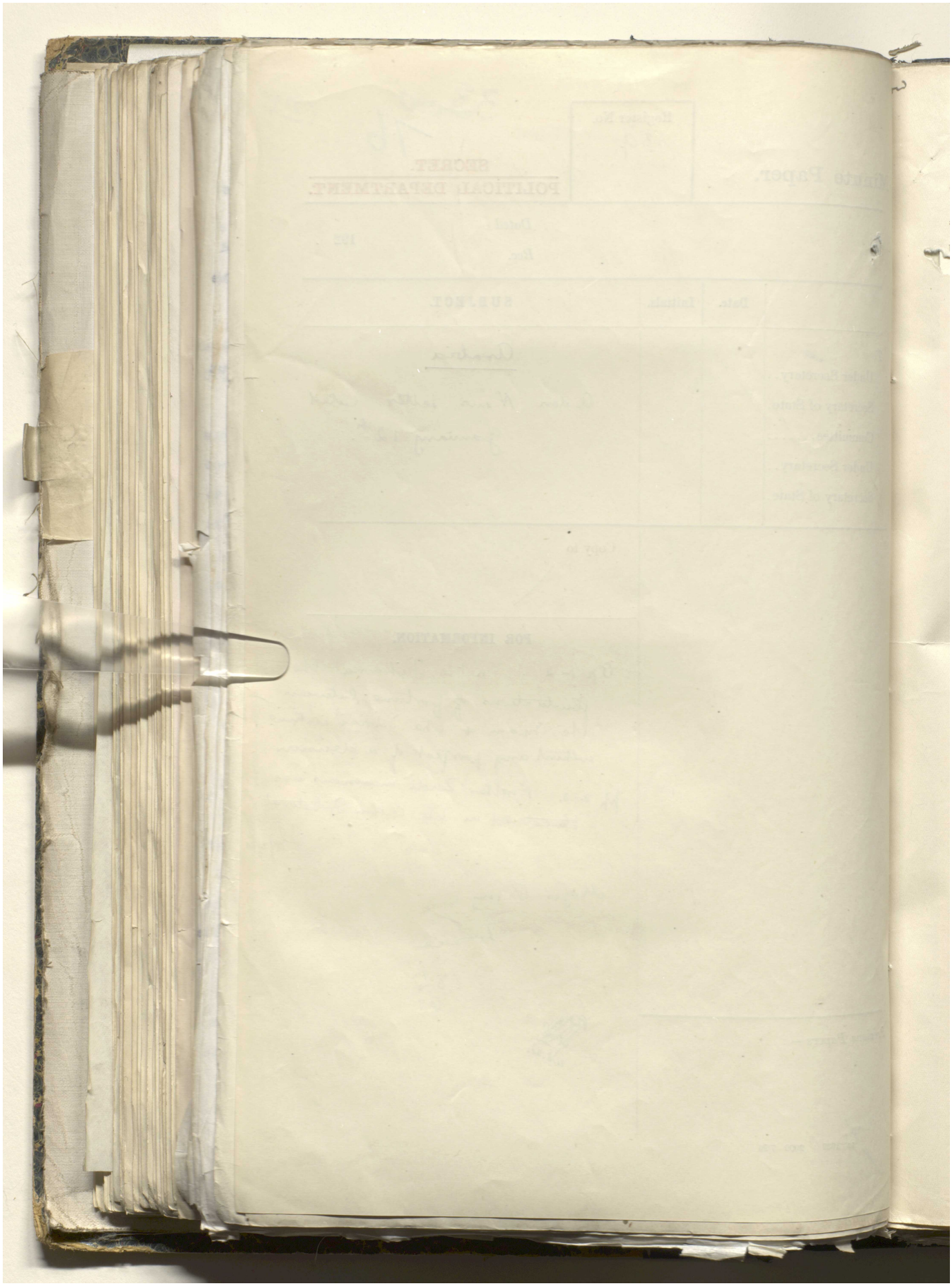

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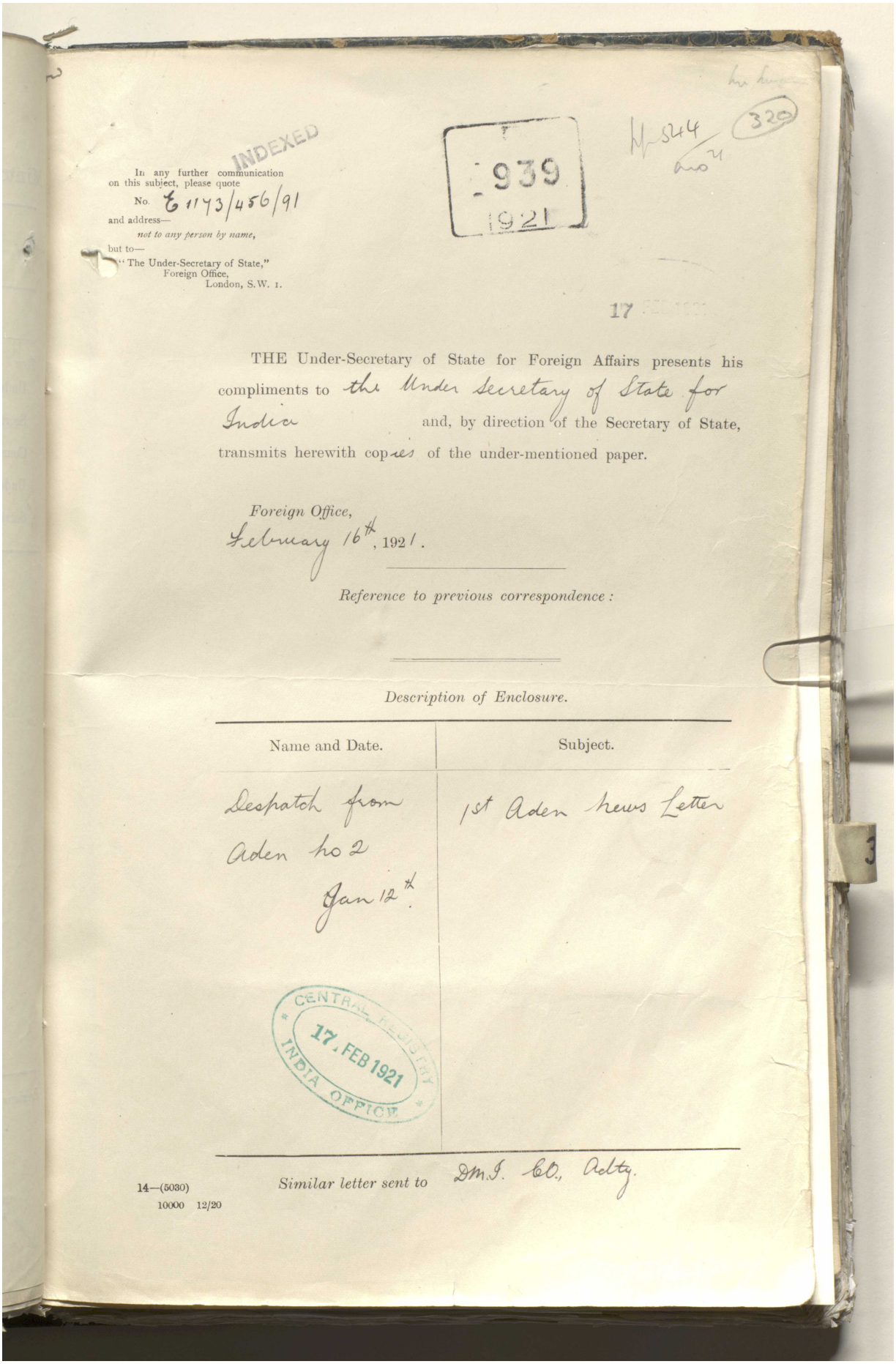

INDEXED

939
1921

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No. E 1173/456/91
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

17

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
February 16th, 1921.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch from Aden No 2 Jan 12th.	1st Aden News Letter

CENTRAL REGISTRY
17 FEB 1921
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Dm.I. GO., Admty.

14—(5030)
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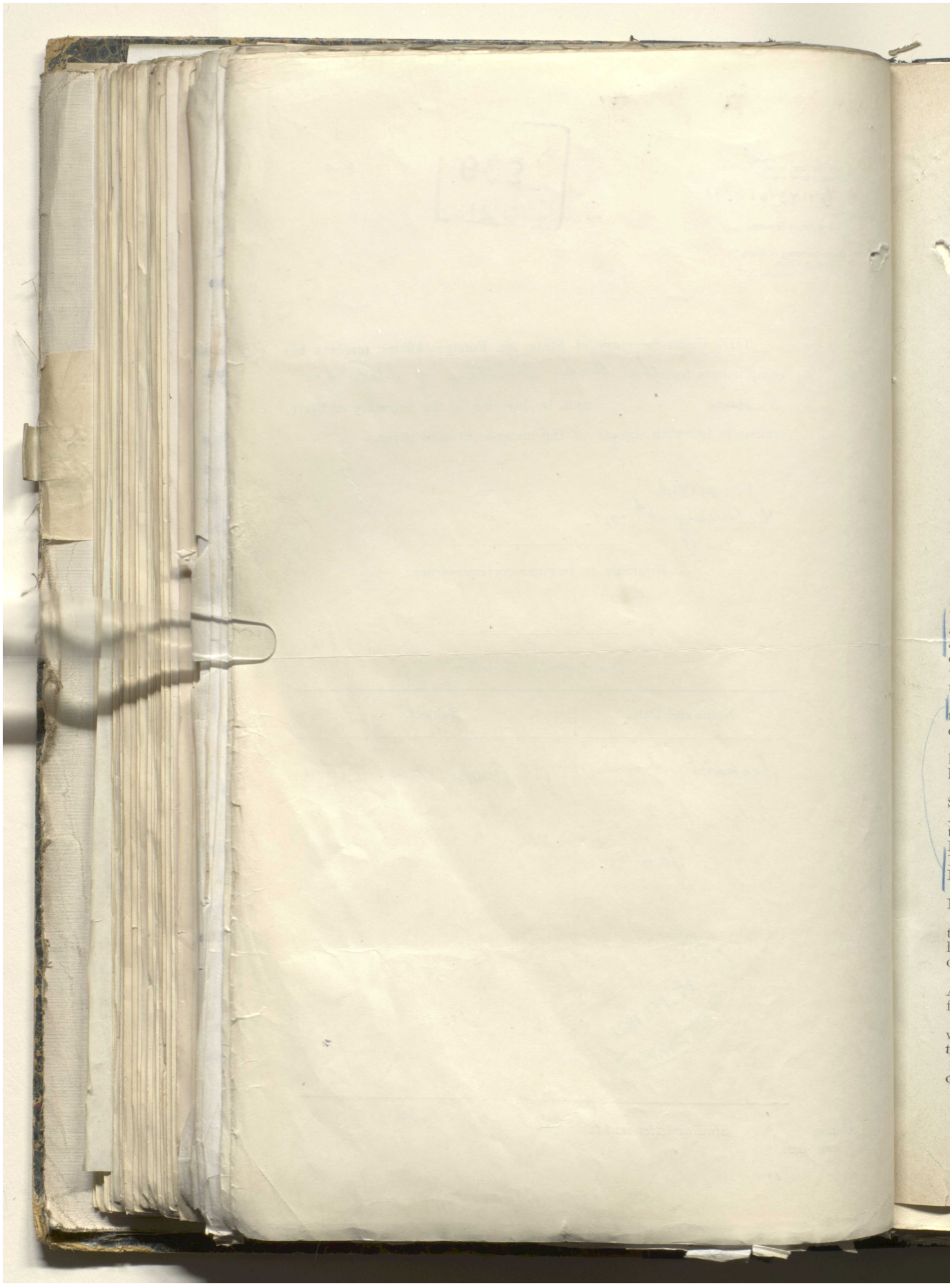

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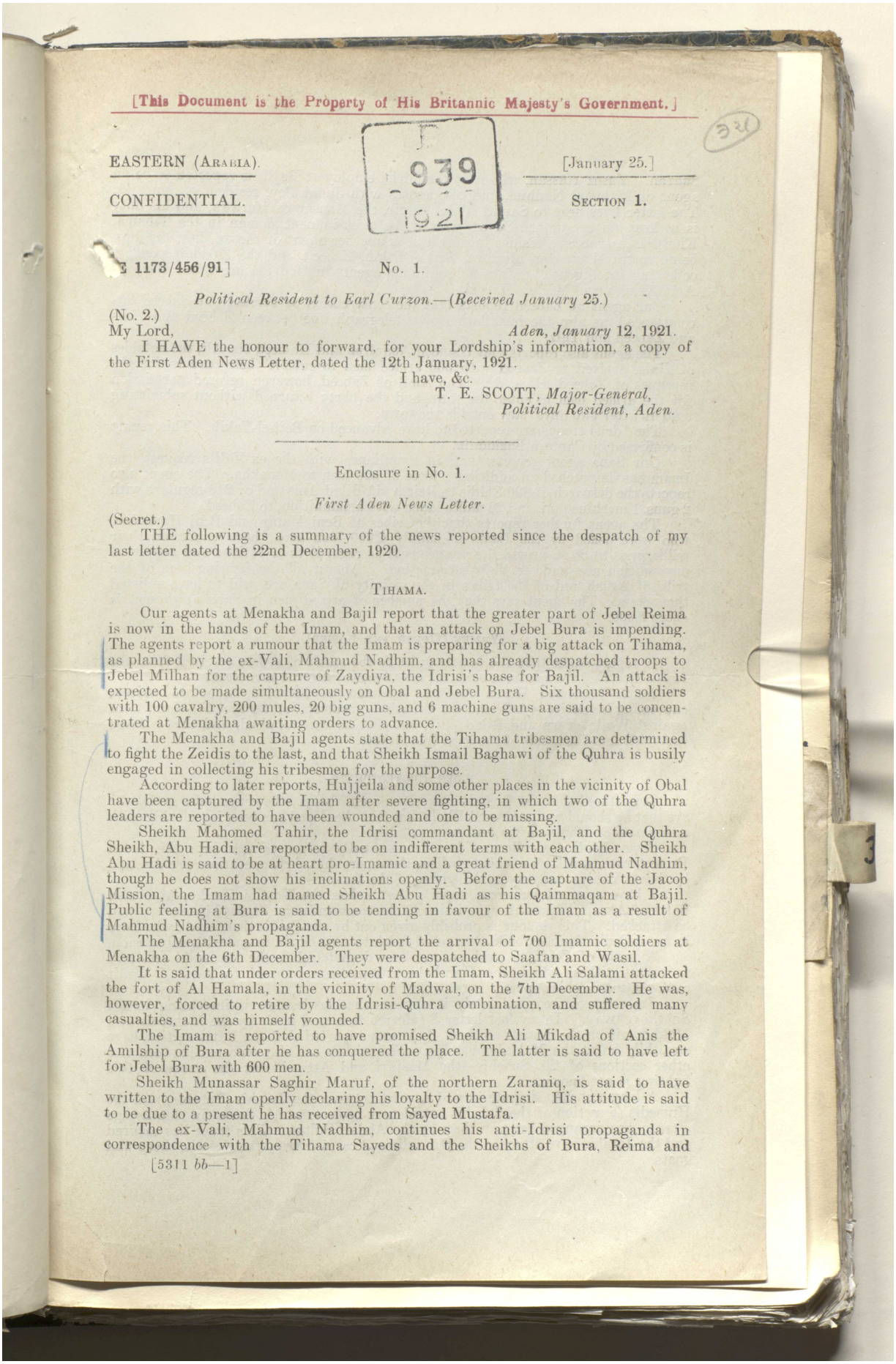

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EASTERN (ARABIA).

CONFIDENTIAL.

939
1921

[January 25.]

SECTION 1.

321

[E 1173/456/91]

No. 1.

Political Resident to Earl Curzon.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord, *Aden, January* 12, 1921.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the First Aden News Letter, dated the 12th January, 1921.

I have, &c.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General,*
Political Resident, Aden.

Enclosure in No. 1.

First Aden News Letter.

(Secret.)

THE following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated the 22nd December, 1920.

TIHAMA.

Our agents at Menakha and Bajil report that the greater part of Jebel Reima is now in the hands of the Imam, and that an attack on Jebel Bura is impending. The agents report a rumour that the Imam is preparing for a big attack on Tihama, as planned by the ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, and has already despatched troops to Jebel Milhan for the capture of Zaydiya, the Idrisi's base for Bajil. An attack is expected to be made simultaneously on Obal and Jebel Bura. Six thousand soldiers with 100 cavalry, 200 mules, 20 big guns, and 6 machine guns are said to be concentrated at Menakha awaiting orders to advance.

The Menakha and Bajil agents state that the Tihama tribesmen are determined to fight the Zeidis to the last, and that Sheikh Ismail Baghawi of the Quhra is busily engaged in collecting his tribesmen for the purpose.

According to later reports, Hujjeila and some other places in the vicinity of Obal have been captured by the Imam after severe fighting, in which two of the Quhra leaders are reported to have been wounded and one to be missing.

Sheikh Mahomed Tahir, the Idrisi commandant at Bajil, and the Quhra Sheikh, Abu Hadi, are reported to be on indifferent terms with each other. Sheikh Abu Hadi is said to be at heart pro-Imamic and a great friend of Mahmud Nadhim, though he does not show his inclinations openly. Before the capture of the Jacob Mission, the Imam had named Sheikh Abu Hadi as his Qaimmaqam at Bajil. Public feeling at Bura is said to be tending in favour of the Imam as a result of Mahmud Nadhim's propaganda.

The Menakha and Bajil agents report the arrival of 700 Imamic soldiers at Menakha on the 6th December. They were despatched to Saafan and Wasil.

It is said that under orders received from the Imam, Sheikh Ali Salami attacked the fort of Al Hamala, in the vicinity of Madwal, on the 7th December. He was, however, forced to retire by the Idrisi-Quhra combination, and suffered many casualties, and was himself wounded.

The Imam is reported to have promised Sheikh Ali Mikdad of Anis the Amilship of Bura after he has conquered the place. The latter is said to have left for Jebel Bura with 600 men.

Sheikh Munassar Saghir Maruf, of the northern Zaraniq, is said to have written to the Imam openly declaring his loyalty to the Idrisi. His attitude is said to be due to a present he has received from Sayed Mustafa.

The ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, continues his anti-Idrisi propaganda in correspondence with the Tihama Sayeds and the Sheikhs of Bura, Reima and

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Saafan. Yusuf Hassan, who is in the Idrisi employ at Bajil, is reported to be an agent of Mahmud Nadhim, and co-operates with Jamil Bey, resident at Marawa. The latter lives next to Saiyid Abdul Kadir, the Mansab of Marawa, and his duty is to keep an eye on the Sayed, who is the most influential man in the Tihama. Khalil Bey, who also resides in Marawa, is another agent of the ex-Vali, his duty being to travel between Marawa, Beit-el-Fakih, Zabeed, and the Zaraniq country collecting intelligence. Mahmud Nadhim's agents in Hodeida are Omar Mizjaj Arif Kharsa and Mirjan Harazi.

Our agent at Zabeed reports that the construction of barracks at Zabeed has commenced, as also the installation of a telegraph line between Zabeed and Hais and Zabeed and Taiz.

The agent also reports that Hamood Abdulrab and Hameed bin Ali, the notables of Hais, arrived at Zabeed with 500 armed men to submit their tenders for the revenues of Zabeed, Hais, &c. The Amil of Zabeed, however, refused permission for the armed men to enter the town and the party returned without submitting tenders after two days' stay outside the town.

The Idrisi troops are reported to have advanced on Beit-el-Fakih. This report is confirmed by Captain Fazluddin.

Our Sana agent reports that, in compliance with the ex-Vali's request, the Imam has despatched an additional force of 500 men to Menakha. The agent also reports the despatch of 800 Zeidis to Reima viâ Bilad Anis and of 240 regulars with 2 guns, 1 machine gun, and 28 mules laden with ammunition, to Zabeed.

The agent further reports that the tribes of Beni Matar and Beni Hamadan, who were asked by the Imam to supply 2,000 men each, have expressed their willingness to do so provided arrangements as regards their rations and supply of ammunition are made to their satisfaction. Almost all the fighting men of the tribe of Arhab and of the tribes in the vicinity of Sana are said to have enlisted themselves. The agent says that the number of armed men in Sana at present is about 5,000.

Yemen (Upper and Lower).

A report states that Ibb is now quiet as the result of orders received from the Imam directing the Zeidis to cease all interference with the inhabitants.

Nakib Mahomed Husen As-Sufi, headman of Khaulan, who has written expressing his desire to befriend the British Government, states that Ibn Saud went against Waila, Yarn and Bilad Asir, but that he was repulsed, and that a large booty fell into the hands of the local inhabitants.

Aden Protectorate.

It is stated that the Imam's orders to Sayed Yahiya, the commander at Dhala, are that he should not go beyond Dhala, but that the Sayed has been interfering with tribes outside Dhala on his own responsibility.

Some Zeidi tax-collectors have undoubtedly advanced far into the Aden Protectorate, and I am unable to believe the report that their operations are directed by Sayed Yahiya contrary to the wishes of the Imam.

I have received numerous reports that unless the Koteibi Sheikh, Mahomed Saleh al Akram, makes his submission to the commander at Dhala, his country will be attacked. This rumour is probably given out by the Zeidis themselves, who have so far failed to induce Sheikh Mahomed Saleh to visit Dhala to make his submission.

A party of Zeidis is said to have been despatched to the Haushabi territory to collect tithes, which the Haushabi Sultan has promised to pay. I await confirmation of this report.

From reports received lately it appears that lawlessness is increasing in the Subehi country. In my last letter I referred to a raid made by the Mansuris and Makhdumis on the Somati section. It is now reported that the latter section have stealthily burnt the Makhdumi crops. Skirmishes are also reported between two other sections of the Subehis—the Masfari and Attawi—but the cause of this fighting is not known.

A long-standing dispute is said to exist between the Jorabis (Subehis) and the Humedis (a section of the Subehis outside our protectorate). Some six months ago a truce was arranged between them by the Abdali Sultan. This truce has expired and the Jorabis have attacked the Humedis and carried away their cattle, sheep and goats.

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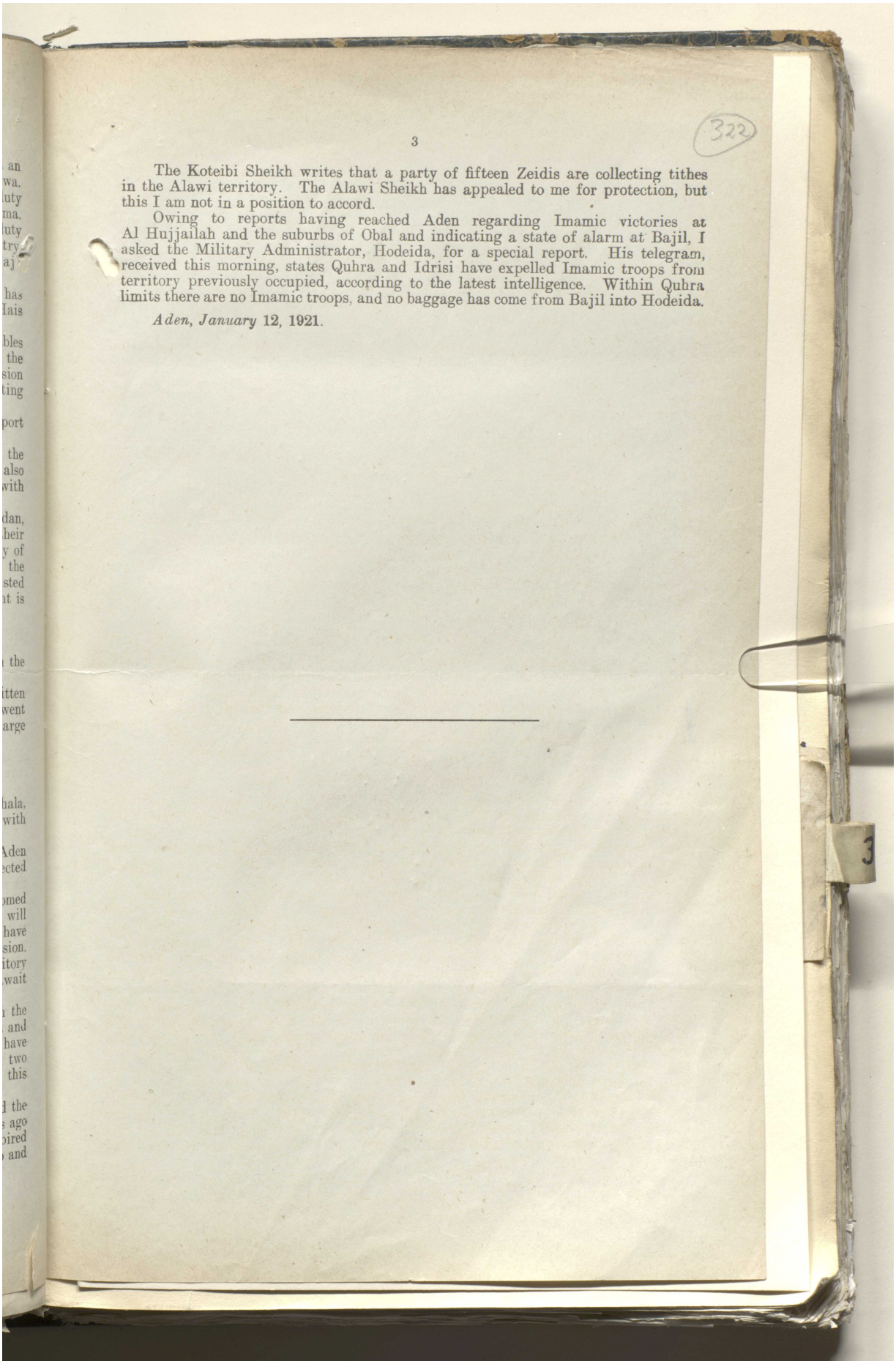

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The Koteibi Sheikh writes that a party of fifteen Zeidis are collecting tithes in the Alawi territory. The Alawi Sheikh has appealed to me for protection, but this I am not in a position to accord.

Owing to reports having reached Aden regarding Imamic victories at Al Hujjailah and the suburbs of Obal and indicating a state of alarm at Bajil, I asked the Military Administrator, Hodeida, for a special report. His telegram, received this morning, states Quhra and Idrisi have expelled Imamic troops from territory previously occupied, according to the latest intelligence. Within Quhra limits there are no Imamic troops, and no baggage has come from Bajil into Hodeida.

Aden, January 12, 1921.

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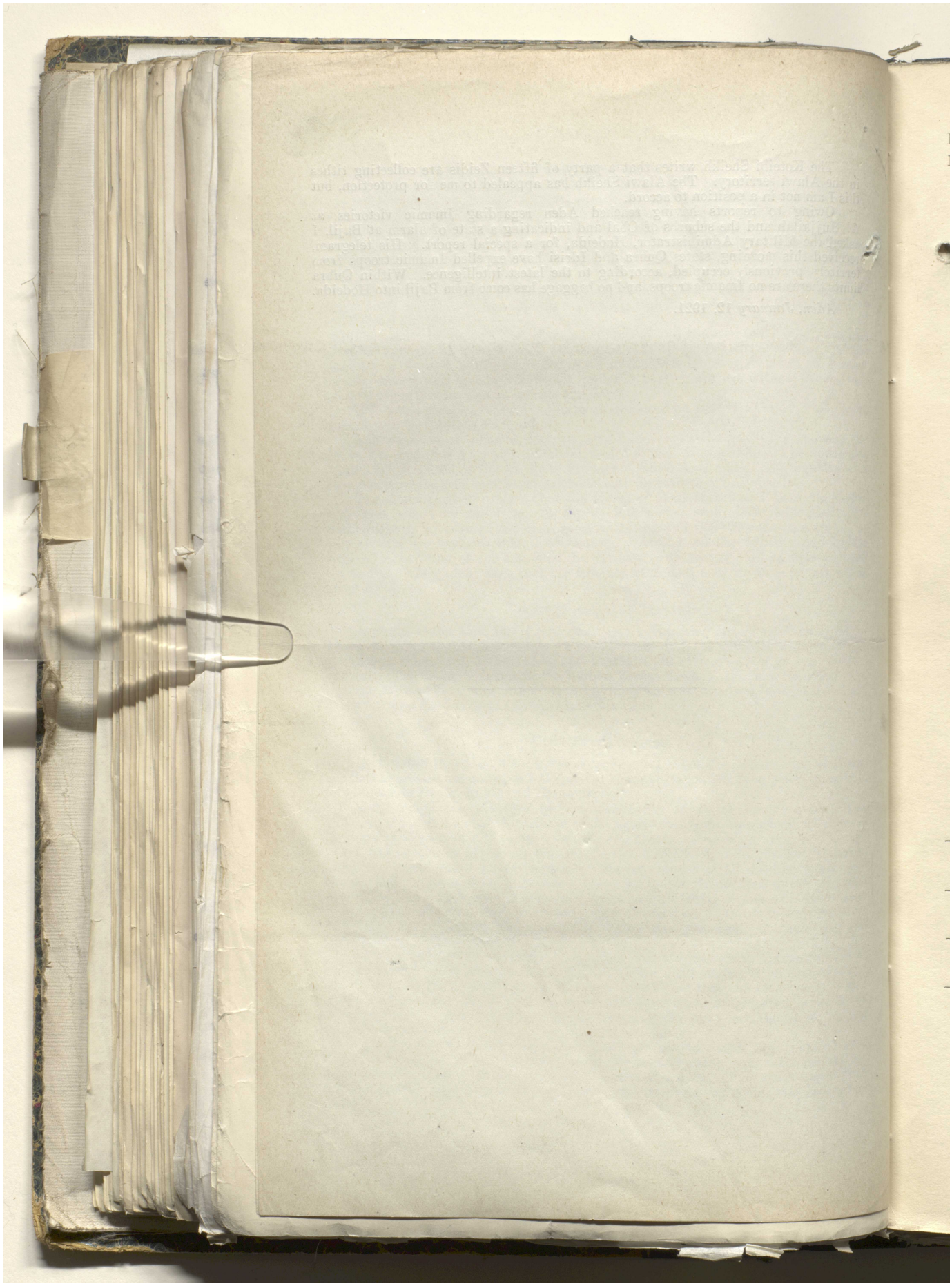

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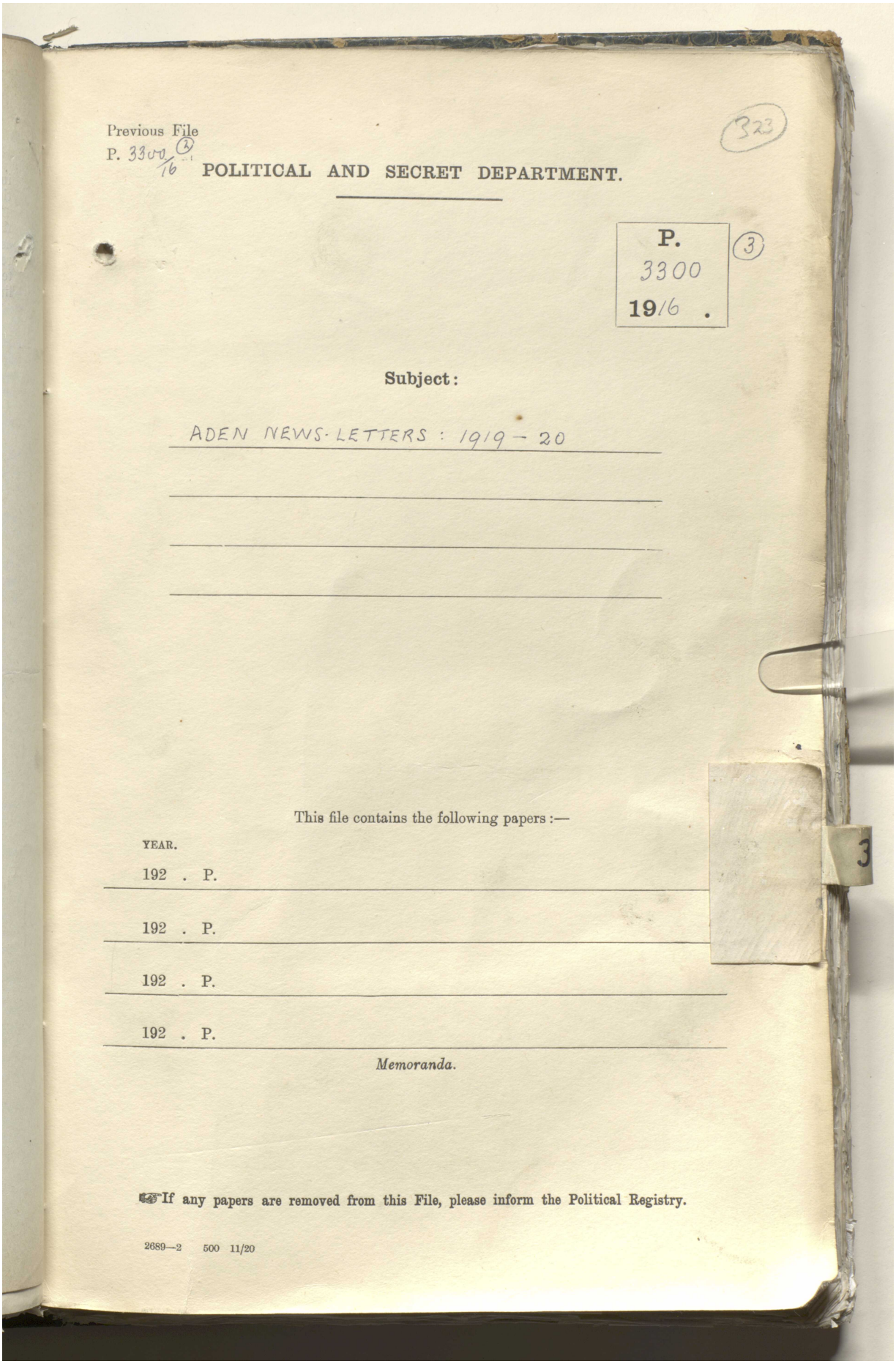

Previous File
P. 3300/16 (2)

(323)

POLITICAL AND SECRET DEPARTMENT.

P. 3300 (3)
19/6 .

Subject:

ADEN NEWS-LETTERS : 1919 – 20

This file contains the following papers :—

YEAR.		
192	.	P.
192	.	P.
192	.	P.
192	.	P.

Memoranda.

☞If any papers are removed from this File, please inform the Political Registry.

2689—2 500 11/20

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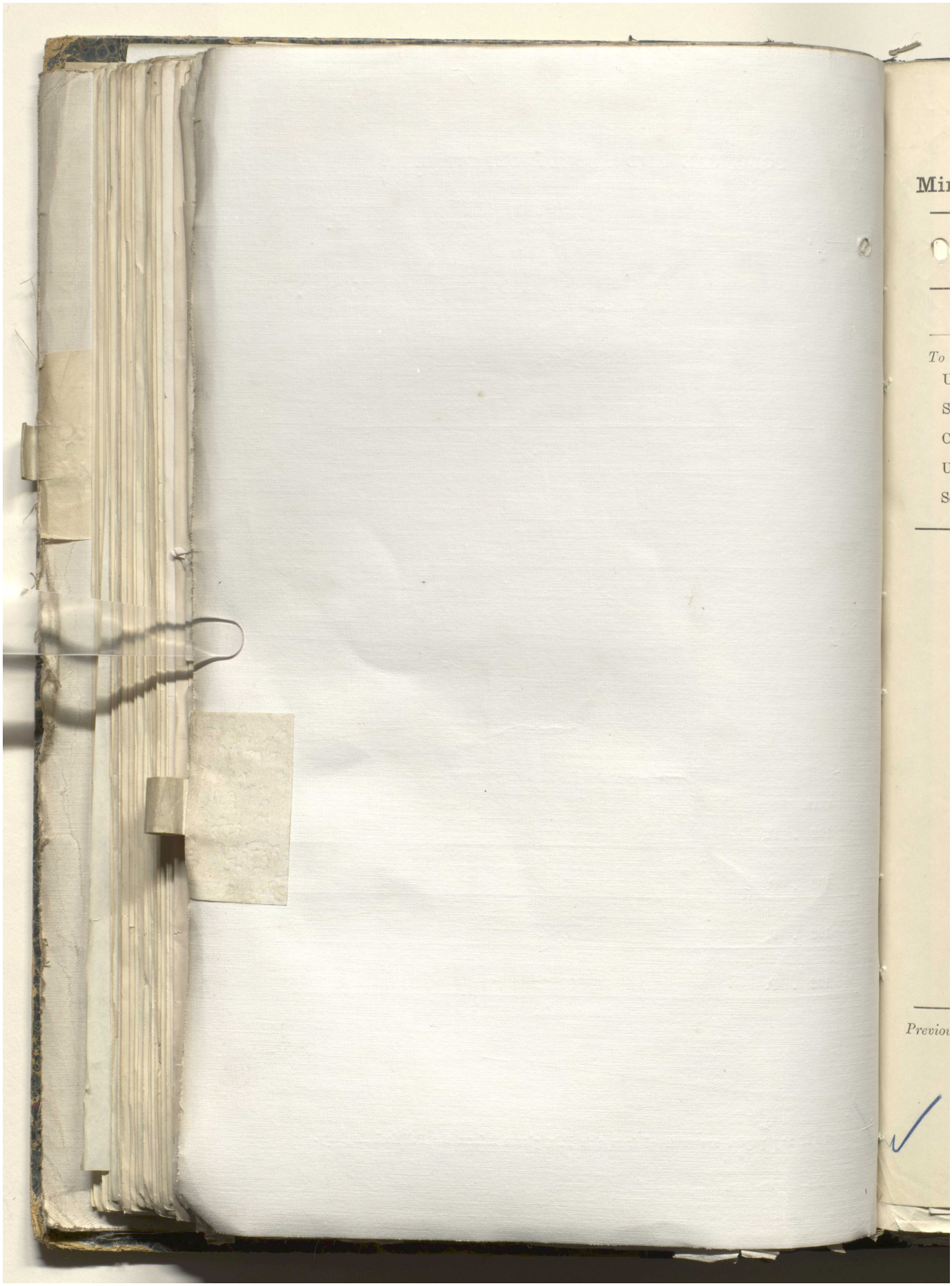

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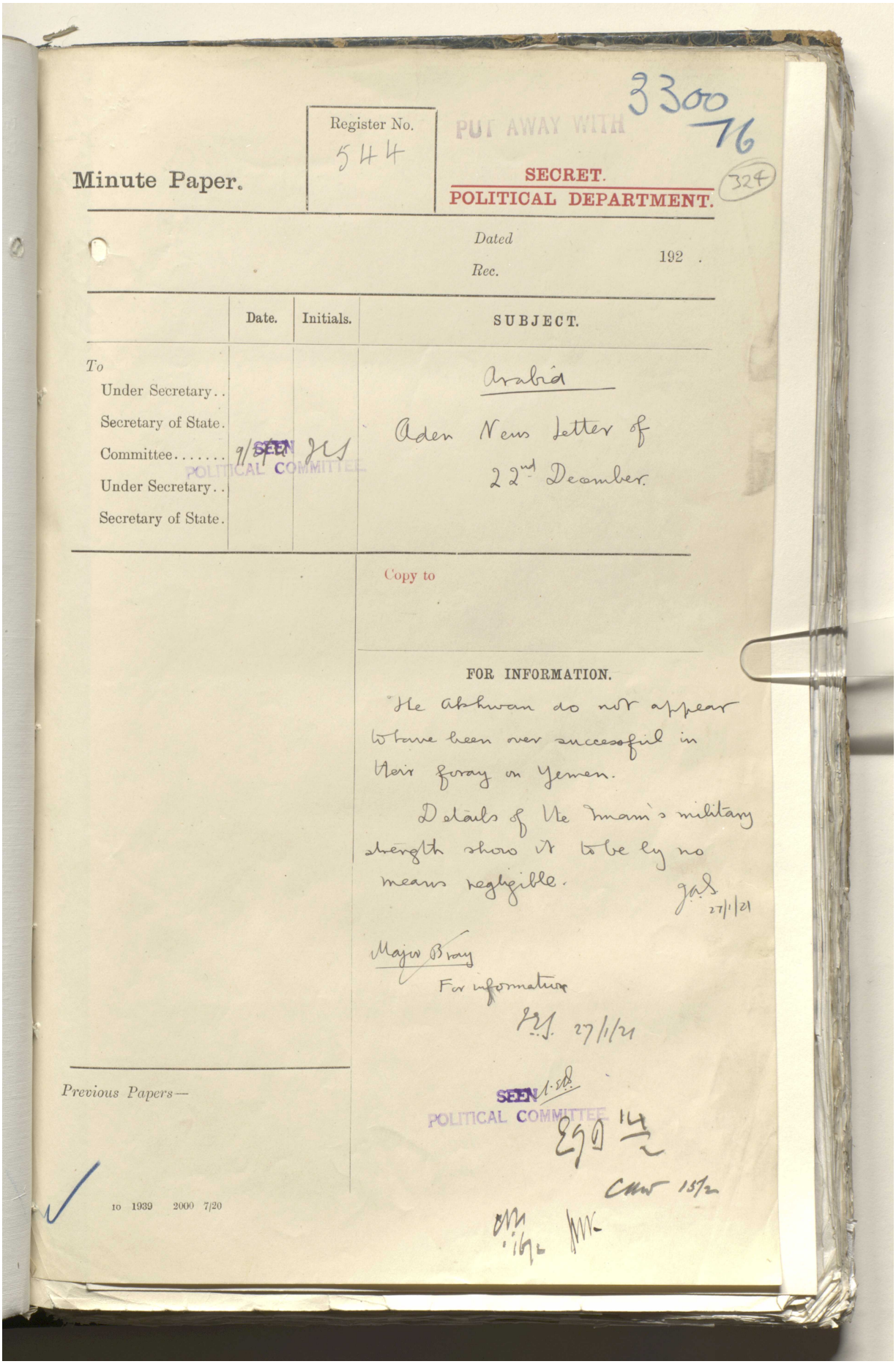

3300/16

Minute Paper.

Register No. 544

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

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Dated

Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..			Arabia
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	9/SEEN	JCS	Aden News Letter of
Under Secretary..	POLITICAL COMMITTEE		22nd December.
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

He Abkwan do not appear to have been over successful in their foray in Yemen.

Details of the Imam's military strength show it to be by no means negligible.

JAS 27/1/21

Major Bray

For information

JCS 27/1/21

SEEN 1.58
POLITICAL COMMITTEE

E90 14

CMW 15/2

Previous Papers—

to 1939 2000 7/20

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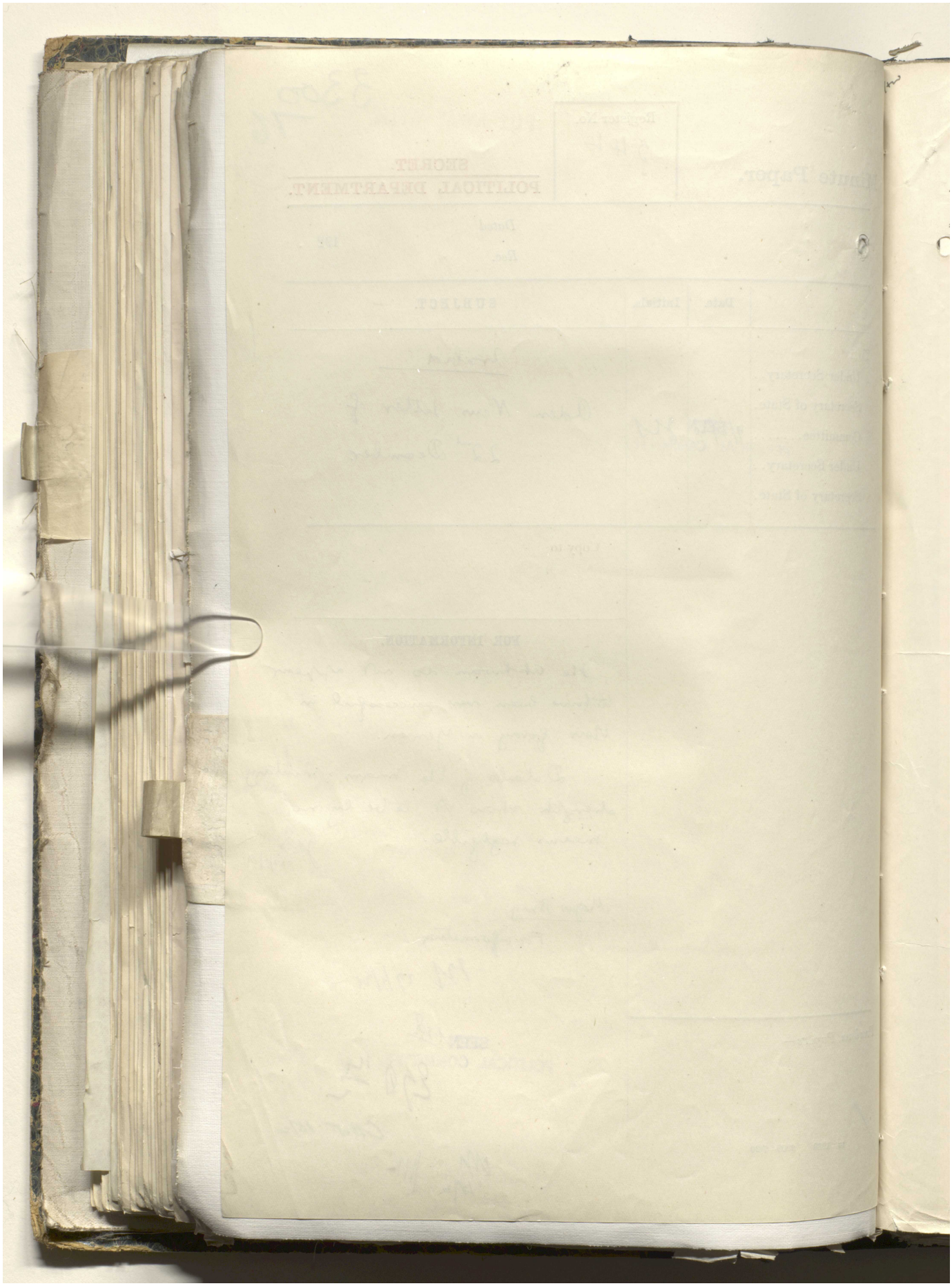

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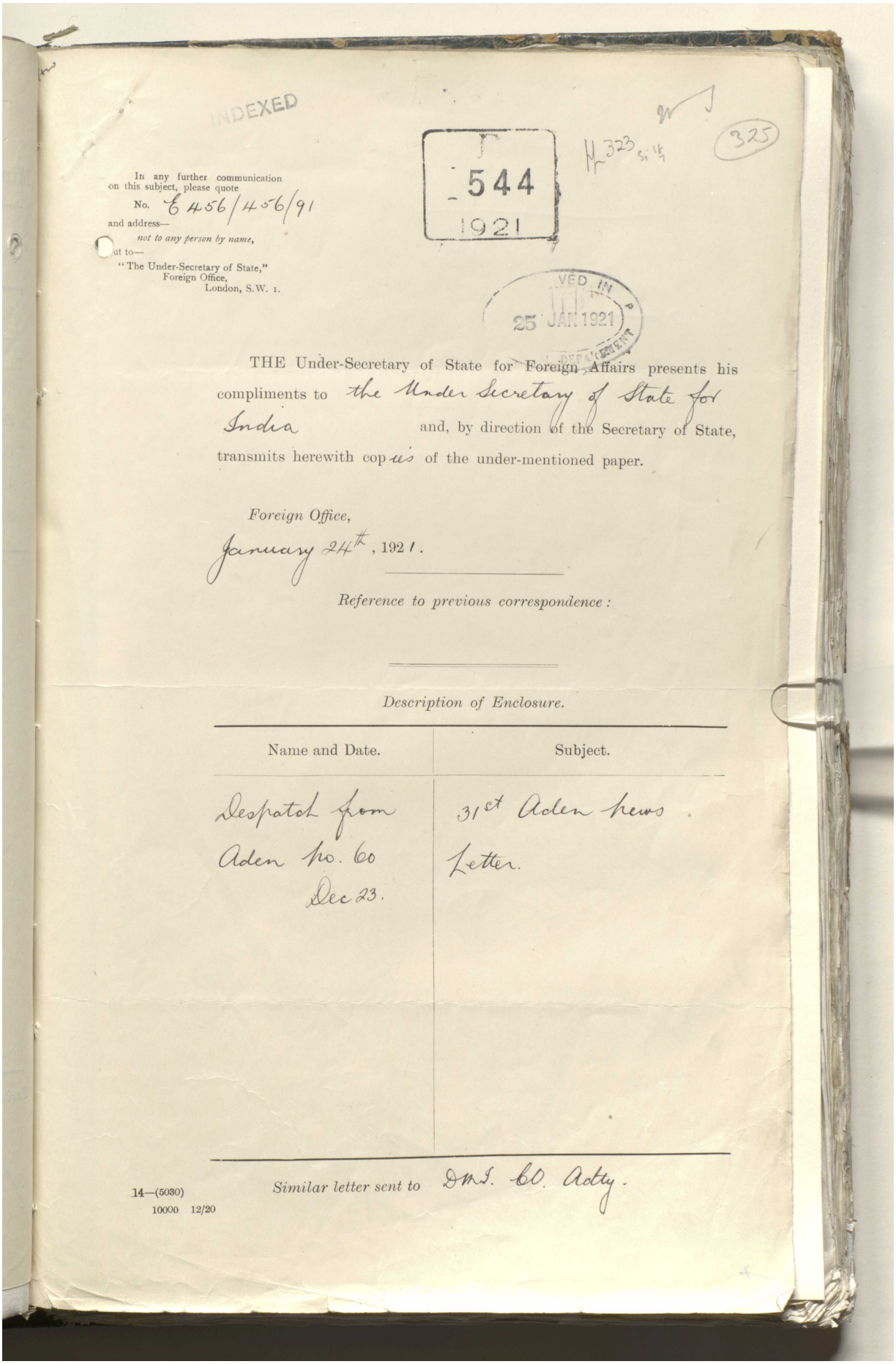

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1921

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 456/456/91
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

RECEIVED IN
25 JAN 1921
DEPARTMENT

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
January 24th, 1921.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch from Aden No. 60 Dec 23.	31st Aden News Letter.

Similar letter sent to Govt. of Aden.

14—(5030)
10000 12/20

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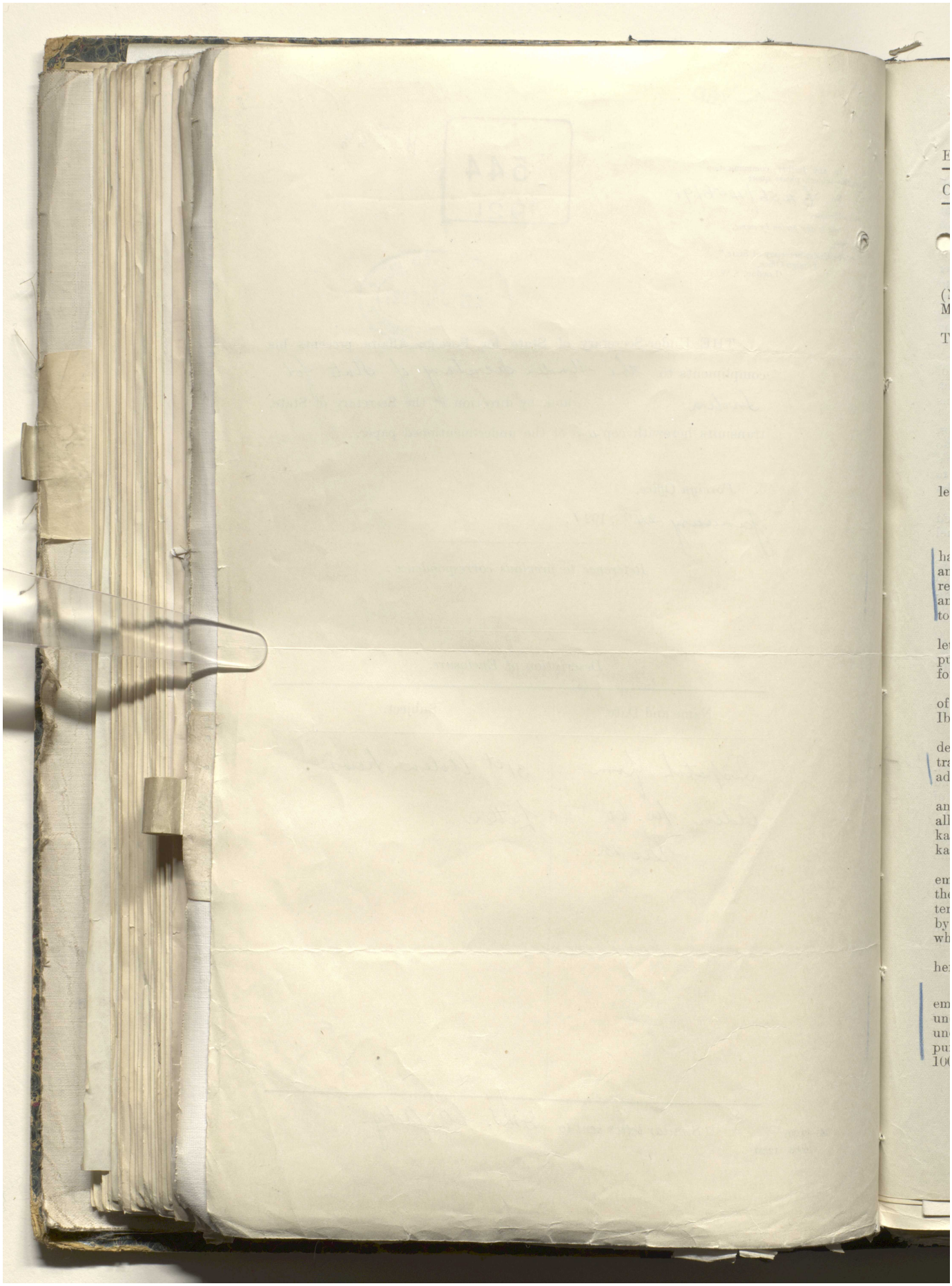

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EASTERN (ARABIA). [January 10.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 4.

544

E 456/456/91] No. 1.

Political Resident, Aden, to Earl Curzon.—(*Received January 10, 1921.*)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Aden, December 23, 1920.*

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Lordship's information a copy of the Thirty-first Aden News Letter dated the 22nd December, 1920.

I have, &c.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

Enclosure in No. 1.

Thirty-first Aden News Letter.

THE following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated the 8th December, 1920:—

Yemen (Upper and Lower).

News regarding Ibn Saud's movements is conflicting. One report states that he has retired to Nejran, north of Saada, owing to sickness among his soldiers, while another states that he has received a large sum of money from the Imam for his retirement. A third report states that he is still fighting at Al Kadad and Al Haut, and that the Dhu Mahomed and Dhu Hussain sub-tribes of the Bakhil have gone over to the Idrisi or Ibn Saud and that Hashid tribe are wavering.

According to an informant Saiyid Abdullah Ibrahim, referred to in previous letters, despatched 200 men to Al Udain and an equal number to Badan, for what purpose it is not clear. The party sent to Badan was attacked on arrival and suffered forty casualties in killed and wounded.

Fighting is reported to have taken place between the Zeidis and the inhabitants of Ibb in consequence of suspected poisoning of a Zeidi officer. The head sheikh of Ibb, Abdu Salama, is said to have been made a prisoner along with 150 other suspects.

A report says that Taiz is full of Zeidi troops and that although detachments are despatched towards Zabid they are replaced by fresh drafts from Sana. The concentration at Taiz is said to be due to the fear the Zeidis still entertain of a British advance.

Kadi Ahmed Mahomed-al-Ukam of Berut in the Yemen recently visited Aden and submitted a petition requesting me, in case the Imam was friendly to, or in alliance with, us, to write to him and ask him to confer a suitable post on him (the kadi) or to fix a subsidy for him. In the event of the Imam being unfriendly to us, the kadi offered to assist us in waging war against the Imam.

The kadi does not appear to be a man of much importance. He may be an emissary of the Imam sent to sound us, or he may be an emissary from some enemy of the Imam. I have given him a reply in general terms that we desire to live on friendly terms with all the rulers of Arabia, great and small, but we consider ourselves bound by treaty to grant protection to the Amir of Dhala and to support the smaller chiefs to whom we are pledged.

Two Turkish officers, Mustapha Azim and Tewfik Mahomed, who recently arrived here from the Yemen, gave the following information:—

There are 60 military Turkish officers in the Yemen, 45 of whom are now employed by the Imam. There are, in addition, 30 civil Turkish officers employed under Mahmoud Nadhim, and 101 Turkish infantry soldiers and 45 artillerymen under the Imam. All Turkish officers and soldiers are employed solely for training purposes. Three or four Turkish solders under Turkish officers are appointed to train 100 Zeidi troops. There are 3,000 Imamic regulars at Sana, but thousands more are

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in the surrounding country. In the event of a jehad, the Imam can put 60,000 regulars and irregulars into the field. Rafik Bey has 2,000 regulars with him at Taiz, in addition to irregulars, whose number is not known. The Imam's force at present in Saafan, Jebel Bura and Jebel Reima consists of 500 regulars with an unknown number of irregulars. This force is officered by Arabs who have been educated and trained in Constantinople, as the Imam will not trust Turkish officers to command his men in actual warfare. There are a few irregulars at Mawia. The Imam has over 100 guns of all sizes in his fortress at Sahara. If he requires any guns for an expedition they are always drawn from this fortress. The guns at Sana are never called upon. There are 15,000 rifles stored in this fortress. The guns at Sana, with the exception of the old immovable fortress guns, were given to the Imam by Mahomed Tewfiq, the late commander-in-chief of the Turkish forces in the Yemen, before he could get permission to surrender.

The guns at Taiz were given by Said Pasha to Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil of Mawia. They were at Mawia until the Imam sent down a force of 300 Zeidis, which forced Mahomed Nasir Mukbil to surrender them. There are also two mountain guns at Zabeed and two at Menakha. The Imam has guns posted all over the country.

The Imam is not very anxious about the Idrisi, but was really anxious about Ibn Saud. However, the latter advanced against Saada in such a foolish way and by so difficult a road that the number of casualties he suffered has relieved the Imam's anxiety. Sickness broke out at Saada amongst Ibn Saud's men, and he has had to retire. In the opinion of the informants, with two aeroplanes and 10,000 men Ibn Saud could have taken Sana in half-an-hour.

The ammunition factory under the Austrian, George, is still turning out unlimited ammunition. The Commanding Royal Artillery at Sana is Lieutenant-Colonel Mahmoud Pasha.

A lance-corporal of the 1st Yemen Infantry in Aden, who had proceeded on leave to the Yemen, reports that men who are known to have served in the 1st Yemen Infantry are fined from 50 to 100 dollars, or in default have to suffer an imprisonment. Two deserters from the Yemen Infantry are said to be acting as informers and report the return of the Yemen Infantry men.

This same corporal states that while he was at Dhala on the 2nd December 600 Imamic soldiers entered the place and that another force of 400 arrived at Kataba. On enquiry he learnt that these troops were sent for the invasion of the territory occupied by the Kotaibi, Haushabi and other tribes in the Aden Protectorate.

The lance-corporal states that Ibb is full of troops and that the Zeidis have taken possession of all the arms, ammunition, &c., which the people of Ibb had received from the Turks.

Aden Protectorate.

According to a report 150 Zeidis have arrived at Dhala and more are expected. The Imam's commander at Dhala intends to send a party of Zeidis to Al Agood and Radfan in the Aden Protectorate to enforce the payment of tithes, which the people of these places have refused.

An informant from Dhala states that small parties of Zeidis have been arriving for the past week or so, and that all approaches to Dhala are held by piquets of these men. He says that 100 men of the Dhala garrison are armed with new Italian magazine rifles.

A party of Mansuris and Makhdumis (Subehis) in our protectorate is reported to have raided the Somati section of the Subehis and carried away thirty-one camels after killing two Somatis. This raid appears to be in retaliation for a raid made by the Somatis some time ago, in which they had killed one Mansuri and one Makhdumi and carried away a flock of sheep and goats. The Abdali Sultan is trying to settle the dispute.

Mukbil Abdulla, referred to in the last letter, is now reported to have gone to Dhala, and I hear that he will not be permitted to leave until he has placed his son as a hostage.

The Imam's commander at Dhala is said to have tom-tomed a notice to the effect that all goods should pass through Dhala, where transit dues will be levied, and that goods going by other routes will be confiscated.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

Aden, December 22, 1920.

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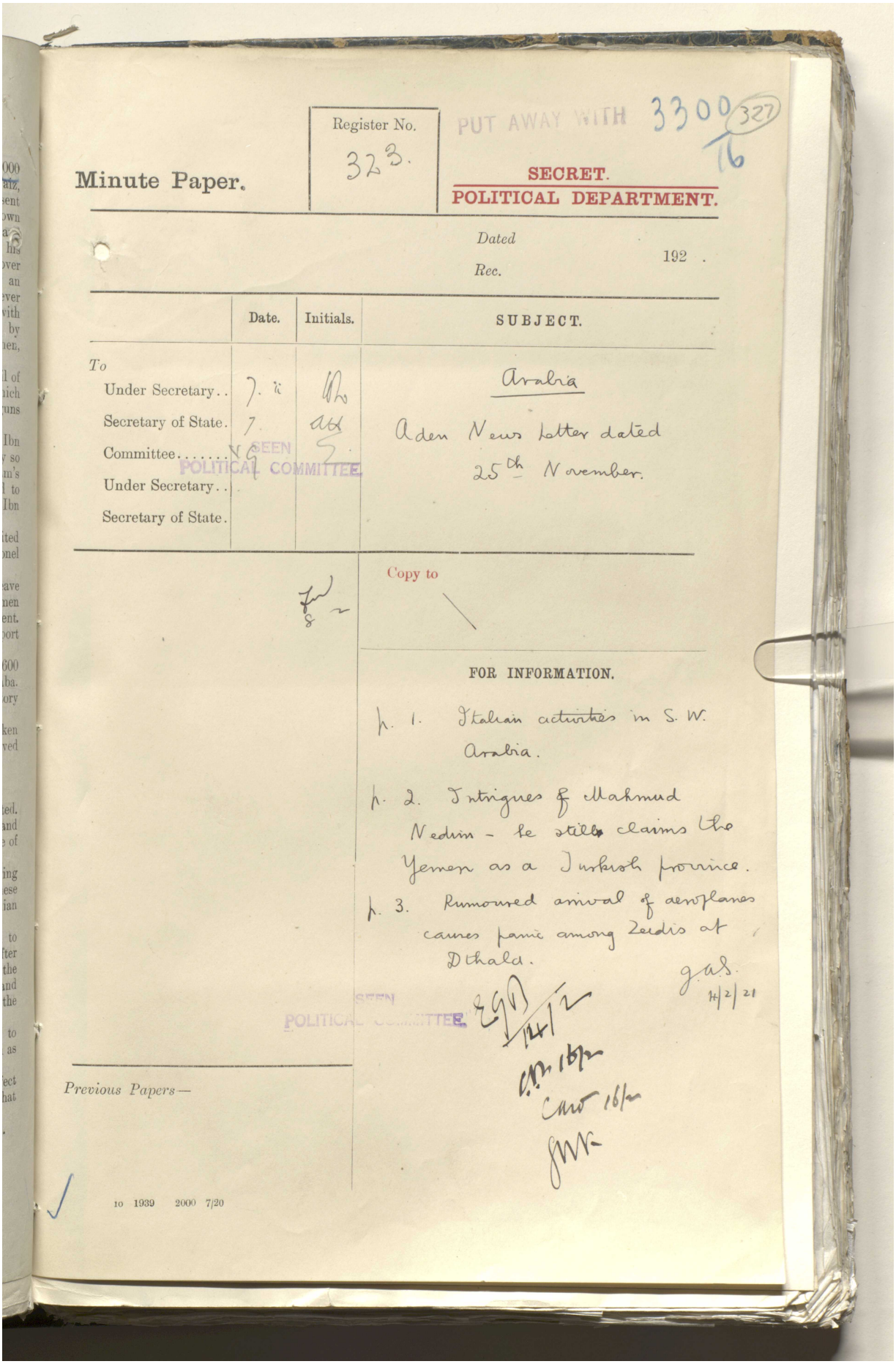

Minute Paper.

Register No. 323.

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SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..	7. ii		Arabia
Secretary of State.	7.		Aden News letter dated 25th November.
Committee.....	SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE		
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 1. Italian activities in S. W. Arabia.

p. 2. Intrigues of Mahmud Nedim - he still claims the Yemen as a Turkish province.

p. 3. Rumoured arrival of aeroplanes causes panic among Zeidis at Dthala.

gas. 14/2/21

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Previous Papers—

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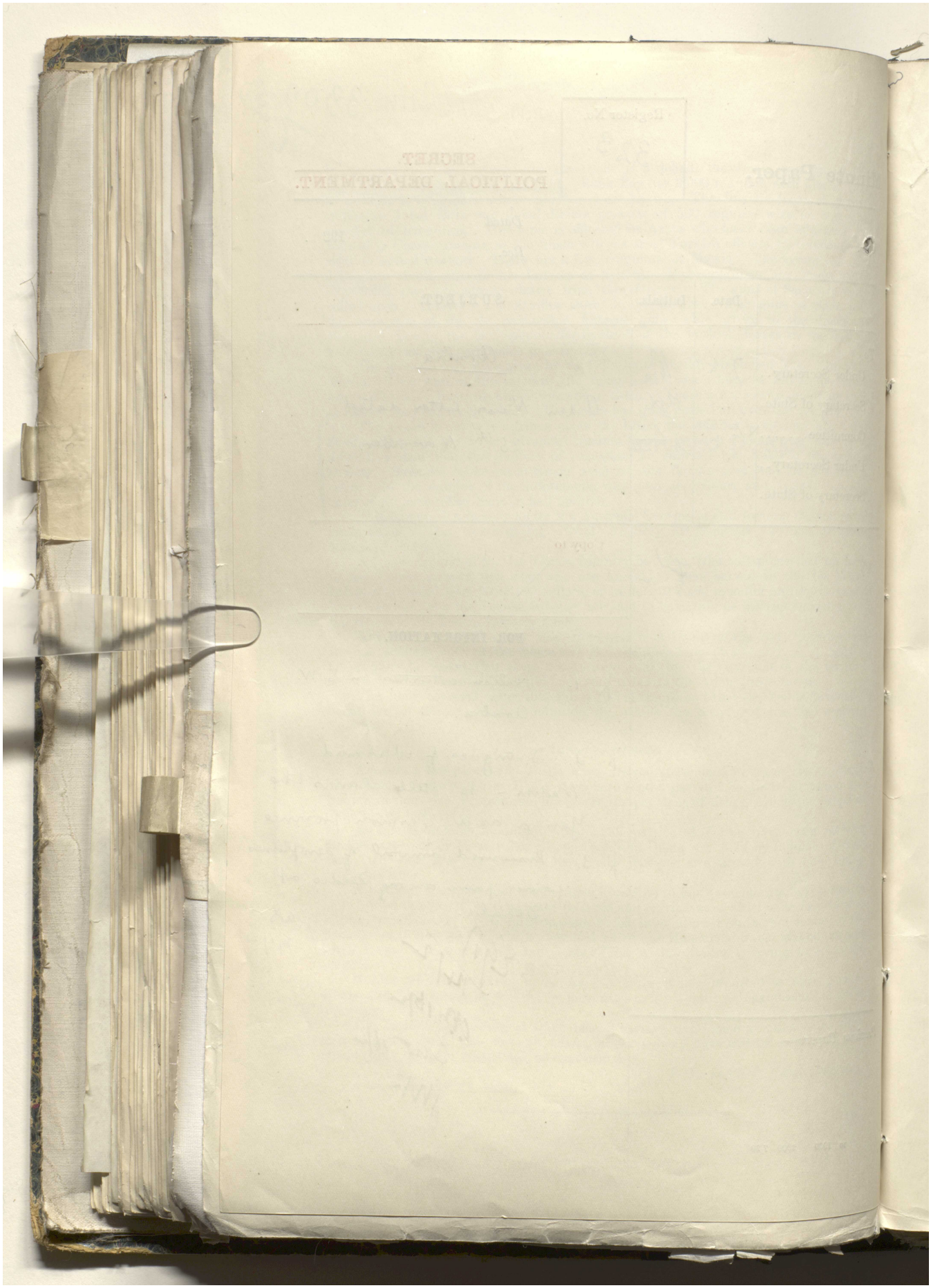

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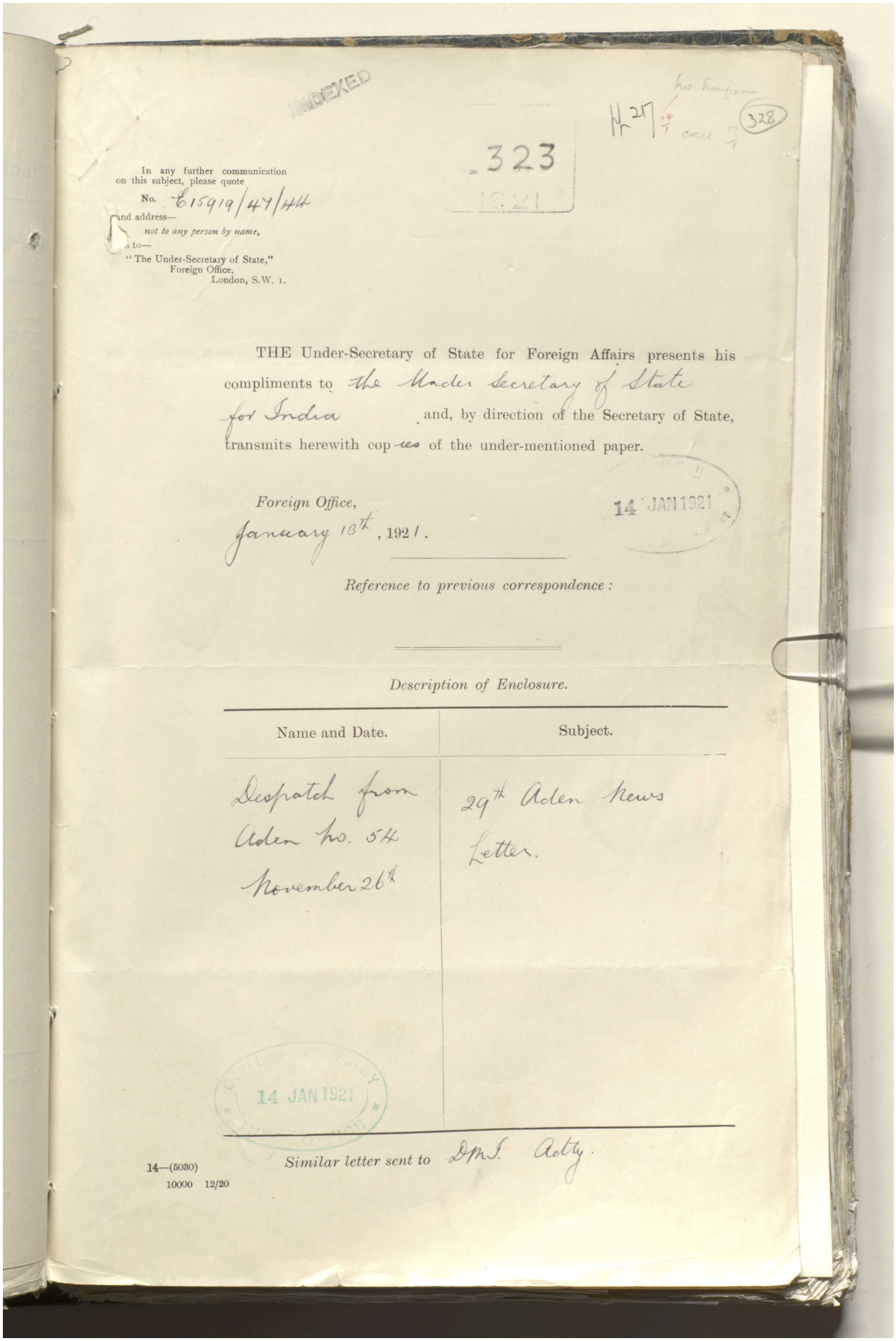

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 15919/47/44
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
January 18th, 1921.

14 JAN 1921

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch from Aden No. 54 November 26th	29th Aden News Letter.

14 JAN 1921

Similar letter sent to Dpt. Actty.

14—(5030)
10000 12/20

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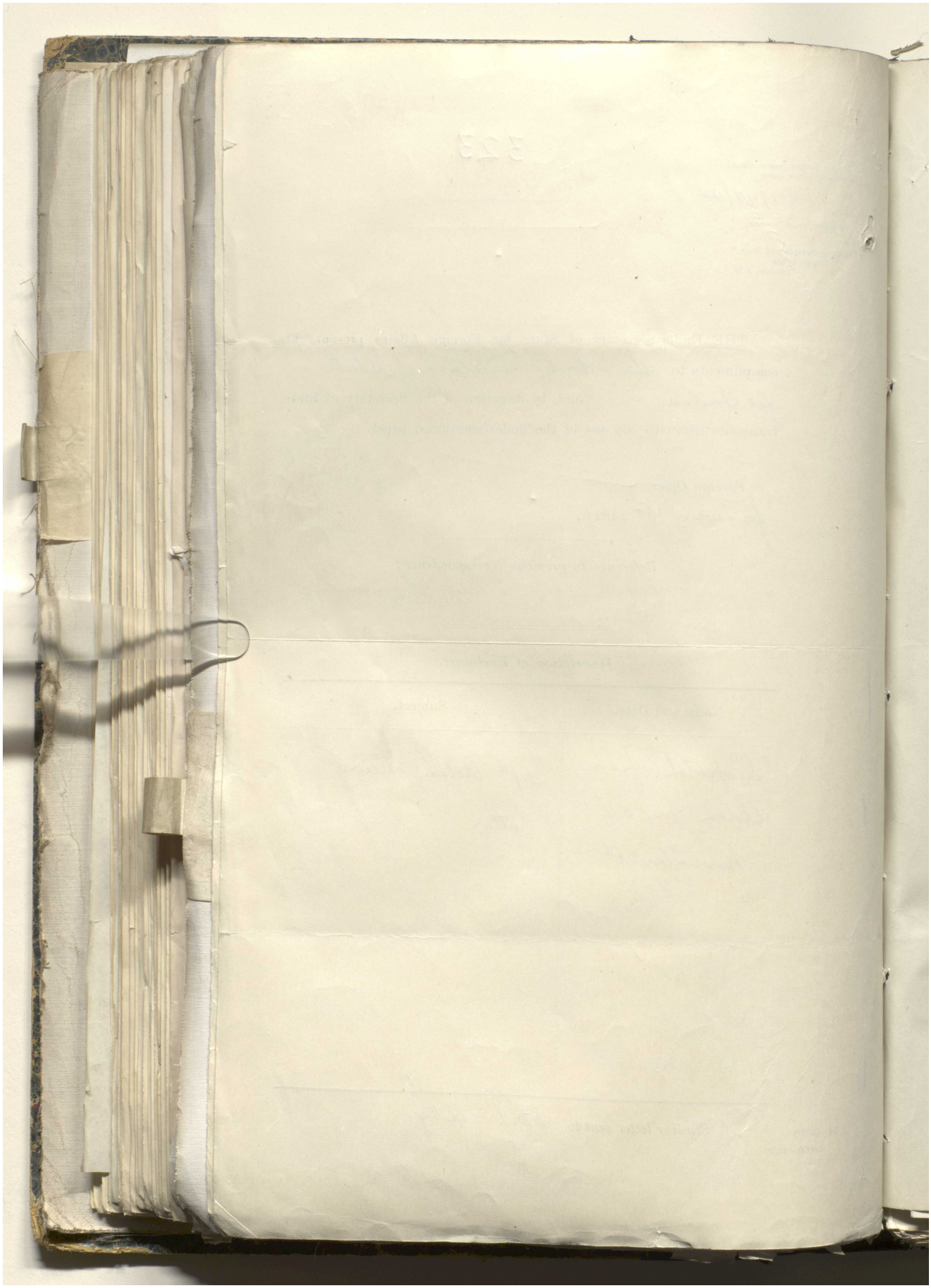

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P.
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1921

EASTERN (ARABIA.) [December 21.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

[E 15919/47/44] No. 1.

Political Resident, Aden, to Earl Curzon.—(*Received December 21.*)

(No. 54.)

My Lord, *Aden, November 26, 1920.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the twenty-~~eighth~~ *ninth* Aden news letter dated the 25th November, 1920.

I have, &c.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

Enclosure in No. 1.

Twenty-~~eighth~~ ninth Aden News Letter.

THE following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated the 12th November, 1920.

Tihama.—The Political Officer, Hodeida, writes that the Italians who visited Khokha and Hais last September were Signor Fazzi, a merchant of Massowah and his accountant. During their visit they are said to have offered to repair the Turkish court-house at Hais and also to supply new telegraph apparatus. The offer was, however, declined both by the Sheikh and the Mansab. The Italians returned to Assab with two dhows laden with skins and coffee. They appear to have given up the idea of starting trade with Khokha as Signor Fazzi is reported to have stated on his return to Massowah that it was unsafe at present as the people were hostile to Europeans. This report is confirmed by the Political Officer, Hodeida, who states that the sheikh and the Mansab have told the people of Khokha not to allow any Italians to land again. It is further reported that the people are opposed to entering into trade transactions with Italians, as although their goods are inferior in quality and very expensive they refuse to trade except on cash terms.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that the Italian ship "Nilo" referred to in my last letter, called at Hodeida on the 1st November, 1920, and left for Massowah on the 4th. The Italians whose names appear to be Fattigatti (not Fidioti or Nidiotti) and Rossi, stated that they had visited Port Soudan, Jeddah, Qunfidah, Jizan and Kamaran, and that their business was to inquire into the facilities for trade with the Yemen ports. They did not seem to be satisfied with the result of their inspection.

Signor Fattigatti is said to represent the firm of Pampurri and Martini, and Signor Rossi is an independent merchant. The former, who was born and educated in Turkey, has been in Massowah for many years. The Political Officer states that Signor Fattigatti intends to start business in Hodeida, where he has engaged a house.

Signor Rossi tried to secure a cargo of coffee for Egypt, but failed. The "Nilo" left Hodeida with a small consignment of senna leaves, skins and coffee for Massowah from Signor Pardo, an Italian merchant at Hodeida. The ship is expected back about the end of this month.

Mahomed Amin, the principal Sheikh of Jebel Reima, has submitted to the Political Officer, Hodeida, a petition, which I am forwarding officially. He requests that we should make both the Imam and the Idrisi withdraw to their respective frontiers and thus prevent bloodshed and plunder until a settlement about his country is reached.

The sheikh visited Hodeida on the 3rd instant, stating that he wished to stay in Hodeida till the future of his country was settled, but he has since left for Massowah in the Italian ship "Nilo." He was accompanied by Kadi Hamood Harazi, the ex-Mudir of Saafan. The object of their visit to Massowah is not known. Signor Fattigatti is said to have offered them free passage.

The Military Administrator, Hodeida, has sent me copies of two letters written by Mahmud Nadhim, the ex-Vali of the Yemen, to the Sheikh of Jebel Reima and Kadi

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Hamood-al-Harazi, mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. The letters, which were apparently received after the addressees had left for Massowah, have been entrusted to Signor Pardo, the Italian merchant at Hodeida, for delivery. Signor Pardo showed the letters privately to the Political Officer and copies were taken. The original will be delivered to the addressees on their return from Massowah.

In the letter to the Sheikh of Jebel Reima, the ex-Vali refers to the sheikh's letter of the 19th October, and states that he was grieved to hear what had befallen him. He chides the sheikh for not informing him of his grievances and declares that he could have got redress at once from the Imam. The ex-Vali states that he has been sent by the Imam to suppress intrigues, issue safe conduct and stop bloodshed among Mussulmans. He claims the Yemen as a Turkish province and declares that the Imam is the prop of the Government, who has continued faithful to his pact with the Turks. The Vali asks how he can forsake the Imam and join the friends of Christians.

He further claims that the Taiz district is faithful to the Imam as the great and solid friend of the Turkish Government, that no foreign troops are maintained there, but a corps of local men has been formed under a Turkish kaïmakam, Rafiq Bey, and other officers. He finally presses the Sheikh of Reima to make his submission and guarantees his safety.

In the letter to Kadi Hamood-al-Harazi, the ex-Vali refers to the former's two letters and assures him that he has not struck his name off the list of Turkish officials, but still considers him to be the Mudir of Saafan.

Referring to a sum of 25,000*l.*, which the Kadi appears to have stated in his letters that the ex-Vali had received through the American consul, the ex-Vali states that though he asked for the amount he had received no reply. He wants the Kadi to make enquiries regarding the money and to inform him immediately of the result, assuring the Kadi that he will receive his share.

This has reference to the ex-Vali's request for money for the relief of Turkish families in the Yemen, made through the American consul at Aden. The request was forwarded by the latter to his Government, but he has had no reply.

The Zeidis appear to be still in Saafan. Reports from Hodeida state that the Zeidis' attempt to capture the fort of Al Hadi in Beni Jurain was unsuccessful. The ex-Vali is said to have wired to the Iman asking for reinforcement for the capture of the fort.

Hodeida merchants are said to continue to correspond with the Imam. Mirjan Haraji and others are reported to have written to the Imam asking for the grant of full amnesty to Sheikh Abdulla Bishr of Saafan, and for the restoration of his property.

The Zabeed agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that Awwad Ali, the Sheikh of Rikb, has made his submission to the Imam after having received guarantee for protection of his rights.

The agent says that the Imamic flag has been hoisted on the court-house at Zabeed, and that the Amil has received orders to build barracks for soldiers and also three large halls as additions to the court-house. The cost of building is estimated at 15,000 dollars.

The ex-Vali is said to have sent letters to the tribes of Beni Saad, Madwal and Faraf threatening them that if they do not tender their submission within one week they will be attacked and their country ruined. The skeikhs have called a meeting to discuss the matter, and have invited the Sheikh of Jerabih to preside.

The Imam is reported to have despatched a large force to Jebel Milhan under the command of Raghib Bey, ex-Mutessarif of Hodeida.

It is reported that Arab leaders at Hodeida have sent letters to the notables of Sana, Zabeed and other important towns stating that they have been appointed representatives of the Arabs throughout the Yemen, and that this news has been received by the people with contempt.

A big Zeidi force has attacked and captured Beni Tulaili in Jebel Reima. The chief notable of the place, Saiyid Mahomed-ibn-Ali-al-Kabir is said to have made his submission to the Imam. His brother has refused to follow suit and has gone to Bajil. The Idrisi's commander at Bajil has despatched a force of 1,500 tribesmen against Beni Tulaili.

Yemen (Upper and Lower).—A traveller from Sana reports that Abu Neb, having heard that the Imam had taken as hostages and imprisoned three sheikhs and thirty men of Ar Rahab, sent a party of Hashid tribesmen to Sana with orders forcibly to release the hostages. The prison was broken into and the hostages released. In the fighting which ensued between Abu Neb's party and the Imam's men thirty were killed.

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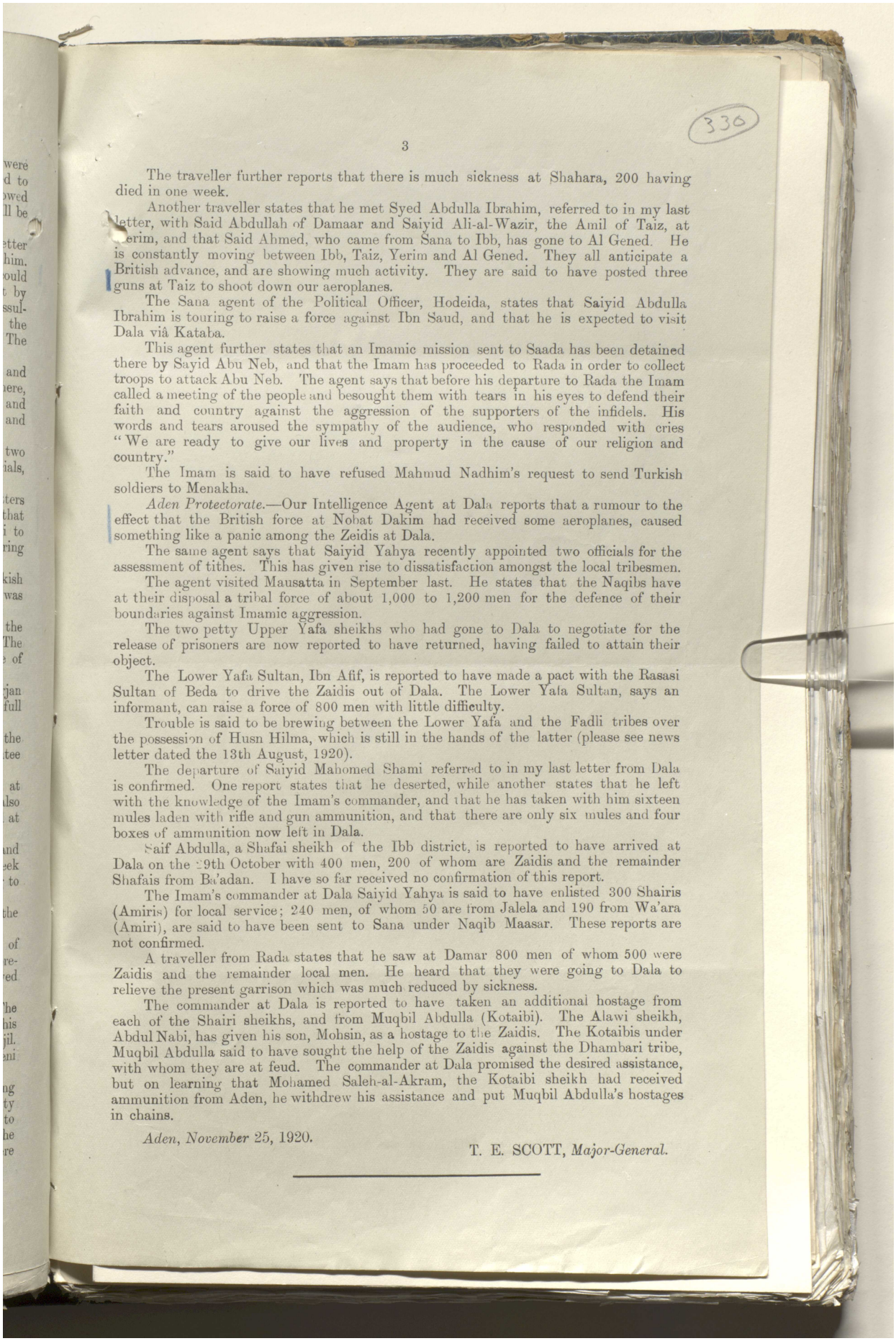

The traveller further reports that there is much sickness at Shahara, 200 having died in one week.

Another traveller states that he met Syed Abdulla Ibrahim, referred to in my last letter, with Said Abdullah of Damaar and Saiyid Ali-al-Wazir, the Amil of Taiz, at Yerim, and that Said Ahmed, who came from Sana to Ibb, has gone to Al Gened. He is constantly moving between Ibb, Taiz, Yerim and Al Gened. They all anticipate a British advance, and are showing much activity. They are said to have posted three guns at Taiz to shoot down our aeroplanes.

The Sana agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, states that Saiyid Abdulla Ibrahim is touring to raise a force against Ibn Saud, and that he is expected to visit Dala viâ Kataba.

This agent further states that an Imamic mission sent to Saada has been detained there by Sayid Abu Neb, and that the Imam has proceeded to Rada in order to collect troops to attack Abu Neb. The agent says that before his departure to Rada the Imam called a meeting of the people and besought them with tears in his eyes to defend their faith and country against the aggression of the supporters of the infidels. His words and tears aroused the sympathy of the audience, who responded with cries "We are ready to give our lives and property in the cause of our religion and country."

The Imam is said to have refused Mahmud Nadhim's request to send Turkish soldiers to Menakha.

Aden Protectorate.—Our Intelligence Agent at Dala reports that a rumour to the effect that the British force at Nobat Dakim had received some aeroplanes, caused something like a panic among the Zeidis at Dala.

The same agent says that Saiyid Yahya recently appointed two officials for the assessment of tithes. This has given rise to dissatisfaction amongst the local tribesmen.

The agent visited Mausatta in September last. He states that the Naqibs have at their disposal a tribal force of about 1,000 to 1,200 men for the defence of their boundaries against Imamic aggression.

The two petty Upper Yafa sheikhs who had gone to Dala to negotiate for the release of prisoners are now reported to have returned, having failed to attain their object.

The Lower Yafa Sultan, Ibn Afif, is reported to have made a pact with the Rasasi Sultan of Beda to drive the Zaidis out of Dala. The Lower Yafa Sultan, says an informant, can raise a force of 800 men with little difficulty.

Trouble is said to be brewing between the Lower Yafa and the Fadli tribes over the possession of Husn Hilma, which is still in the hands of the latter (please see news letter dated the 13th August, 1920).

The departure of Saiyid Mahomed Shami referred to in my last letter from Dala is confirmed. One report states that he deserted, while another states that he left with the knowledge of the Imam's commander, and that he has taken with him sixteen mules laden with rifle and gun ammunition, and that there are only six mules and four boxes of ammunition now left in Dala.

Saif Abdulla, a Shafai sheikh of the Ibb district, is reported to have arrived at Dala on the 29th October with 400 men, 200 of whom are Zaidis and the remainder Shafais from Ba'adan. I have so far received no confirmation of this report.

The Imam's commander at Dala Saiyid Yahya is said to have enlisted 300 Shairis (Amiris) for local service; 240 men, of whom 50 are from Jalela and 190 from Wa'ara (Amiri), are said to have been sent to Sana under Naqib Maasar. These reports are not confirmed.

A traveller from Rada states that he saw at Damar 800 men of whom 500 were Zaidis and the remainder local men. He heard that they were going to Dala to relieve the present garrison which was much reduced by sickness.

The commander at Dala is reported to have taken an additional hostage from each of the Shairi sheikhs, and from Muqbil Abdulla (Kotaibi). The Alawi sheikh, Abdul Nabi, has given his son, Mohsin, as a hostage to the Zaidis. The Kotaibis under Muqbil Abdulla said to have sought the help of the Zaidis against the Dhambari tribe, with whom they are at feud. The commander at Dala promised the desired assistance, but on learning that Mohamed Saleh-al-Akram, the Kotaibi sheikh had received ammunition from Aden, he withdrew his assistance and put Muqbil Abdulla's hostages in chains.

Aden, November 25, 1920.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

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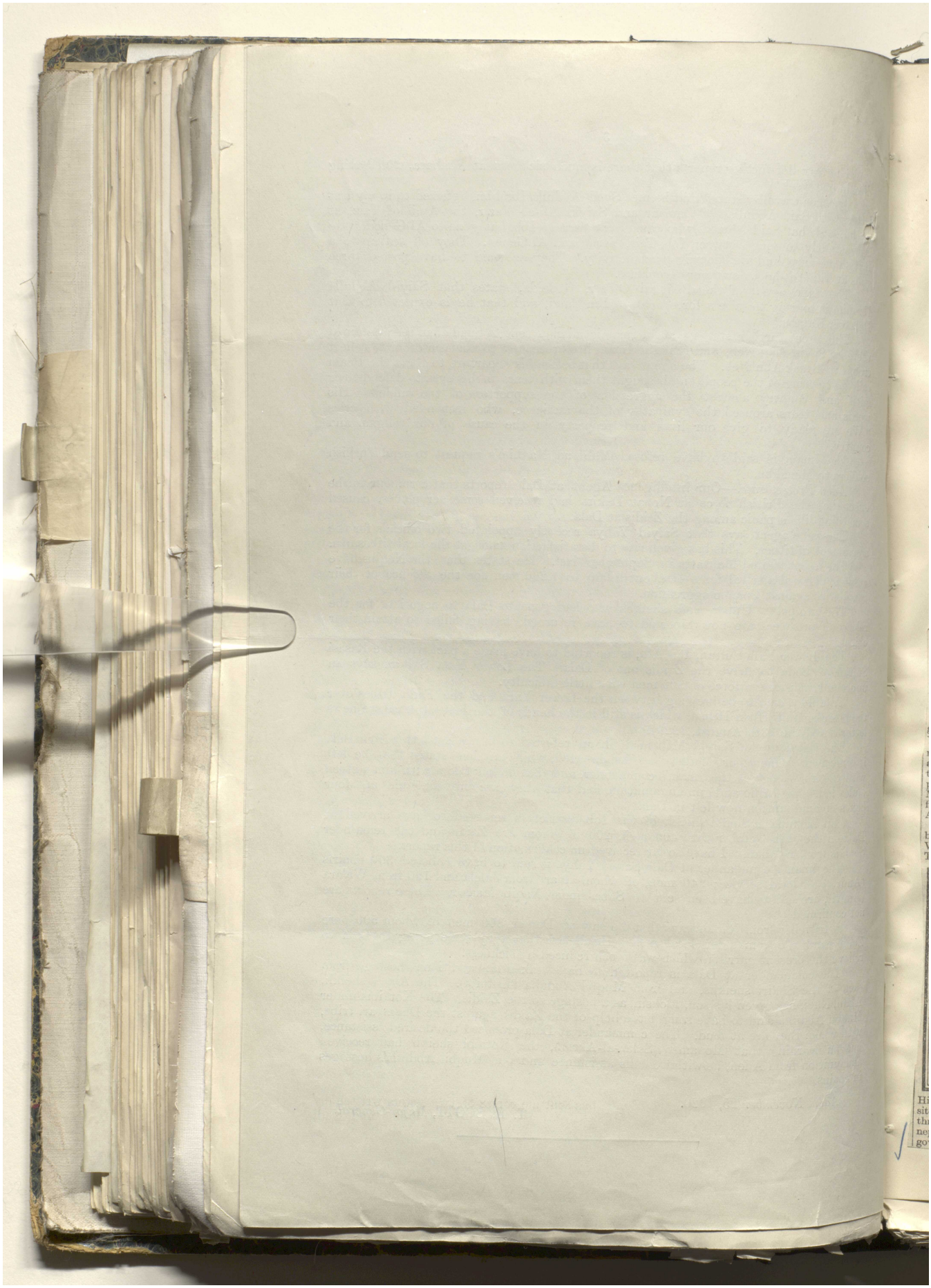

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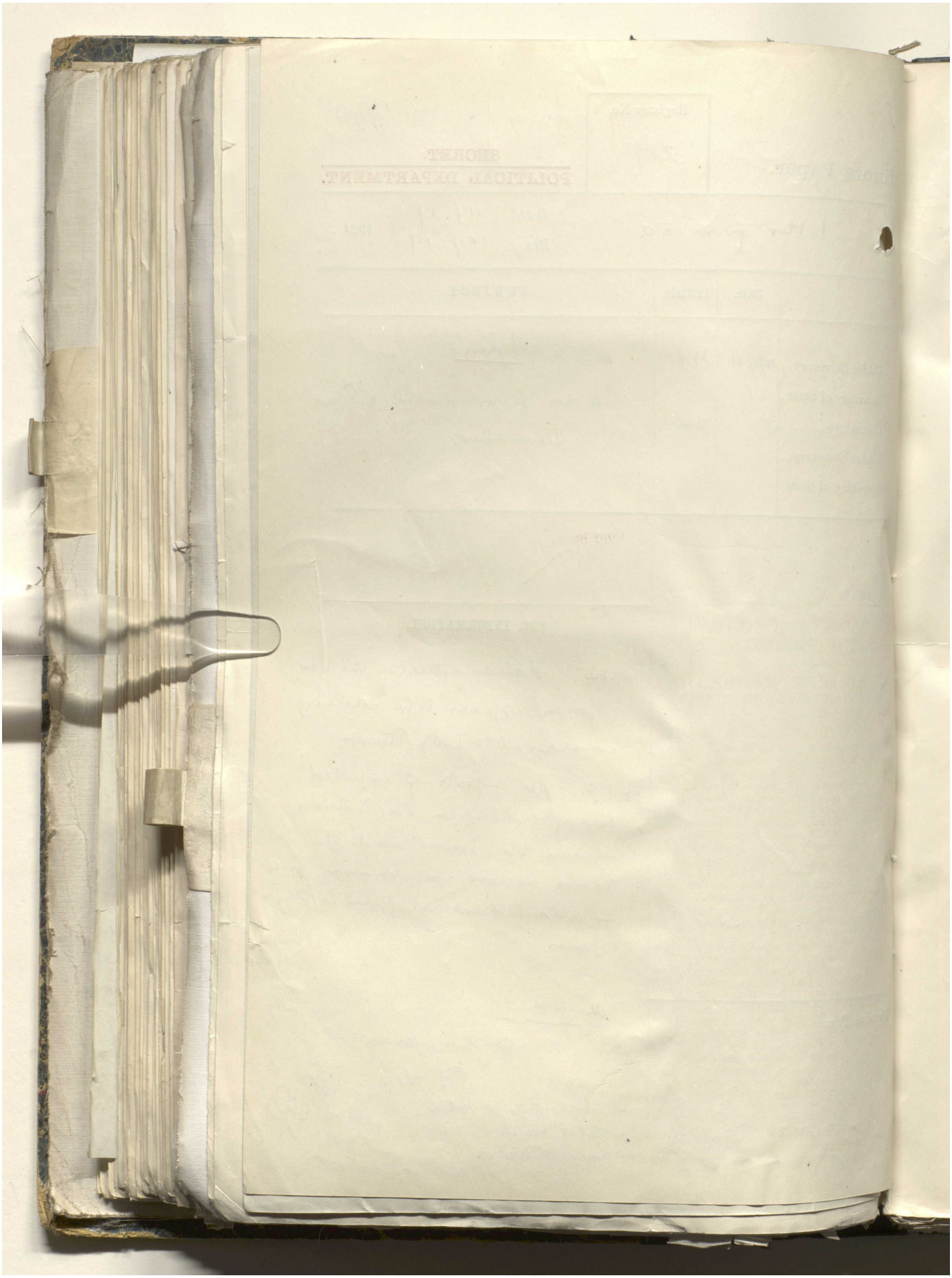

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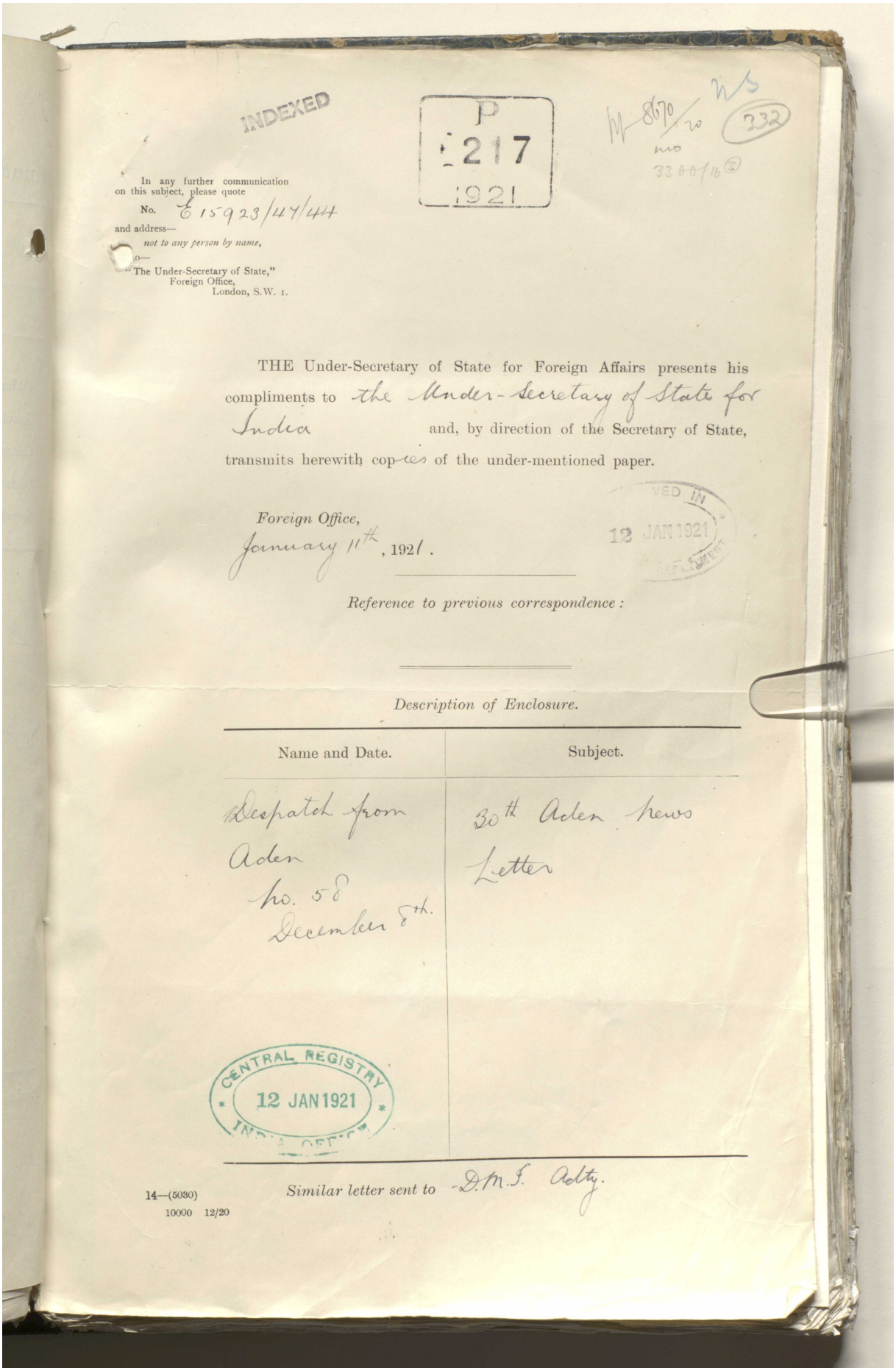

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No. E 15923/47/44
and address—
not to any person by name,
but—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

RECEIVED IN INDIA OFFICE 12 JAN 1921

Foreign Office,
January 11th, 1921.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch from Aden No. 58 December 8th.	30th Aden News Letter

CENTRAL REGISTRY 12 JAN 1921 INDIA OFFICE

14—(5030) 10000 12/20

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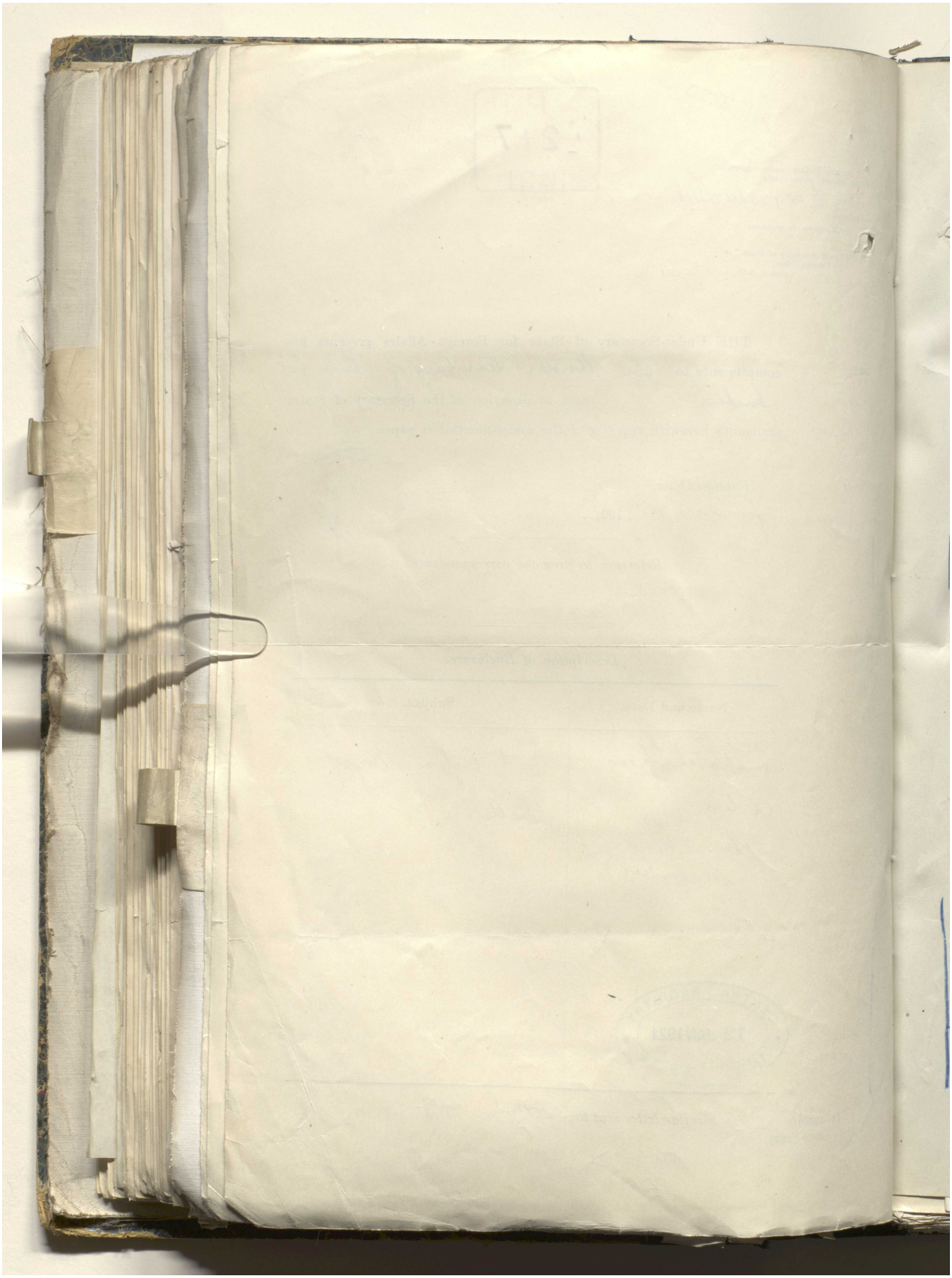

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EASTERN (ARABIA). [December 21.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

P 217 1921

[15923/47/44] No. 1.

Political Resident, Aden, to Earl Curzon.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord, *Aden, December 8, 1920.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the 30th Aden News Letter, dated the 8th December, 1920.

I have, &c.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

Enclosure in No. 1.

Thirtieth Aden News Letter.

THE following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter, dated the 26th November, 1920 :—

Tihama.—It appears from reports received from Hodeida that the Imam has concentrated a big force at Jebel Reima. The remnant of the old force is said to have asked the ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, to relieve them, as they are war-worn. The Vali has forwarded their request to the Imam and asked them to remain at their posts pending receipt of the Imam's reply, but a party of 400 men is said to have deserted with war spoils.

A report says that in compliance with the ex-Vali's request, the Imam ordered 500 Zeidis to proceed to Menekha. The latter, however, refused to go and offered armed resistance. There is said to be a reserve force of 2,000 men at Sana and Rada, which will be shortly despatched to the Tihama.

In my letter of the 14th October last, I reported the death of the Aboos Sheikh and the election of his nephew, Salim Bukheit, as his successor. The latter is now reported to have been elected sheikh of the whole tribe in consequence of the death of Sahel Ali, the other sheikh of the tribe. Until the death of this sheikh the tribe was divided into two sections under the rival sheikhs, Suleiman Hassan Bukheit, who was succeeded by his nephew, Salim Bukheit, and Sahel Ali.

The Sana agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, states that Saiyid Abdulla-bin-Ibrahim, referred to in previous letters, has been deputed by the Imam as inspector of the Wakfs of Zabeed and Khoka, and superintendent of the Public Treasury of the Qadhas of Zabeed, Hais and Jebel Ras.

The Imam is reported to have sent one big gun to Zabeed and another to Dhala.

The Zabeed agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that a notable of Udain, Hamid-bin-Ali Pasha, has tendered for the lease of the revenues of Zabeed, Hais and Jebel Ras for a sum of 450,000 dollars annually. This bid is said to exceed the actual revenues of the places mentioned by 300,000 dollars, and if it is accepted by the Imam, the result will be heavy exactions from the people and consequent discontent.

The same agent states that he has no fresh news about Italian activity at Khoka beyond the fact that their agent named Shakoor is staying at Khoka. The Zabeed agent says that Shakoor is trying to purchase houses for the Italians.

From a later report received from the Zabeed agent, it appears that Shakoor has made an agreement with the Imam on behalf of the Italians, by which the Imam promises to receive and protect all Italian goods imported into this country viâ Khoka. The Italians in return promise to supply the Imam with telephone and telegraph apparatus, shell and cartridge-making apparatus, waggons, firearms and other war materials.

The agent reports that the Italians have sent to Khoka animals, carpets and cloth which they are trying to exchange for coffee and skins, and that the Italian merchant referred to in my last letter is expected at Khoka by a special steamer. It is said that the Imamic inspector at Zabeed will proceed to Khoka to meet him.

Signor Pardo, an Italian merchant at Hodeida, confirms the news of this expected

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arrival of the Italian at Khoka, who, he says, will reside there. Signor Pardo informed the Political Officer, Hodeida, that the Sheikh of Jebel Reima and Qazi Hamood-al-Harazi referred to in the last letter have gone from Massowah to Asmara to interview the Italian Governor there.

According to later reports from Hodeida, the Zeidis re-attacked the fort of "Al-Hadi" on the 15th November. After a struggle lasting for five hours, they were forced to retire leaving thirty men killed and five wounded. Heavy fighting is also reported in Jebel Reima, where the Idrisi appears to have concentrated a large force. The strength of the Imam's force in Jebel Reima is said to be 3,000.

One of the Idrisi officials is said to have stated that unless the Hodeida merchants cease taking part in the Hodeida administration and stop their intrigues with Saiyids and recognise the Idrisi as their only ruler after the evacuation of Hodeida by the British, the Quhras and Aboos will be obliged to make a raid on Hodeida.

In a later report the Sana agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, states that owing to the approach of Ibn Saud's army to his borders at Shahara, Abu Naib has been obliged to make peace with the Imam and to release the Imamic mission detained by him. He has, however, obtained concessions whereby the Imam removed customs houses from his territories and stopped the practice of drinking, singing and other acts which are contrary to the Sheria, and which the Turks had introduced.

This report contradicts the former report that Abu Naib was co-operating with Ibn Saud and is, I think, the more worthy of credence.

The Zeidi tribesmen are reported to have complied with the Imam's latest request for 5,000 fighting men on condition that they serve under their own leaders, and are permitted to return home after the conclusion of the particular campaign for which their services are required. This force is expected to advance on the Tihama on the 10th December.

The ex-Vali is reported to have informed the Imam that he has failed in his anti-Idrisi campaign, and that the only possible remedy now left is to despatch a large force to the Tihama.

These reports, combined with a report received from H.M.S. "Clematis" that the Idrisi and Sayed Mustafa were busy mustering troops during his recent visit to Midi, lead me to anticipate heavy fighting between the Idrisi and the Imam in the near future.

Yemen (Upper and Lower).

A Haushabi Akil lately reported to the officer commanding troops at Nobat Dakim that the Amil of Taiz, Saiyid Abdullah-al-Wazir, had arrived at Ibb on the 5th November with 2 guns, 2 machine guns, 7 camel loads of ammunition, 50 horses, 40 mules, 150 donkeys, and a large body of soldiers. The Akil also reported that the Haushabi Sultan had received a letter on receipt of which the latter collected 200 men and proceeded to Ad Dareja. The Akil states that the real intention of the Haushabi was to meet the Zeidis either at Ad Dareja or Mawia, though he gave out that he was going to the Amiri country.

The real object of Saiyid Abdulla-al-Wazir's visit to Ibb appears to be to disarm the populace, who are in possession of a very large number of rifles and a large quantity of ammunition, which they received from the Turks during the war and prior to the evacuation of Turkish troops. No news confirming the Haushabi's visit to the Zeidis has been received. The Haushabi Sultan, who is one of our protectorate chiefs, has hitherto refused to comply with the Zeidi Amil's frequent invitations to visit Mawia.

An informant from Sana states that Ibn Saud's forces are at Sada and are armed with Turkish and German rifles, and that Ibn Saud has recently come in possession of twenty-five Turkish field guns, which he captured from Ibn Aidh of Ebha. This news appears to be mere town gossip, although our Sana correspondent confirms the report of the presence of Ibn Saud's troops near Shahara, and adds that the Imamic troops directed to march against them refused to fight.

The same informant states that Saiyid Abdullah Ibrahim referred to in previous letters has gone to Zabeed from Taiz with 200 men to fight the Idrisi. This informant confirms the report of the arrival of Saiyid Abdullah-al-Wazir at Ibb with men, guns, &c., and states that he has dismissed all the old clerks who have been serving continuously from the time of the Turks, and has sent them to Sana.

The same informant also states that the Imam has deputed Mahmud Nadhim to arrange peace with the Idrisi.

The people of Ibb and Baadan are reported to have assumed a threatening

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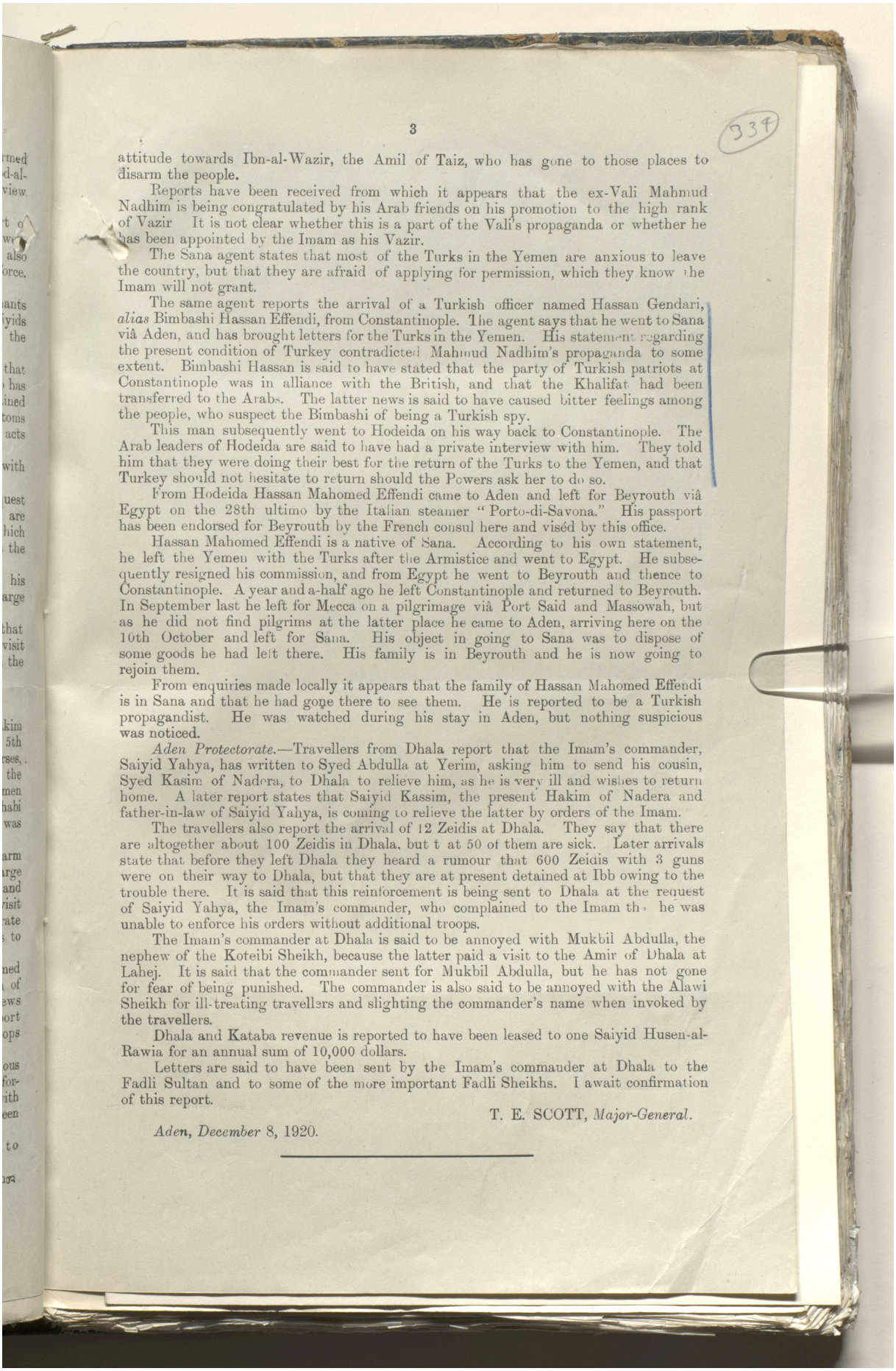

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attitude towards Ibn-al-Wazir, the Amil of Taiz, who has gone to those places to disarm the people.

Reports have been received from which it appears that the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadhim is being congratulated by his Arab friends on his promotion to the high rank of Vazir It is not clear whether this is a part of the Vali's propaganda or whether he has been appointed by the Imam as his Vazir.

The Sana agent states that most of the Turks in the Yemen are anxious to leave the country, but that they are afraid of applying for permission, which they know the Imam will not grant.

The same agent reports the arrival of a Turkish officer named Hassan Gendari, *alias* Bimbashi Hassan Effendi, from Constantinople. The agent says that he went to Sana viâ Aden, and has brought letters for the Turks in the Yemen. His statement regarding the present condition of Turkey contradicted Mahmud Nadhim's propaganda to some extent. Bimbashi Hassan is said to have stated that the party of Turkish patriots at Constantinople was in alliance with the British, and that the Khalifat had been transferred to the Arabs. The latter news is said to have caused bitter feelings among the people, who suspect the Bimbashi of being a Turkish spy.

This man subsequently went to Hodeida on his way back to Constantinople. The Arab leaders of Hodeida are said to have had a private interview with him. They told him that they were doing their best for the return of the Turks to the Yemen, and that Turkey should not hesitate to return should the Powers ask her to do so.

From Hodeida Hassan Mahomed Effendi came to Aden and left for Beyrouth viâ Egypt on the 28th ultimo by the Italian steamer "Porto-di-Savona." His passport has been endorsed for Beyrouth by the French consul here and viséd by this office.

Hassan Mahomed Effendi is a native of Sana. According to his own statement, he left the Yemen with the Turks after the Armistice and went to Egypt. He subsequently resigned his commission, and from Egypt he went to Beyrouth and thence to Constantinople. A year and a-half ago he left Constantinople and returned to Beyrouth. In September last he left for Mecca on a pilgrimage viâ Port Said and Massowah, but as he did not find pilgrims at the latter place he came to Aden, arriving here on the 10th October and left for Sana. His object in going to Sana was to dispose of some goods he had left there. His family is in Beyrouth and he is now going to rejoin them.

From enquiries made locally it appears that the family of Hassan Mahomed Effendi is in Sana and that he had gone there to see them. He is reported to be a Turkish propagandist. He was watched during his stay in Aden, but nothing suspicious was noticed.

Aden Protectorate.—Travellers from Dhala report that the Imam's commander, Saiyid Yahya, has written to Syed Abdulla at Yerim, asking him to send his cousin, Syed Kasim of Nadera, to Dhala to relieve him, as he is very ill and wishes to return home. A later report states that Saiyid Kassim, the present Hakim of Nadera and father-in-law of Saiyid Yahya, is coming to relieve the latter by orders of the Imam.

The travellers also report the arrival of 12 Zeidis at Dhala. They say that there are altogether about 100 Zeidis in Dhala, but t at 50 of them are sick. Later arrivals state that before they left Dhala they heard a rumour that 600 Zeidis with 3 guns were on their way to Dhala, but that they are at present detained at Ibb owing to the trouble there. It is said that this reinforcement is being sent to Dhala at the request of Saiyid Yahya, the Imam's commander, who complained to the Imam that he was unable to enforce his orders without additional troops.

The Imam's commander at Dhala is said to be annoyed with Mukbil Abdulla, the nephew of the Koteibi Sheikh, because the latter paid a visit to the Amir of Dhala at Lahej. It is said that the commander sent for Mukbil Abdulla, but he has not gone for fear of being punished. The commander is also said to be annoyed with the Alawi Sheikh for ill-treating travellers and slighting the commander's name when invoked by the travellers.

Dhala and Kataba revenue is reported to have been leased to one Saiyid Husen-al-Rawia for an annual sum of 10,000 dollars.

Letters are said to have been sent by the Imam's commander at Dhala to the Fadli Sultan and to some of the more important Fadli Sheikhs. I await confirmation of this report.

T. E. SCOTT, *Major-General.*

Aden, December 8, 1920.

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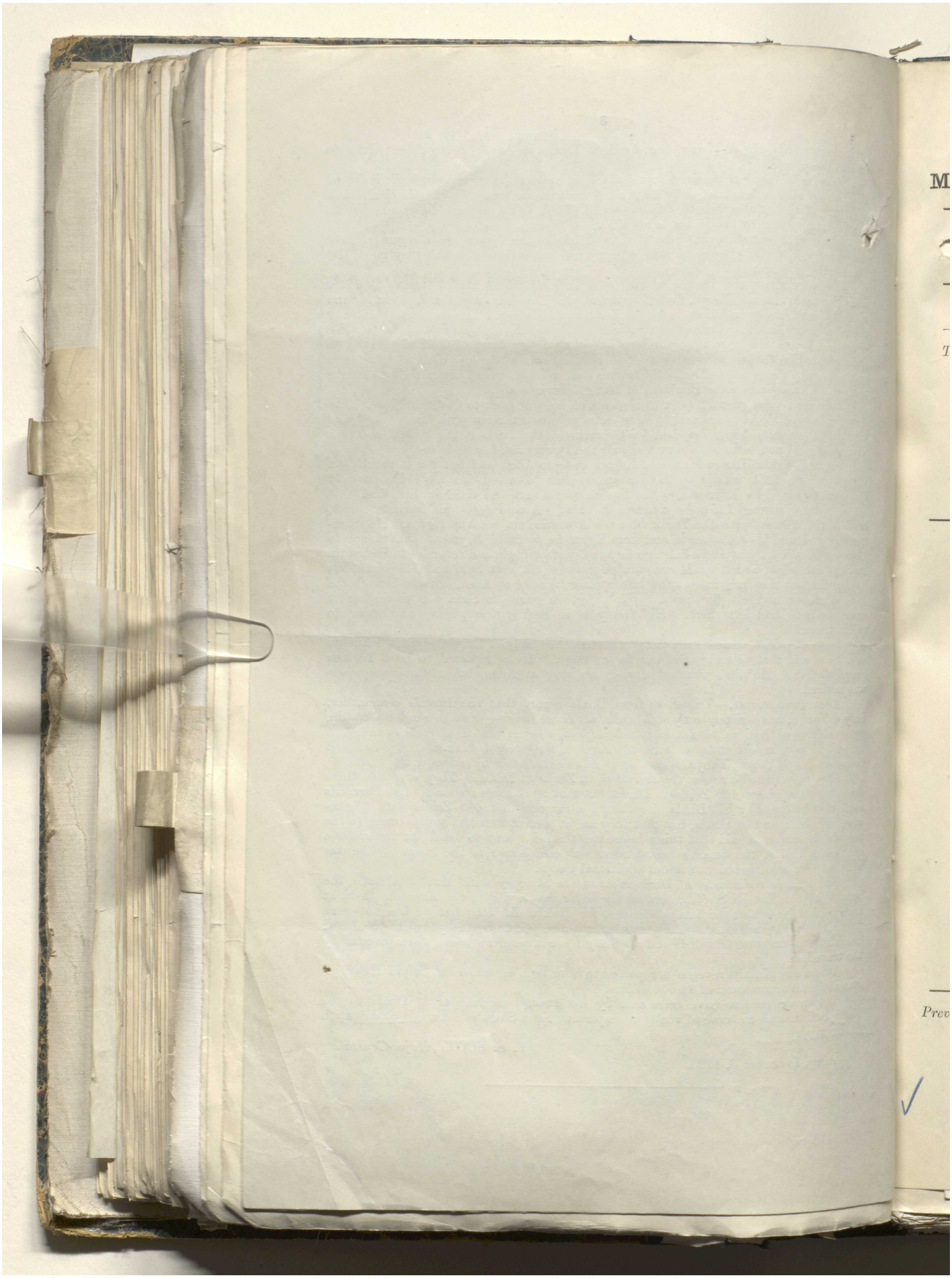

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Minute Paper.

Letter from F.O. Dated 7/12/1920. Rec. 8/12/1920.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..			Aden News Letter No 28 dated 12th Nov.
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	22/12/20	HS	
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

SEEN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

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FOR INFORMATION.

¶ 1-4 (passim). Activities of the ex-Wali, Mahmud Nedhim.

¶ 2 & 6. Reported intention of Ibn Saud to attack Sana

¶ 7. Italian activities with a view to securing an oil concession on the Farsan Islands. The Idrisi's reply (foot of ¶ 7) is couched in the most approved terms.

Major Bray
For information
HS 15/12/20

A.S.B. 16/12/20

Previous Papers—

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

J.A. Simpson 15/12/20

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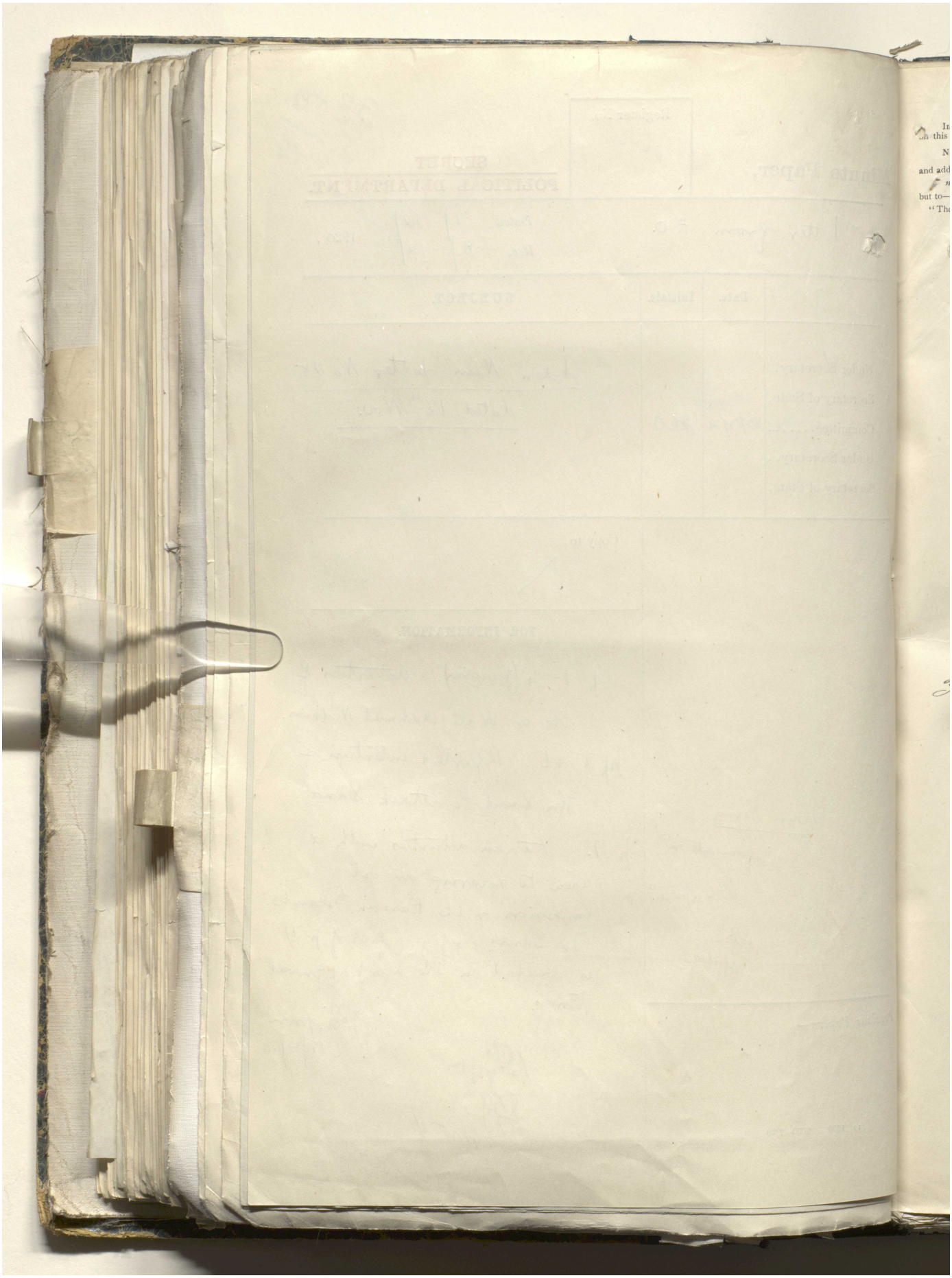

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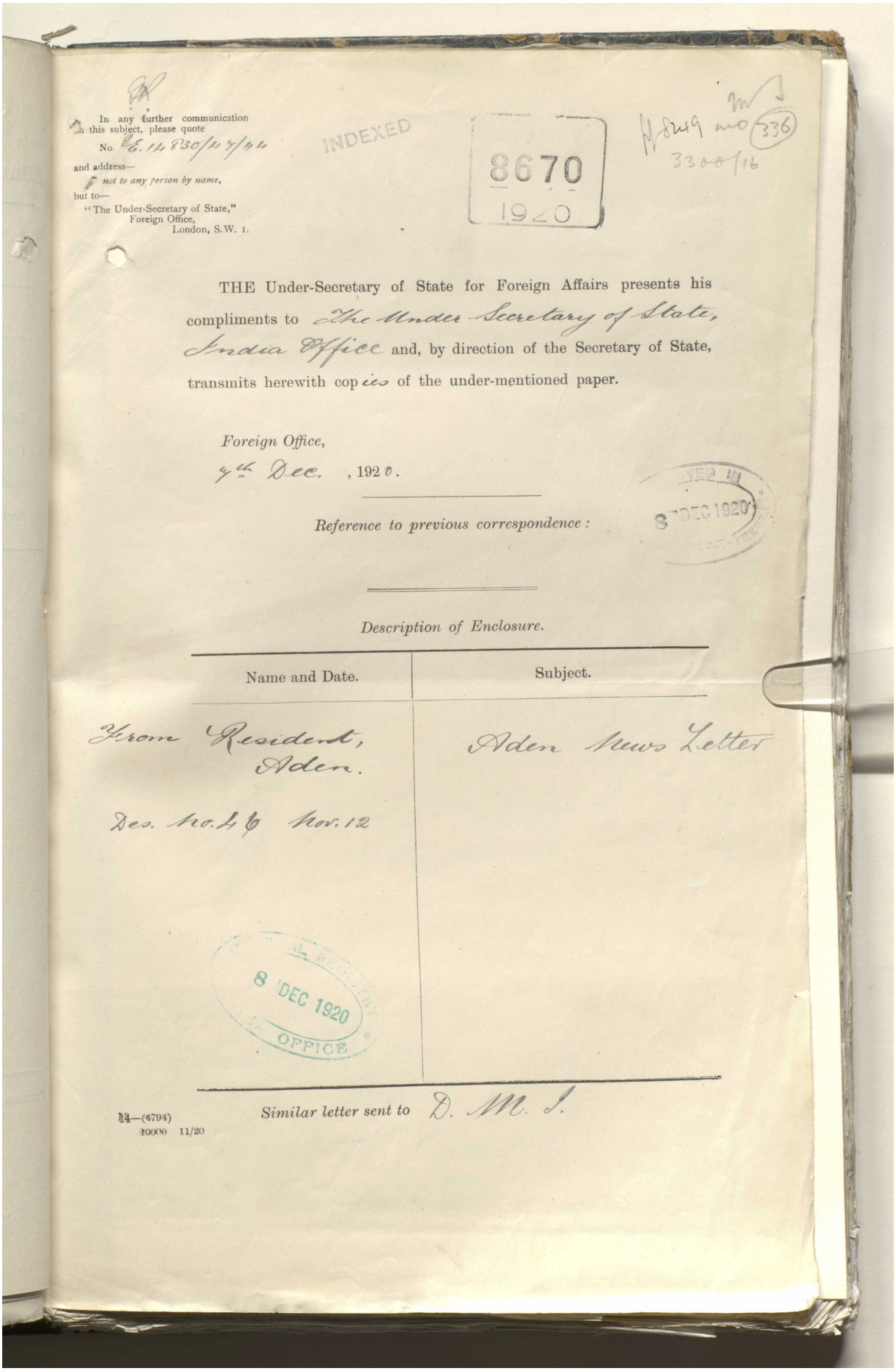

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under Secretary of State, India Office and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
4th Dec. , 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

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Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From Resident, Aden. Dec. No. 46 Nov. 12	Aden News Letter

8 DEC 1920
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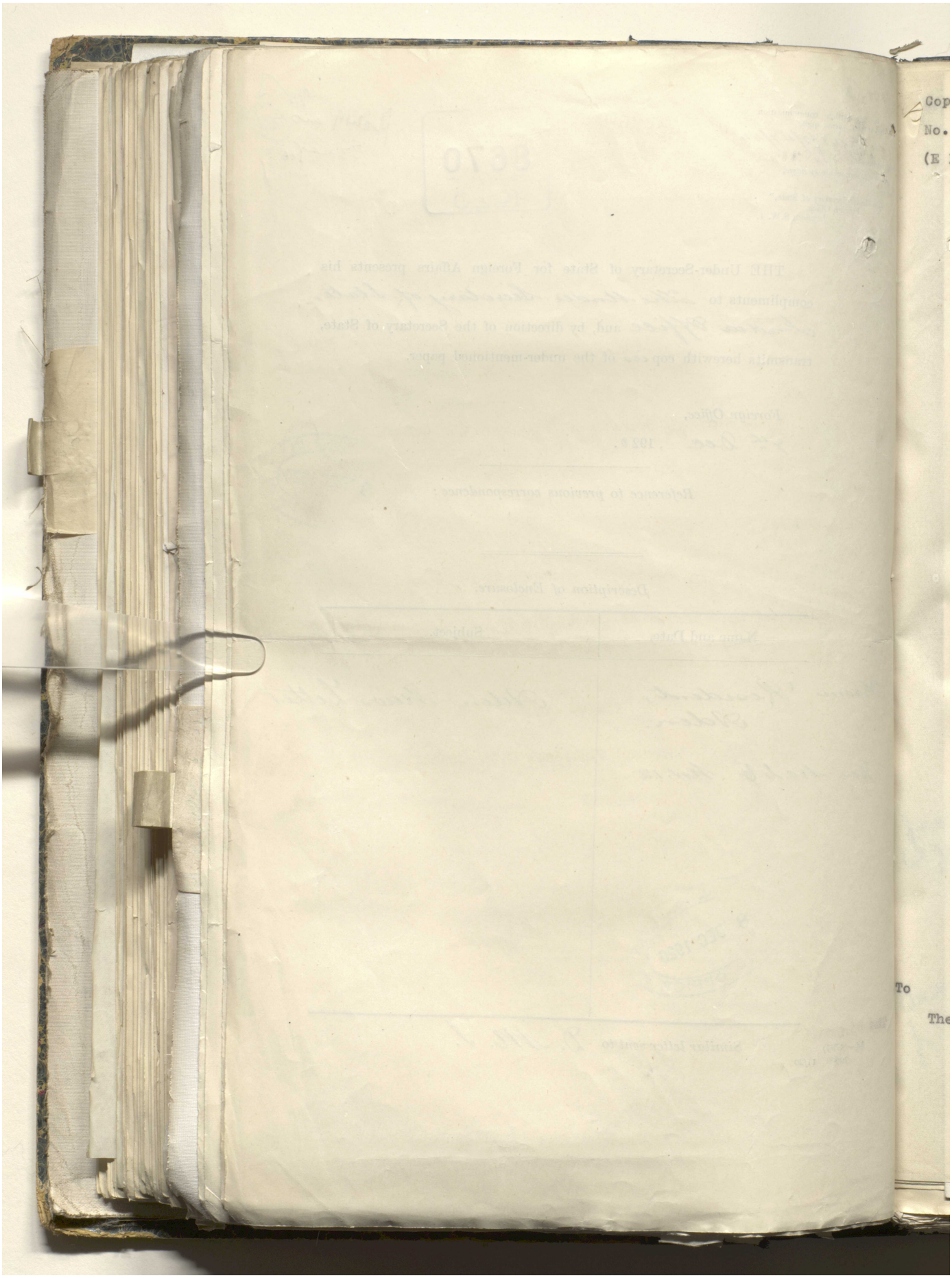

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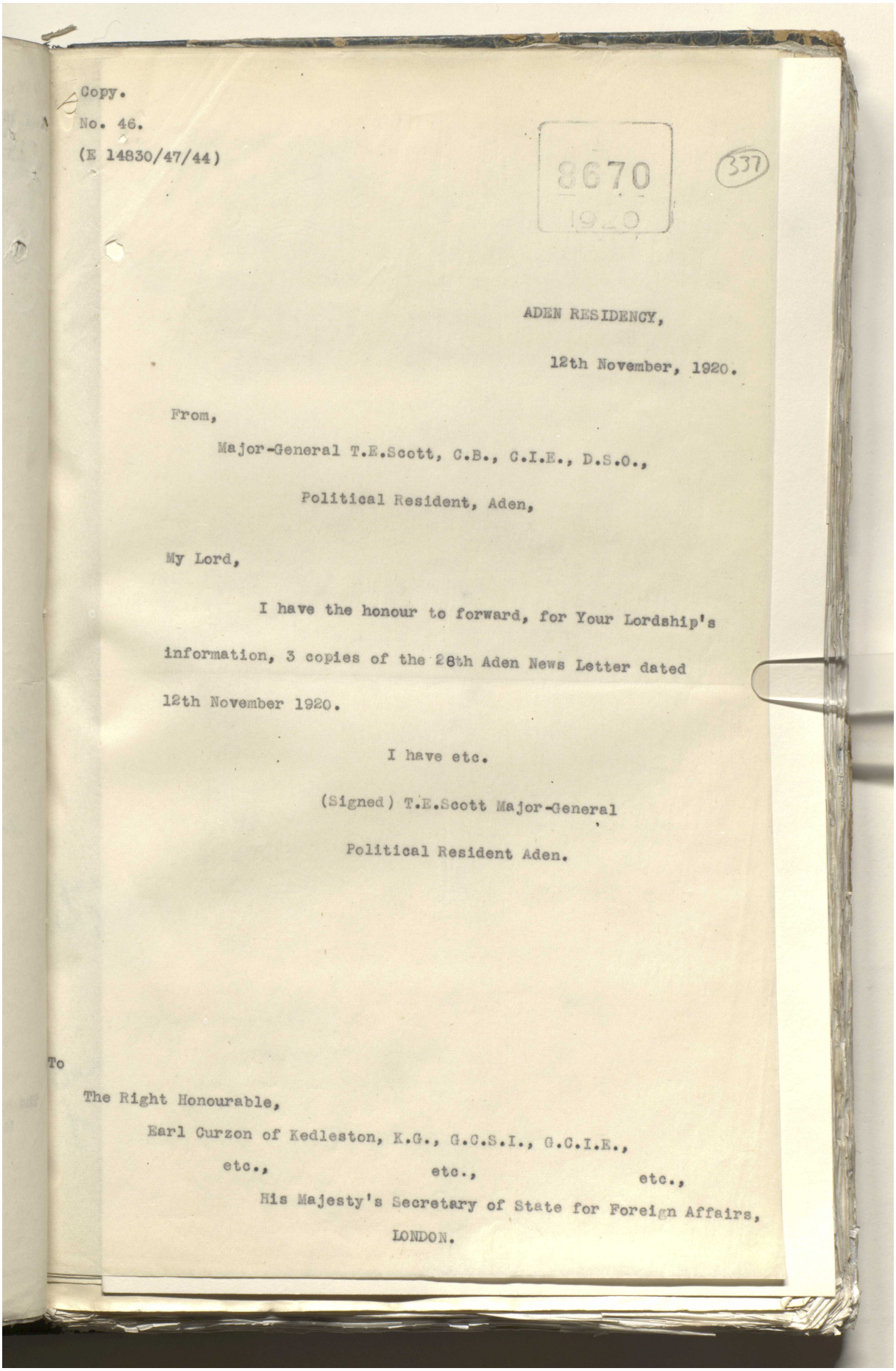

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ADEN RESIDENCY,

12th November, 1920.

From,

Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,

Political Resident, Aden,

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward, for Your Lordship's information, 3 copies of the 28th Aden News Letter dated 12th November 1920.

I have etc.

(Signed) T.E.Scott Major-General

Political Resident Aden.

To

The Right Honourable,

Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

etc., etc., etc.,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

LONDON.

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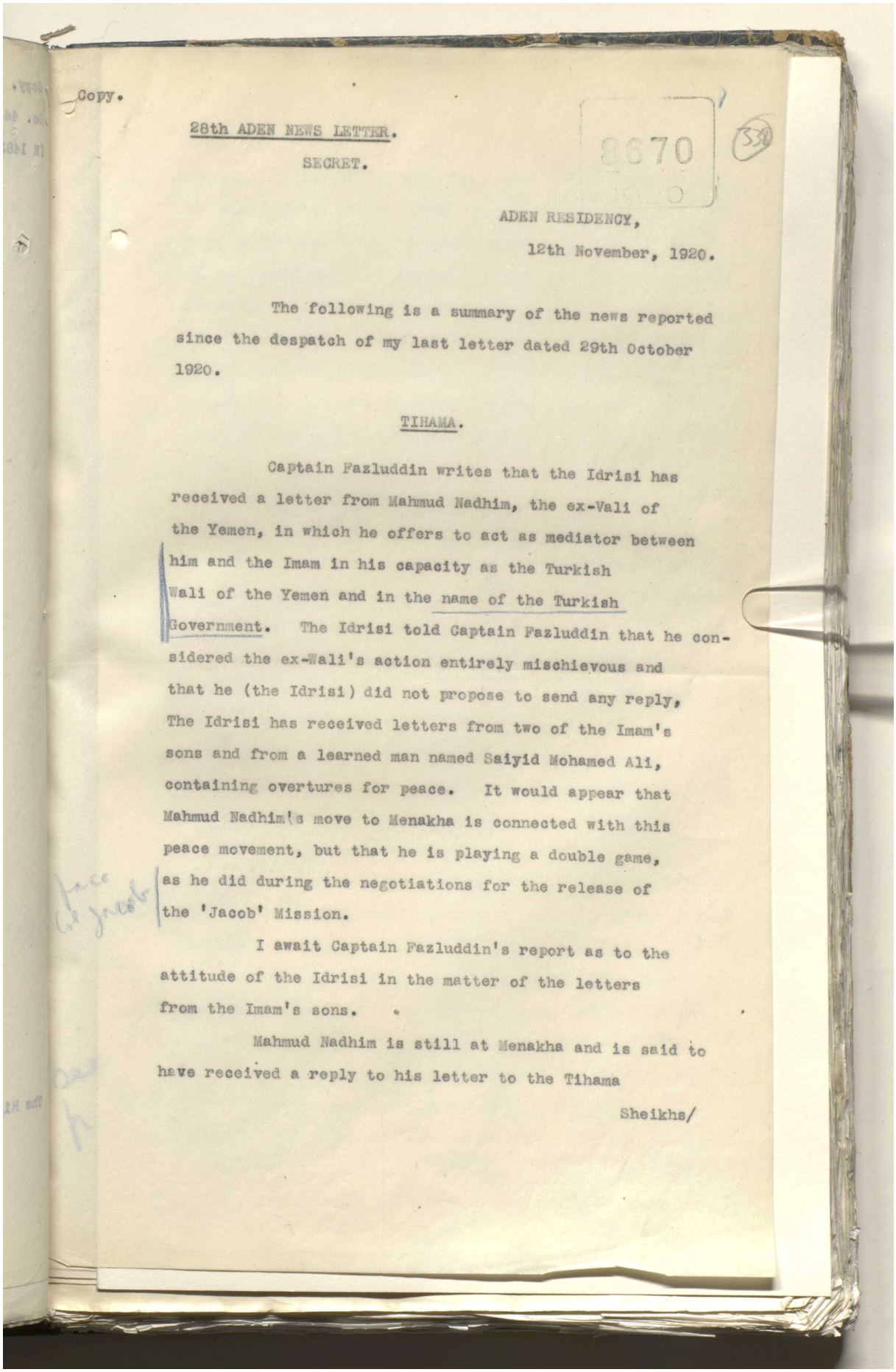

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28th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

8670

ADEN RESIDENCY,

12th November, 1920.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 29th October 1920.

TIHAMA.

Captain Fazluddin writes that the Idrisi has received a letter from Mahmud Nadhim, the ex-Vali of the Yemen, in which he offers to act as mediator between him and the Imam in his capacity as the Turkish Wali of the Yemen and in the name of the Turkish Government. The Idrisi told Captain Fazluddin that he considered the ex-Wali's action entirely mischievous and that he (the Idrisi) did not propose to send any reply. The Idrisi has received letters from two of the Imam's sons and from a learned man named Saiyid Mohamed Ali, containing overtures for peace. It would appear that Mahmud Nadhim's move to Menakha is connected with this peace movement, but that he is playing a double game, as he did during the negotiations for the release of the 'Jacob' Mission.

I await Captain Fazluddin's report as to the attitude of the Idrisi in the matter of the letters from the Imam's sons.

Mahmud Nadhim is still at Menakha and is said to have received a reply to his letter to the Tihama

Sheikhs/

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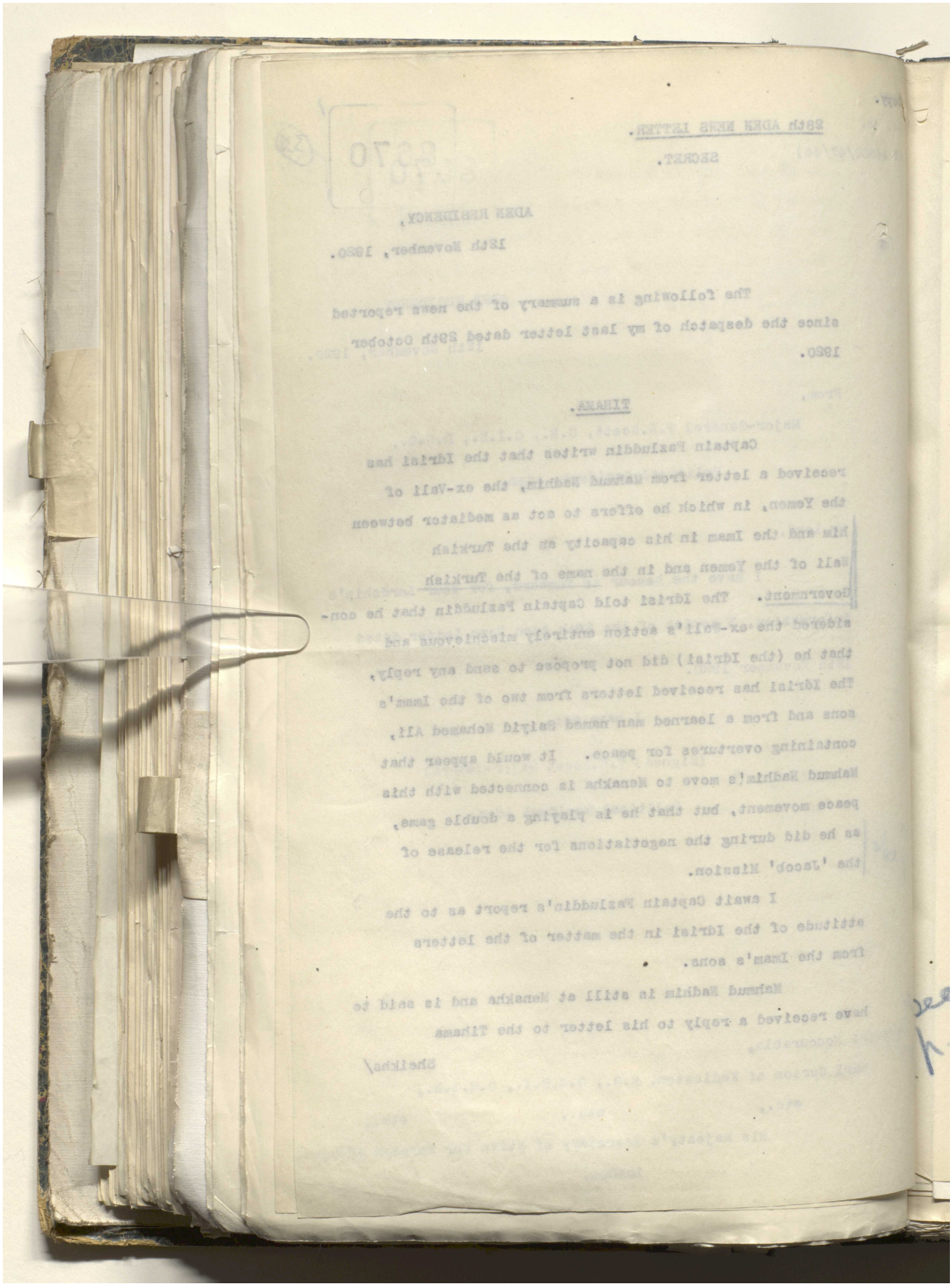

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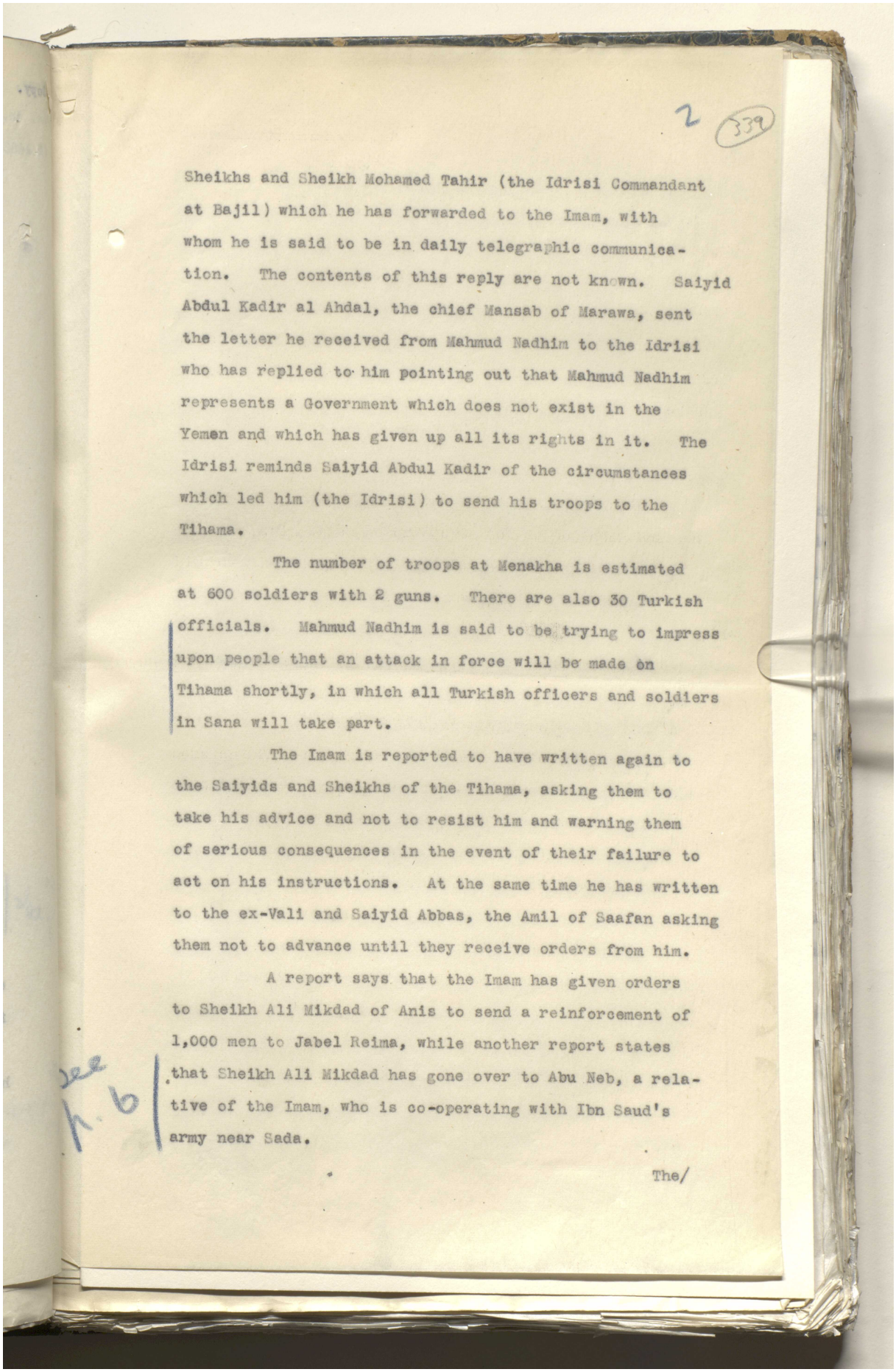

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Sheikhs and Sheikh Mohamed Tahir (the Idrisi Commandant at Bajil) which he has forwarded to the Imam, with whom he is said to be in daily telegraphic communication. The contents of this reply are not known. Saiyid Abdul Kadir al Ahdal, the chief Mansab of Marawa, sent the letter he received from Mahmud Nadhim to the Idrisi who has replied to him pointing out that Mahmud Nadhim represents a Government which does not exist in the Yemen and which has given up all its rights in it. The Idrisi reminds Saiyid Abdul Kadir of the circumstances which led him (the Idrisi) to send his troops to the Tihama.

The number of troops at Menakha is estimated at 600 soldiers with 2 guns. There are also 30 Turkish officials. Mahmud Nadhim is said to be trying to impress upon people that an attack in force will be made on Tihama shortly, in which all Turkish officers and soldiers in Sana will take part.

The Imam is reported to have written again to the Saiyids and Sheikhs of the Tihama, asking them to take his advice and not to resist him and warning them of serious consequences in the event of their failure to act on his instructions. At the same time he has written to the ex-Vali and Saiyid Abbas, the Amil of Saafan asking them not to advance until they receive orders from him.

A report says that the Imam has given orders to Sheikh Ali Mikdad of Anis to send a reinforcement of 1,000 men to Jabel Reima, while another report states that Sheikh Ali Mikdad has gone over to Abu Neb, a relative of the Imam, who is co-operating with Ibn Saud's army near Sada.

The/

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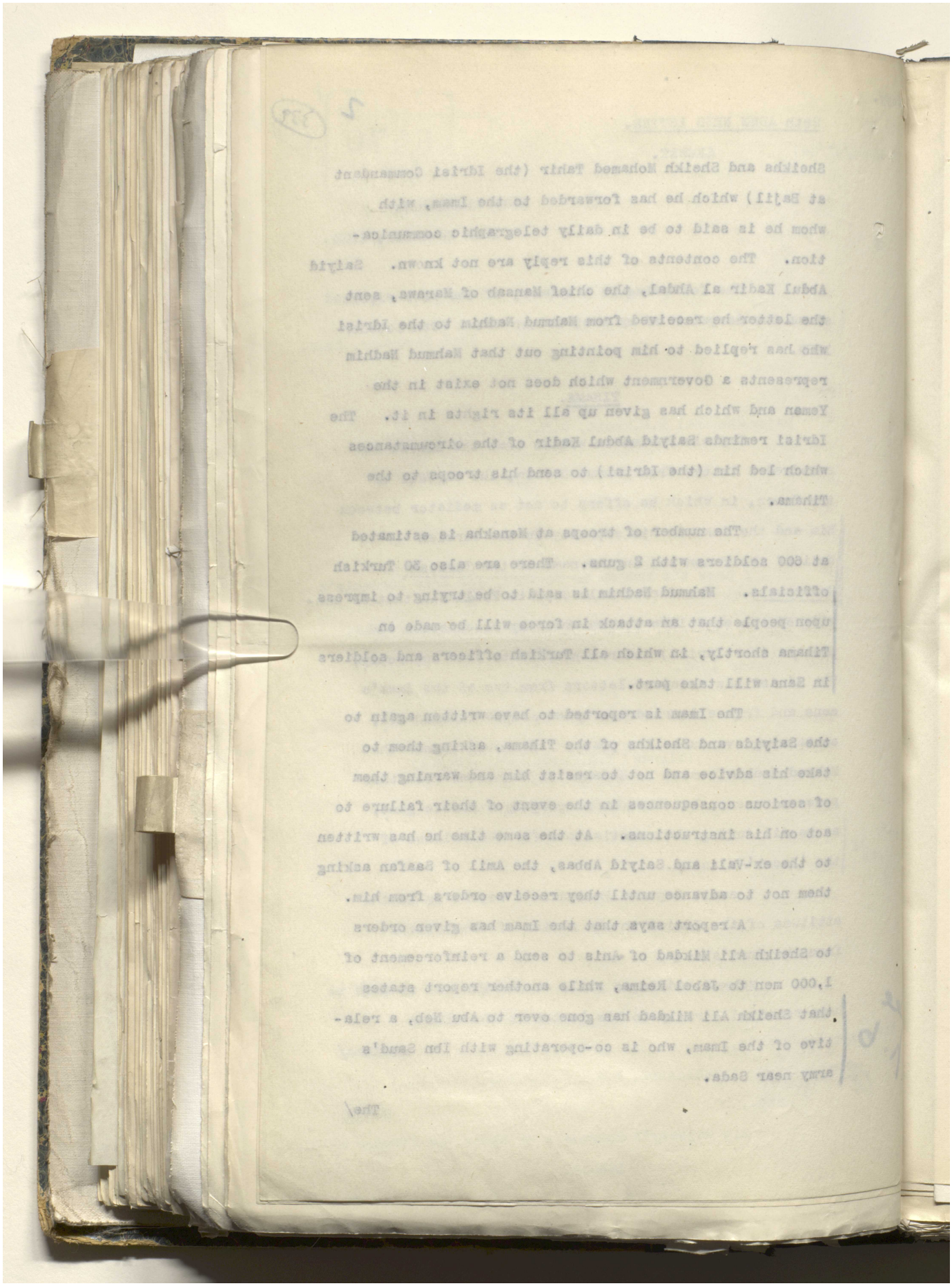

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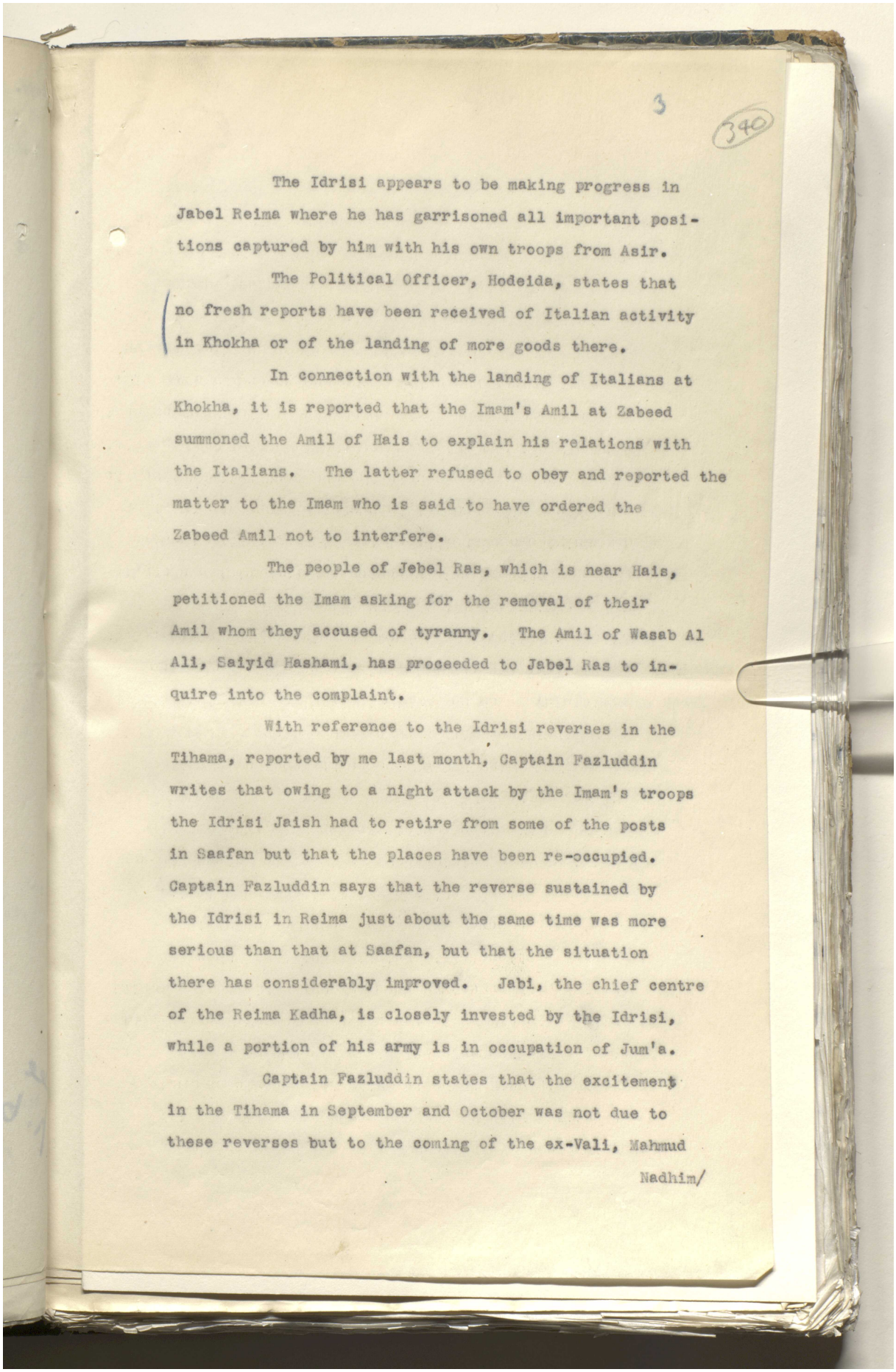

The Idrisi appears to be making progress in Jabel Reima where he has garrisoned all important positions captured by him with his own troops from Asir.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, states that no fresh reports have been received of Italian activity in Khokha or of the landing of more goods there.

In connection with the landing of Italians at Khokha, it is reported that the Imam's Amil at Zabeed summoned the Amil of Hais to explain his relations with the Italians. The latter refused to obey and reported the matter to the Imam who is said to have ordered the Zabeed Amil not to interfere.

The people of Jebel Ras, which is near Hais, petitioned the Imam asking for the removal of their Amil whom they accused of tyranny. The Amil of Wasab Al Ali, Saiyid Hashami, has proceeded to Jabel Ras to inquire into the complaint.

With reference to the Idrisi reverses in the Tihama, reported by me last month, Captain Fazluddin writes that owing to a night attack by the Imam's troops the Idrisi Jaish had to retire from some of the posts in Saafan but that the places have been re-occupied. Captain Fazluddin says that the reverse sustained by the Idrisi in Reima just about the same time was more serious than that at Saafan, but that the situation there has considerably improved. Jabi, the chief centre of the Reima Kadha, is closely invested by the Idrisi, while a portion of his army is in occupation of Jum'a.

Captain Fazluddin states that the excitement in the Tihama in September and October was not due to these reverses but to the coming of the ex-Vali, Mahmud

Nadhim/

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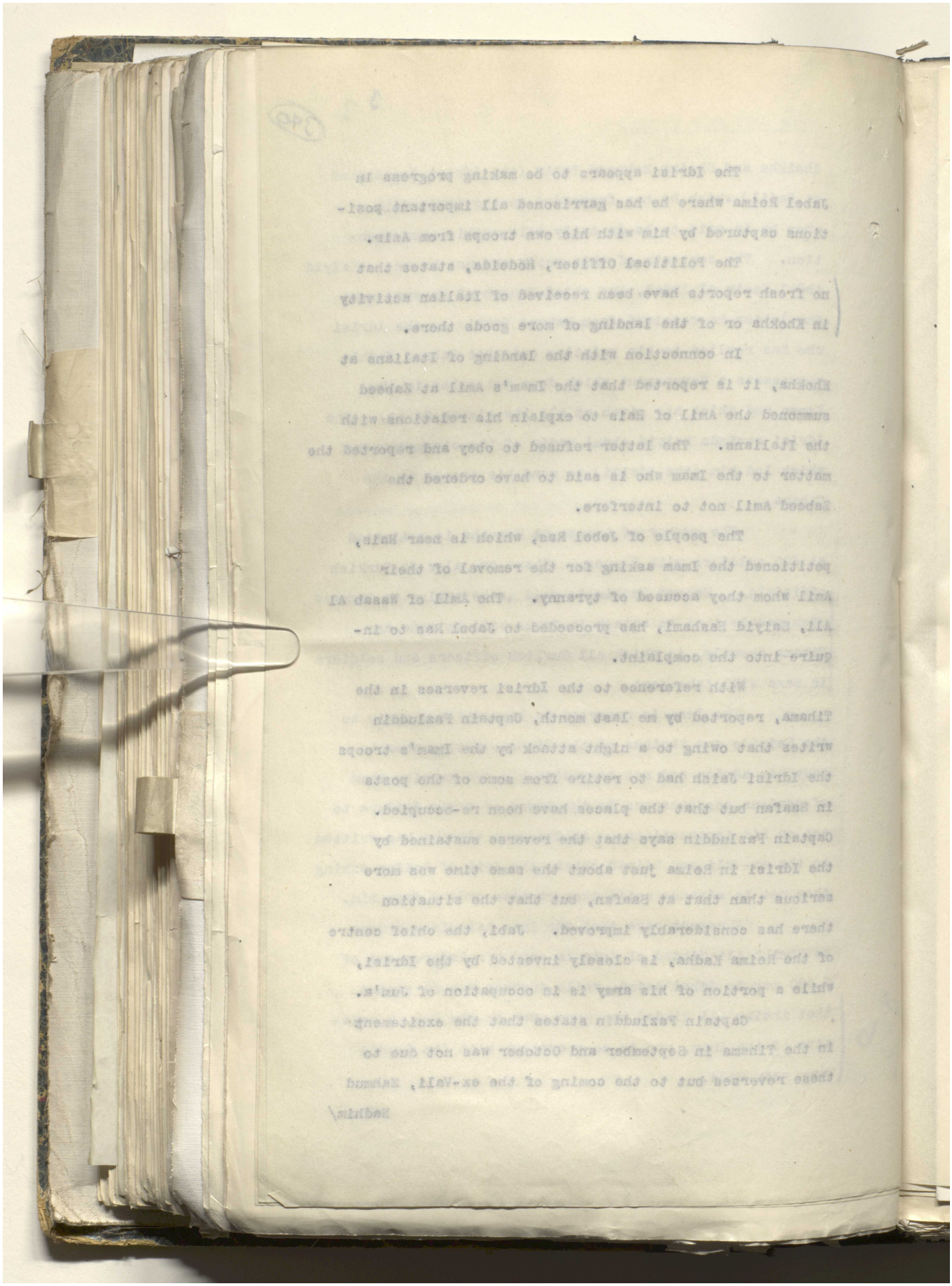

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Nadhim, to Menakha and the starting of his propaganda. Since the beginning of October the Imam has sustained a severe defeat at Malhan losing five fortified strongholds, one Naqib and 68 men killed, more than 50 men wounded and one gun, which was shattered. The Idrisi's loss was 5 men killed and 20 wounded. In consequence of this reverse, the Imamic Maqdami has been recalled to Sana.

Captain Fazluddin says that according to the latest news received from Mahomed Tahir, the Idrisi Commandant at Bajil, the Arab force collected by Mahmud Nadhim has dispersed, while his Turkish troops are unwilling to fight. The Idrisi has absolutely no fear of Buraa or Bajil being attacked by the Imam, nor has his Commander at Bajil expressed any anxiety. The Idrisi is, however, taking steps to reinforce his army at Bajil and its environments, not to meet Mahmud Nadhim's force, about which he does not entertain the slightest fear, but to counteract the pernicious effects of the latter's mischievous propaganda, which the Idrisi fears might turn the heads of the misguided and self-centred Mansabs of Marawa and Munira on whose co-operation in the future Mahmud Nadhim mostly counts.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

The Menakha agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that the village of Rasabah in the district of Jeharan was attacked by 3000 Zeidis in consequence of the refusal of the Sheikh of the place

to/

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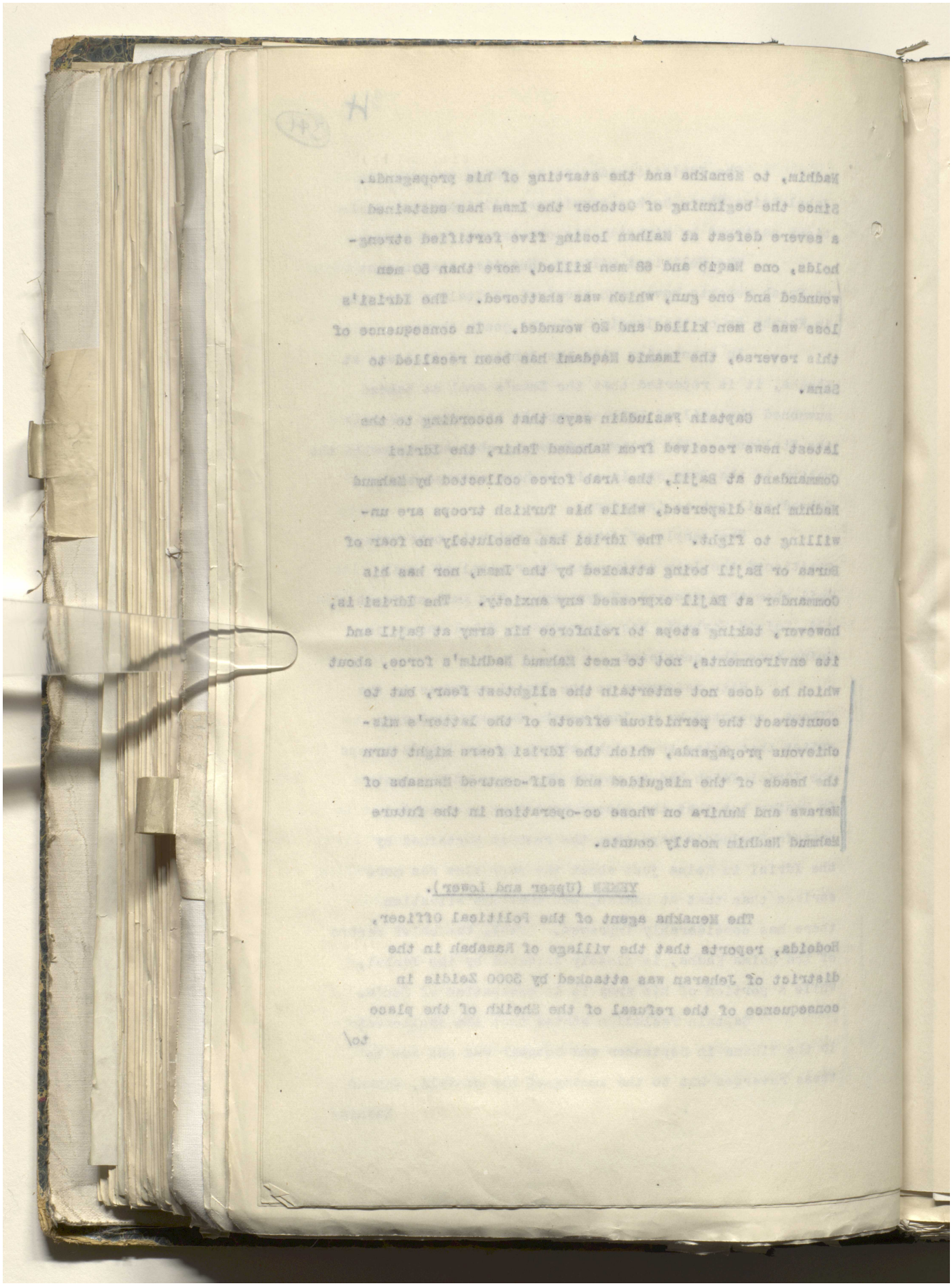

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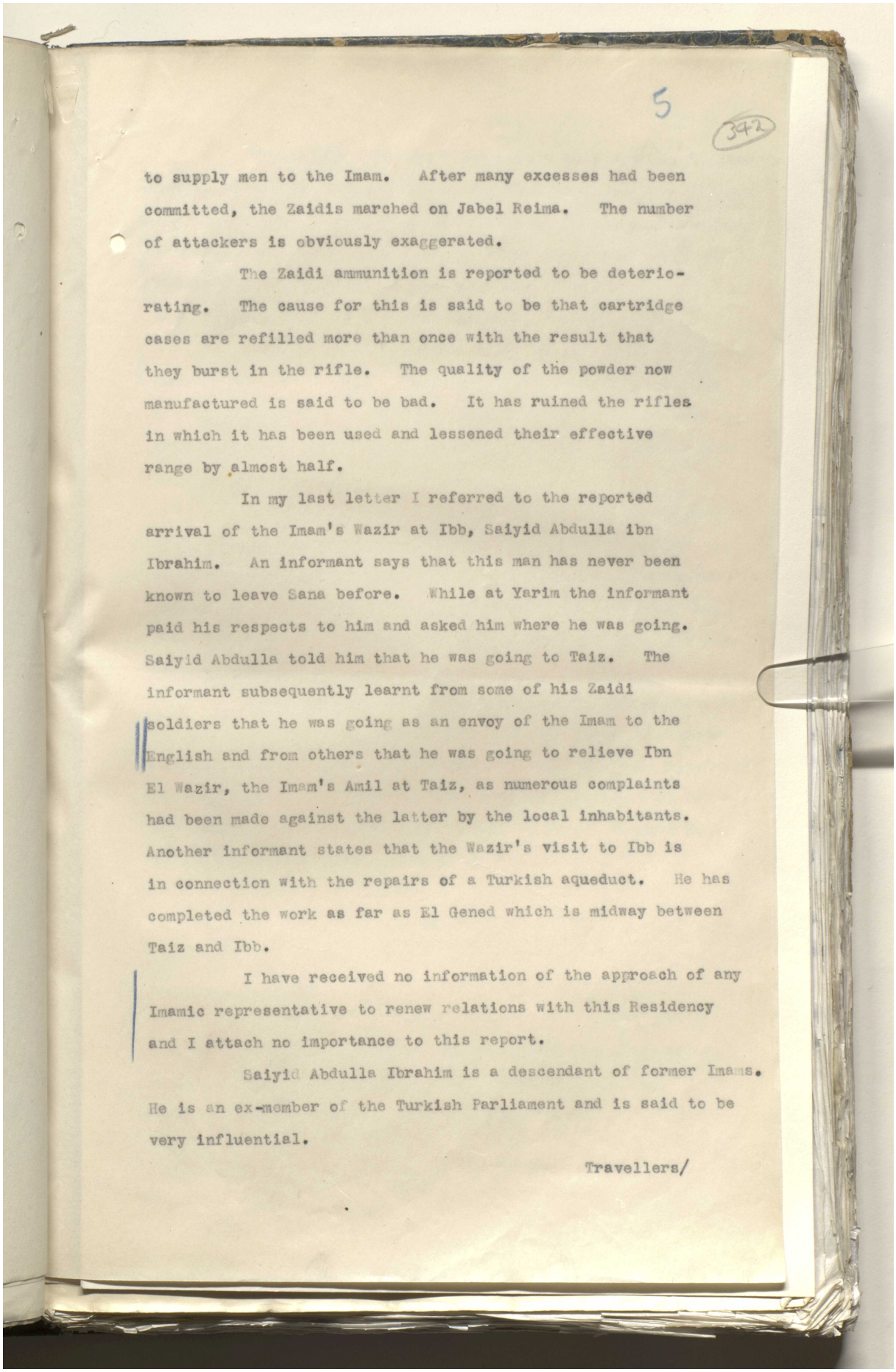

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to supply men to the Imam. After many excesses had been committed, the Zaidis marched on Jabel Reima. The number of attackers is obviously exaggerated.

The Zaidi ammunition is reported to be deteriorating. The cause for this is said to be that cartridge cases are refilled more than once with the result that they burst in the rifle. The quality of the powder now manufactured is said to be bad. It has ruined the rifles in which it has been used and lessened their effective range by almost half.

In my last letter I referred to the reported arrival of the Imam's Wazir at Ibb, Saiyid Abdulla ibn Ibrahim. An informant says that this man has never been known to leave Sana before. While at Yarim the informant paid his respects to him and asked him where he was going. Saiyid Abdulla told him that he was going to Taiz. The informant subsequently learnt from some of his Zaidi soldiers that he was going as an envoy of the Imam to the English and from others that he was going to relieve Ibn El Wazir, the Imam's Amil at Taiz, as numerous complaints had been made against the latter by the local inhabitants. Another informant states that the Wazir's visit to Ibb is in connection with the repairs of a Turkish aqueduct. He has completed the work as far as El Gened which is midway between Taiz and Ibb.

I have received no information of the approach of any Imamic representative to renew relations with this Residency and I attach no importance to this report.

Saiyid Abdulla Ibrahim is a descendant of former Imams. He is an ex-member of the Turkish Parliament and is said to be very influential.

Travellers/

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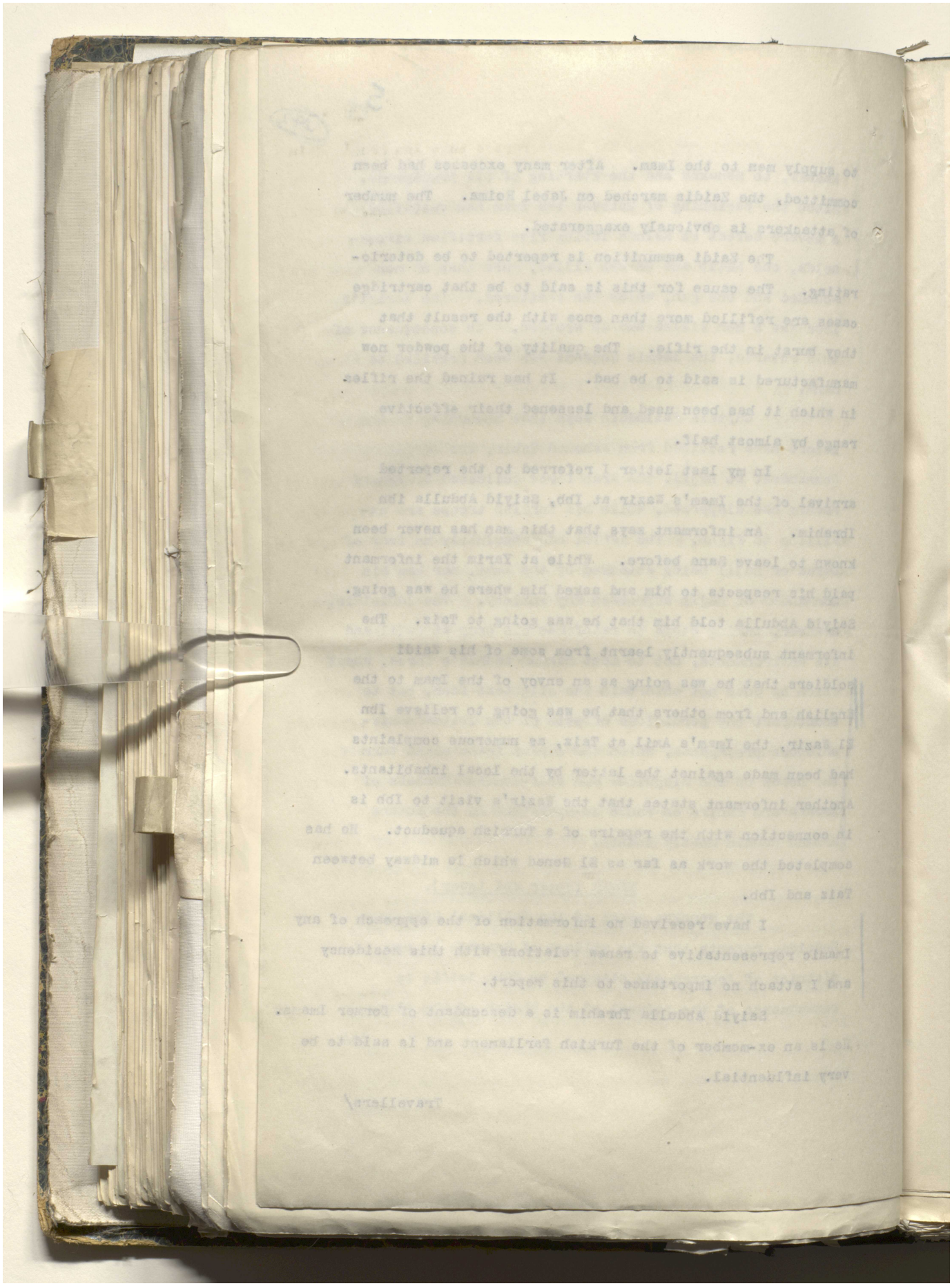

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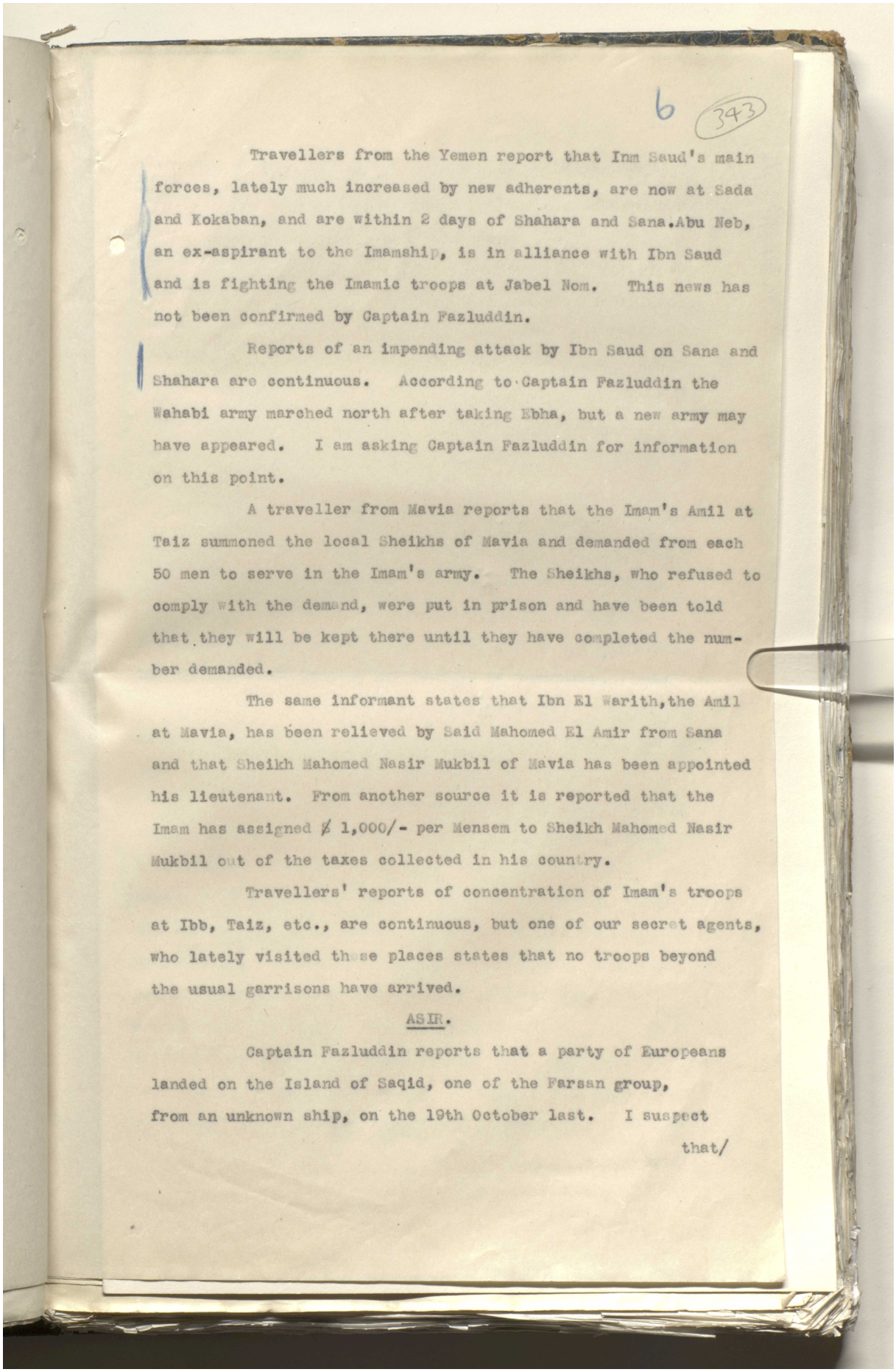

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Travellers from the Yemen report that Imm Saud's main forces, lately much increased by new adherents, are now at Sada and Kokaban, and are within 2 days of Shahara and Sana. Abu Neb, an ex-aspirant to the Imamship, is in alliance with Ibn Saud and is fighting the Imamic troops at Jabel Nom. This news has not been confirmed by Captain Fazluddin.

Reports of an impending attack by Ibn Saud on Sana and Shahara are continuous. According to Captain Fazluddin the Wahabi army marched north after taking Ebha, but a new army may have appeared. I am asking Captain Fazluddin for information on this point.

A traveller from Mavia reports that the Imam's Amil at Taiz summoned the local Sheikhs of Mavia and demanded from each 50 men to serve in the Imam's army. The Sheikhs, who refused to comply with the demand, were put in prison and have been told that they will be kept there until they have completed the number demanded.

The same informant states that Ibn El Warith, the Amil at Mavia, has been relieved by Said Mahomed El Amir from Sana and that Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil of Mavia has been appointed his lieutenant. From another source it is reported that the Imam has assigned ⅀ 1,000/- per Mensem to Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil out of the taxes collected in his country.

Travellers' reports of concentration of Imam's troops at Ibb, Taiz, etc., are continuous, but one of our secret agents, who lately visited those places states that no troops beyond the usual garrisons have arrived.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin reports that a party of Europeans landed on the Island of Saqid, one of the Farsan group, from an unknown ship, on the 19th October last. I suspect

that/

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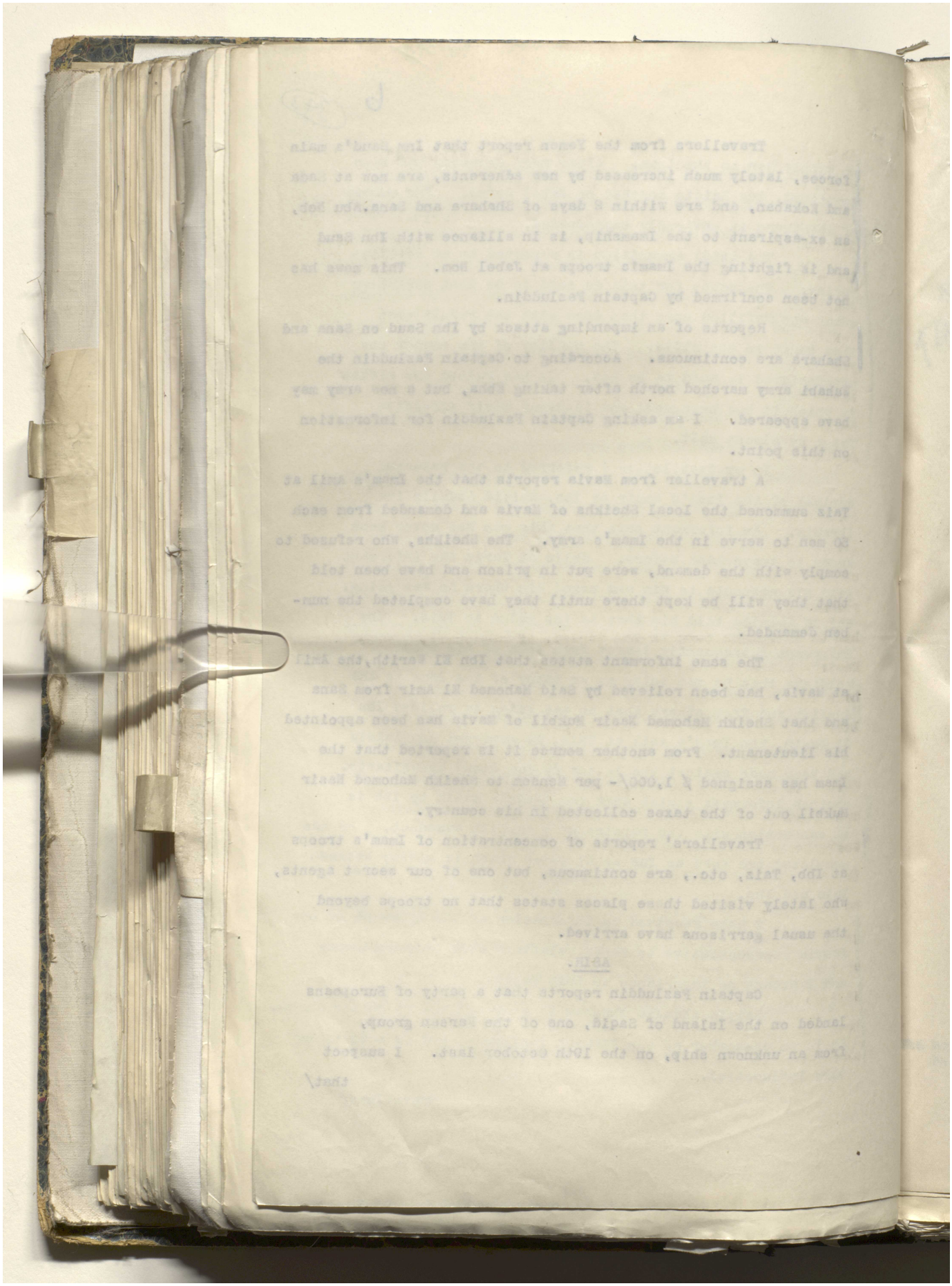

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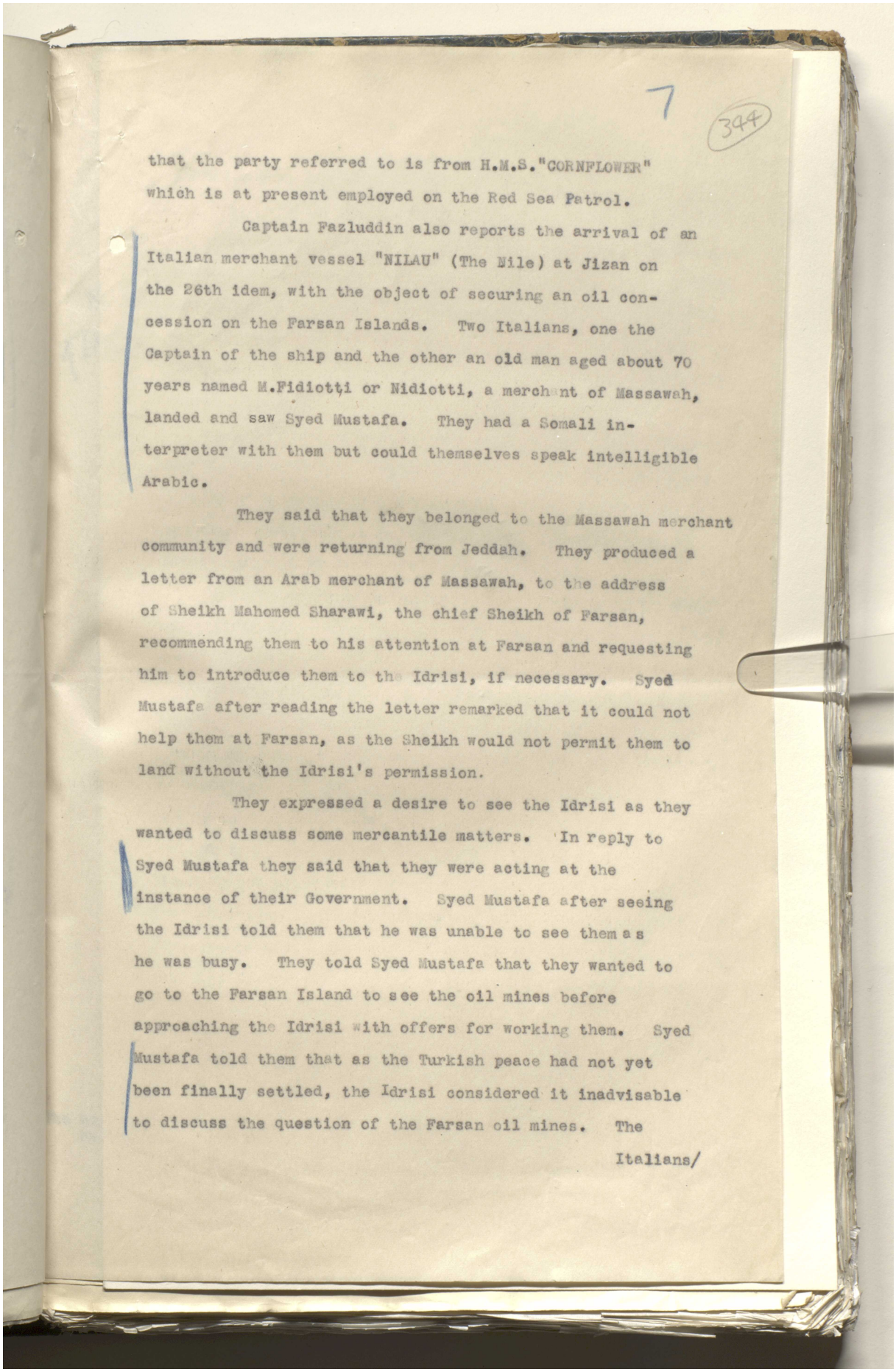

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that the party referred to is from H.M.S."CORNFLOWER" which is at present employed on the Red Sea Patrol.

Captain Fazluddin also reports the arrival of an Italian merchant vessel "NILAU" (The Nile) at Jizan on the 26th idem, with the object of securing an oil concession on the Farsan Islands. Two Italians, one the Captain of the ship and the other an old man aged about 70 years named M.Fidiotti or Nidiotti, a merchant of Massawah, landed and saw Syed Mustafa. They had a Somali interpreter with them but could themselves speak intelligible Arabic.

They said that they belonged to the Massawah merchant community and were returning from Jeddah. They produced a letter from an Arab merchant of Massawah, to the address of Sheikh Mahomed Sharawi, the chief Sheikh of Farsan, recommending them to his attention at Farsan and requesting him to introduce them to the Idrisi, if necessary. Syed Mustafa after reading the letter remarked that it could not help them at Farsan, as the Sheikh would not permit them to land without the Idrisi's permission.

They expressed a desire to see the Idrisi as they wanted to discuss some mercantile matters. In reply to Syed Mustafa they said that they were acting at the instance of their Government. Syed Mustafa after seeing the Idrisi told them that he was unable to see them as he was busy. They told Syed Mustafa that they wanted to go to the Farsan Island to see the oil mines before approaching the Idrisi with offers for working them. Syed Mustafa told them that as the Turkish peace had not yet been finally settled, the Idrisi considered it inadvisable to discuss the question of the Farsan oil mines. The

Italians/

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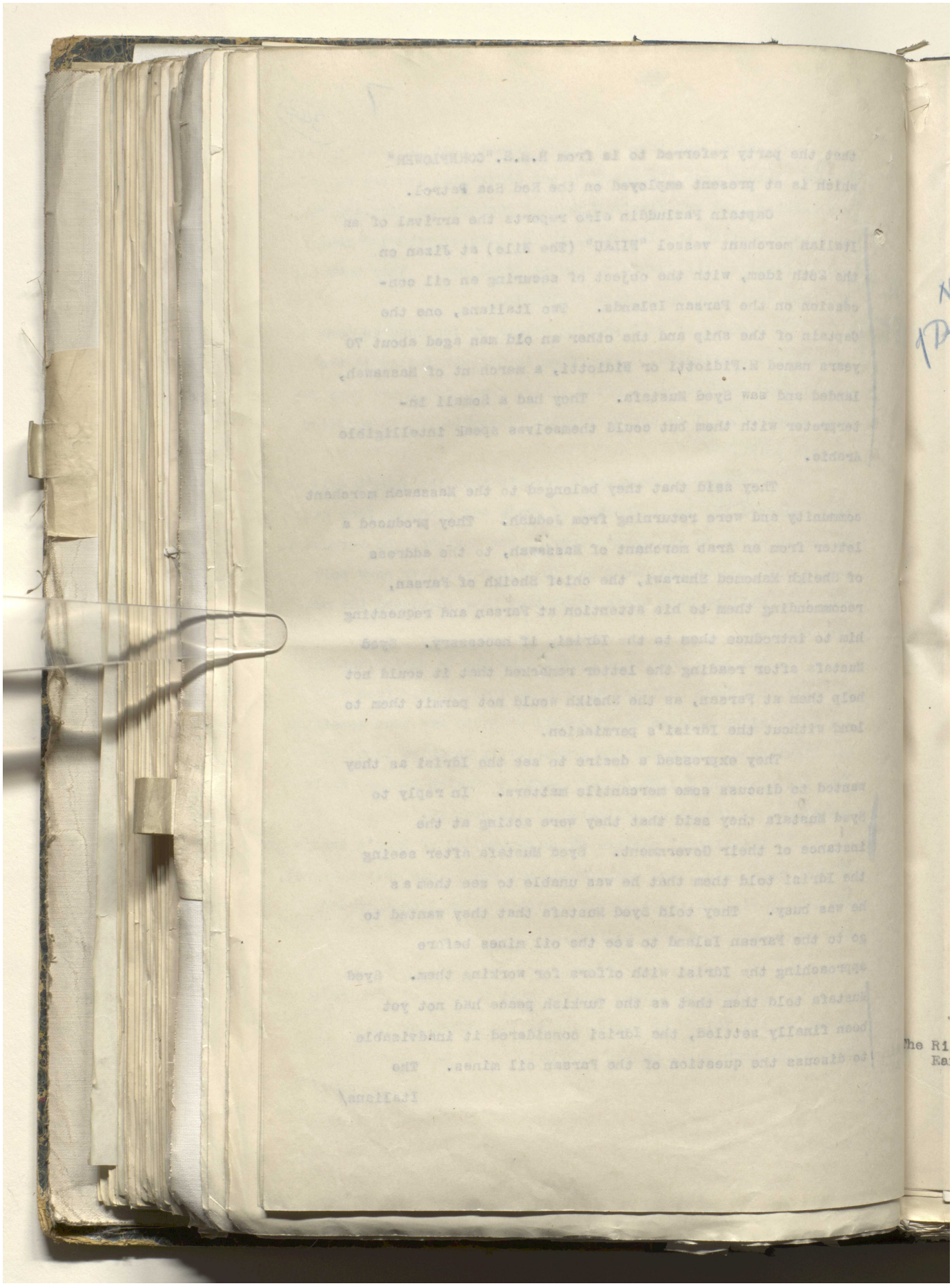

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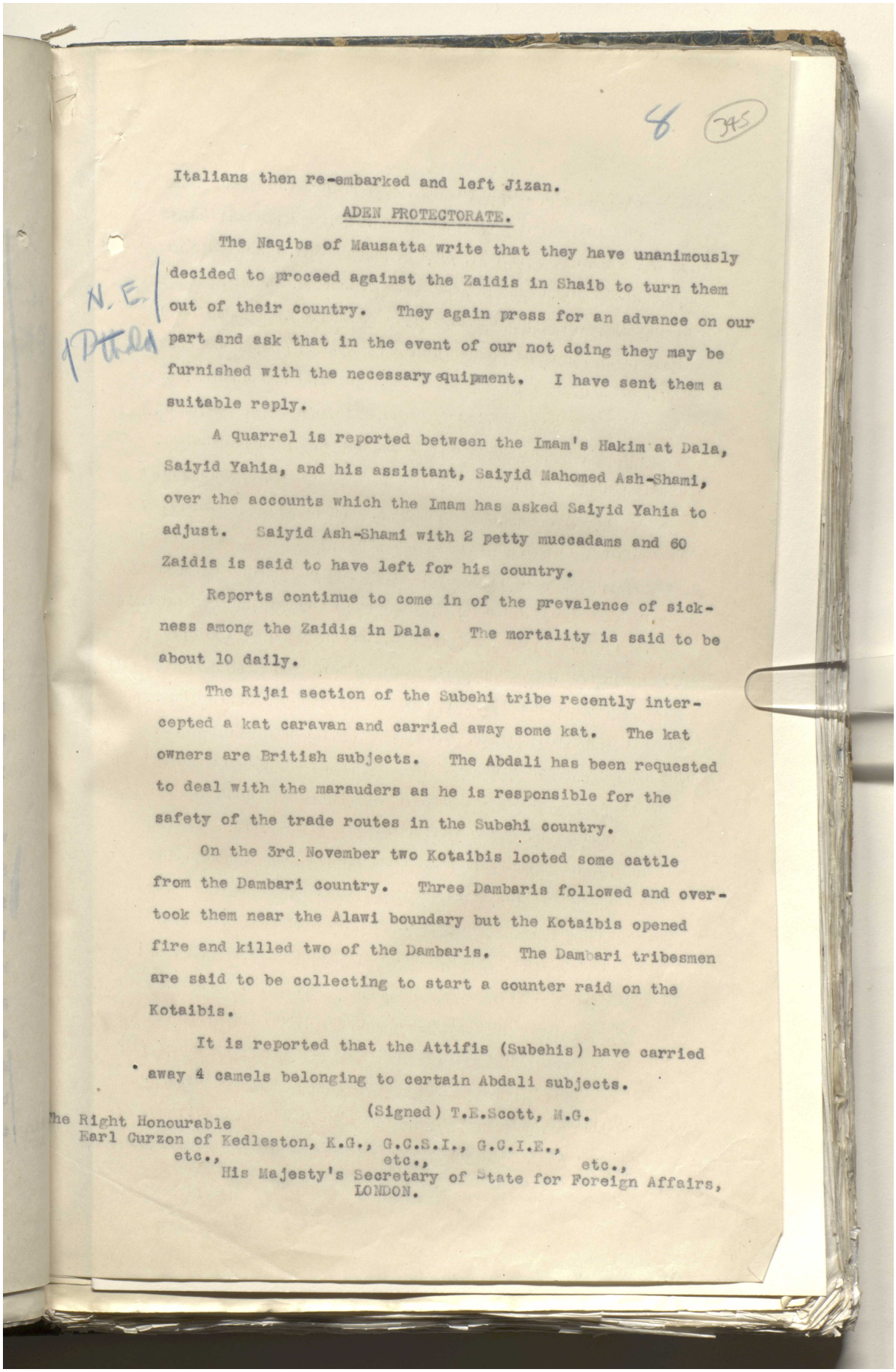

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Italians then re-embarked and left Jizan.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Naqibs of Mausatta write that they have unanimously decided to proceed against the Zaidis in Shaib to turn them out of their country. They again press for an advance on our part and ask that in the event of our not doing they may be furnished with the necessary equipment. I have sent them a suitable reply.

N. E. 1 Dala

A quarrel is reported between the Imam's Hakim at Dala, Saiyid Yahia, and his assistant, Saiyid Mahomed Ash-Shami, over the accounts which the Imam has asked Saiyid Yahia to adjust. Saiyid Ash-Shami with 2 petty muccadams and 60 Zaidis is said to have left for his country.

Reports continue to come in of the prevalence of sickness among the Zaidis in Dala. The mortality is said to be about 10 daily.

The Rijai section of the Subehi tribe recently intercepted a kat caravan and carried away some kat. The kat owners are British subjects. The Abdali has been requested to deal with the marauders as he is responsible for the safety of the trade routes in the Subehi country.

On the 3rd November two Kotaibis looted some cattle from the Dambari country. Three Dambaris followed and overtook them near the Alawi boundary but the Kotaibis opened fire and killed two of the Dambaris. The Dambari tribesmen are said to be collecting to start a counter raid on the Kotaibis.

It is reported that the Attifis (Subehis) have carried away 4 camels belonging to certain Abdali subjects.

(Signed) T.E.Scott, M.G.

The Right Honourable
Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
etc., etc., etc.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
LONDON.

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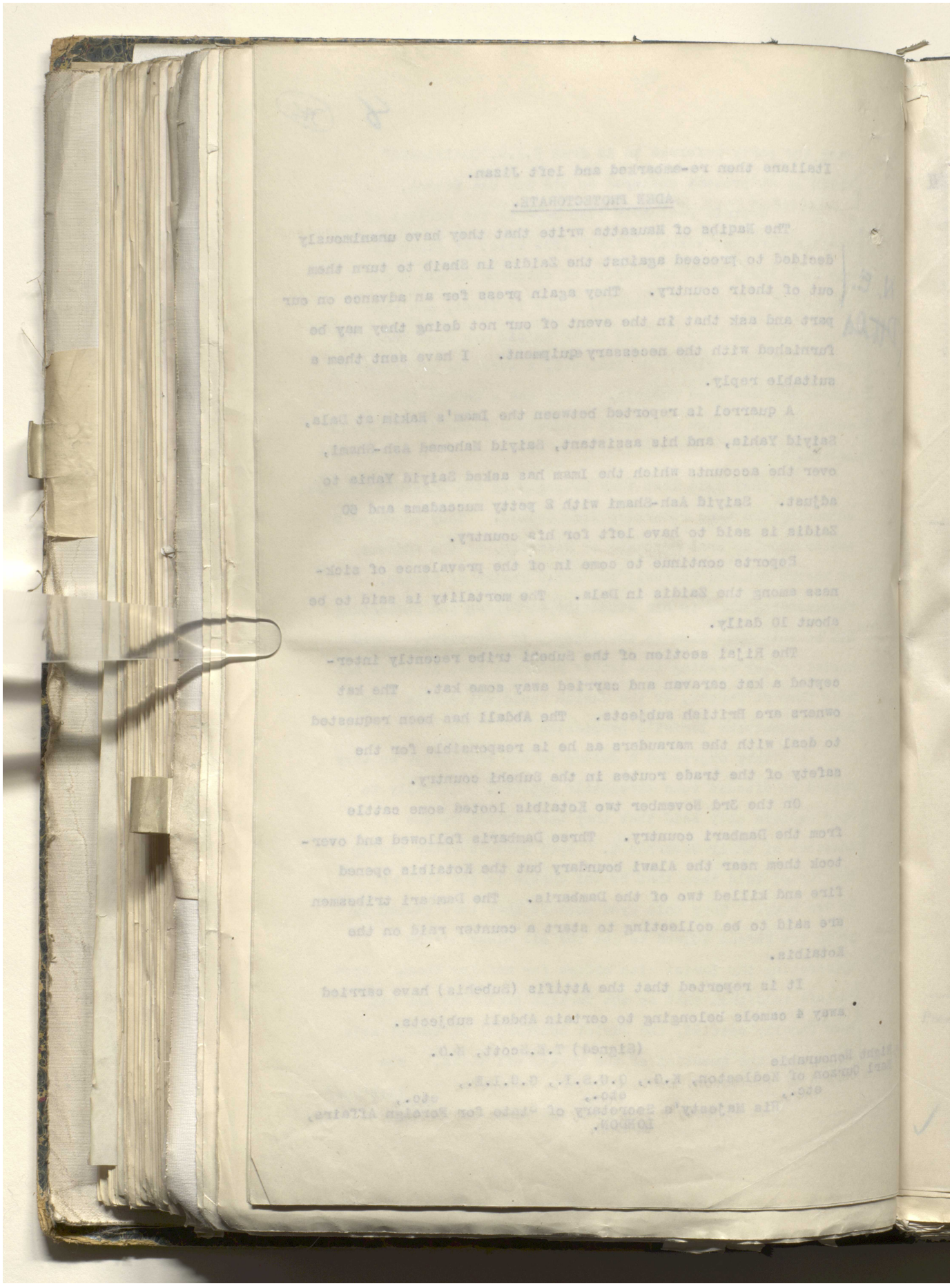

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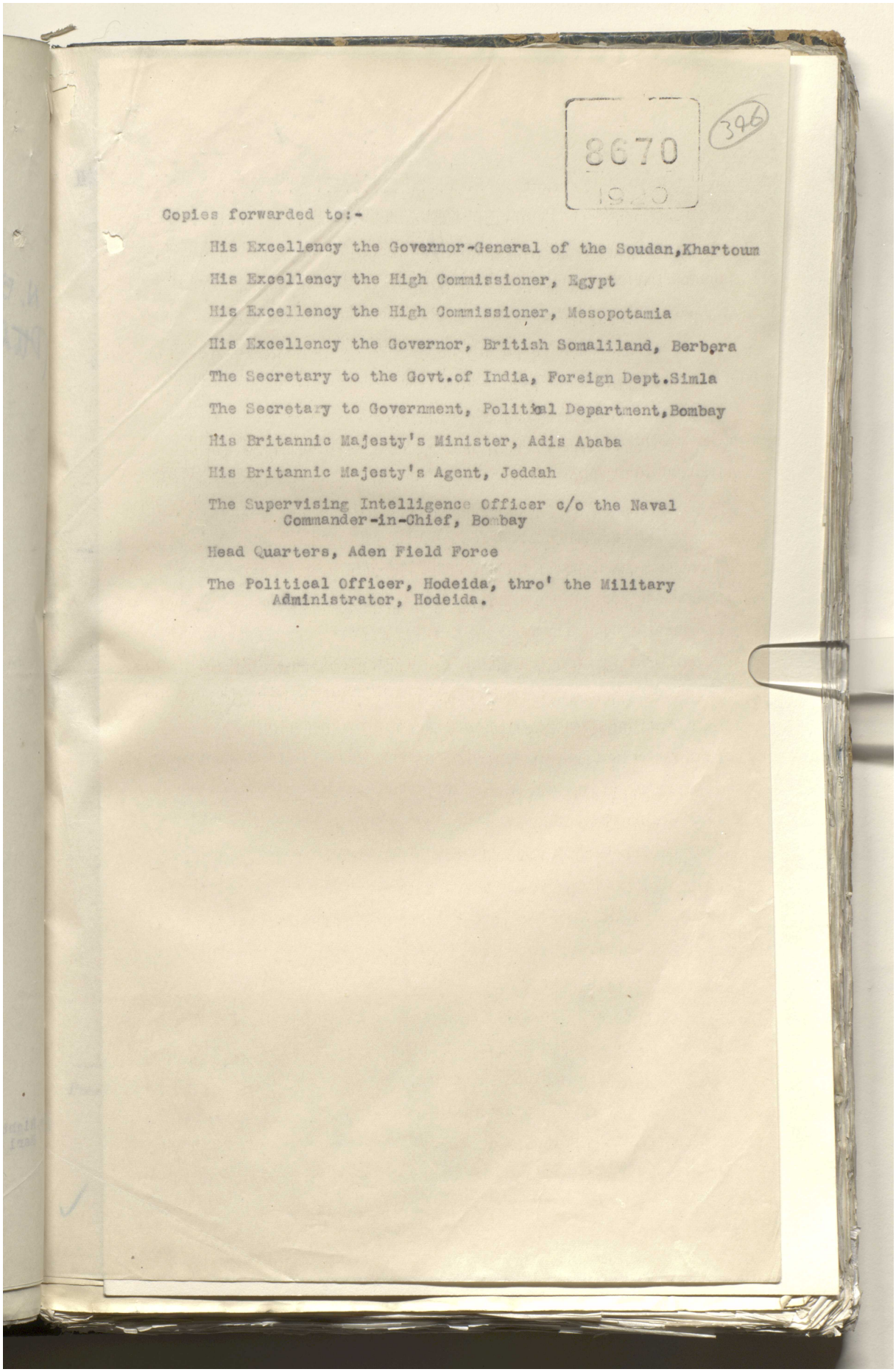

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His Excellency the High Commissioner, Egypt

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera

The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept. Simla

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay

Head Quarters, Aden Field Force

The Political Officer, Hodeida, thro' the Military Administrator, Hodeida.

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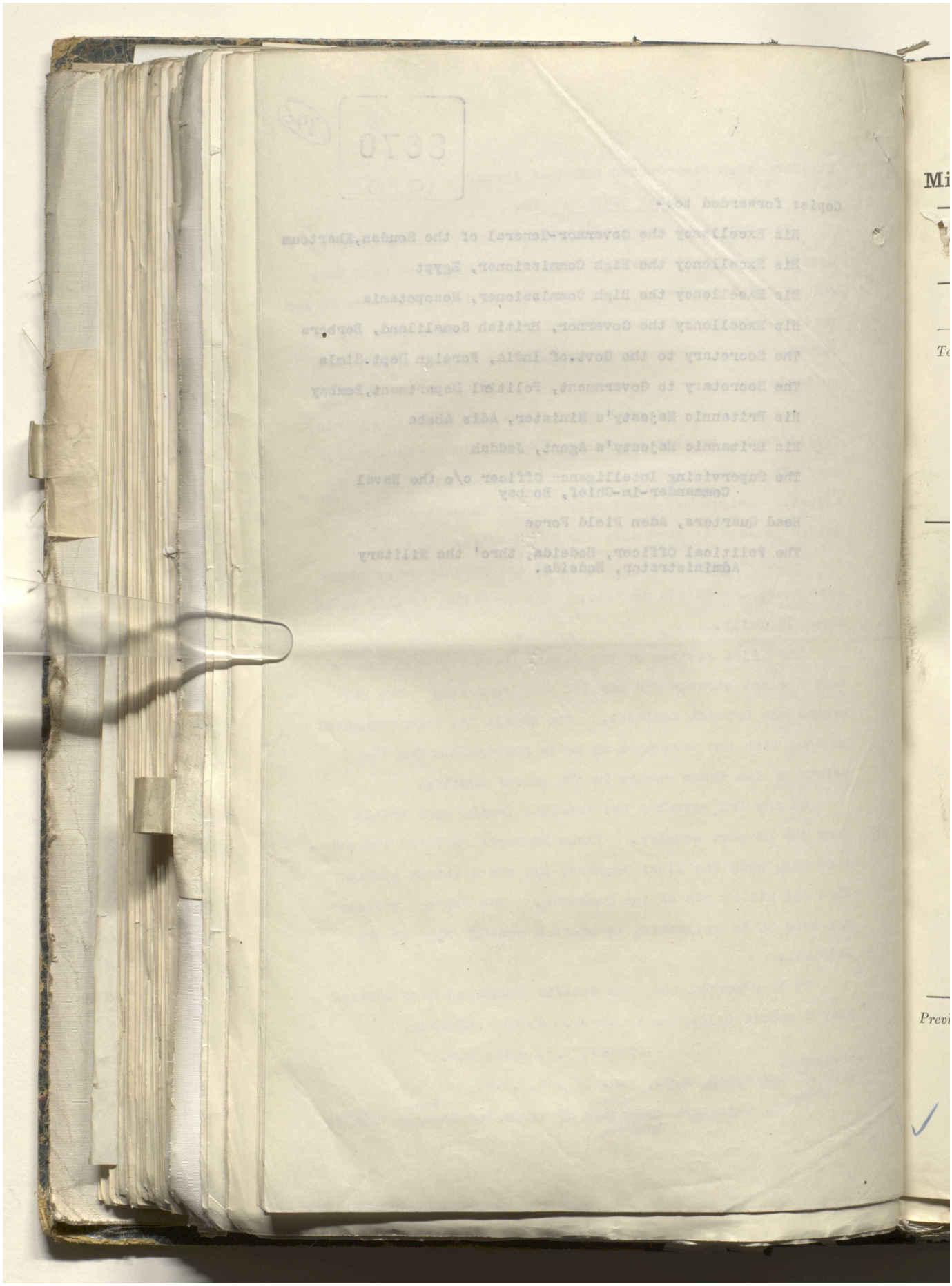

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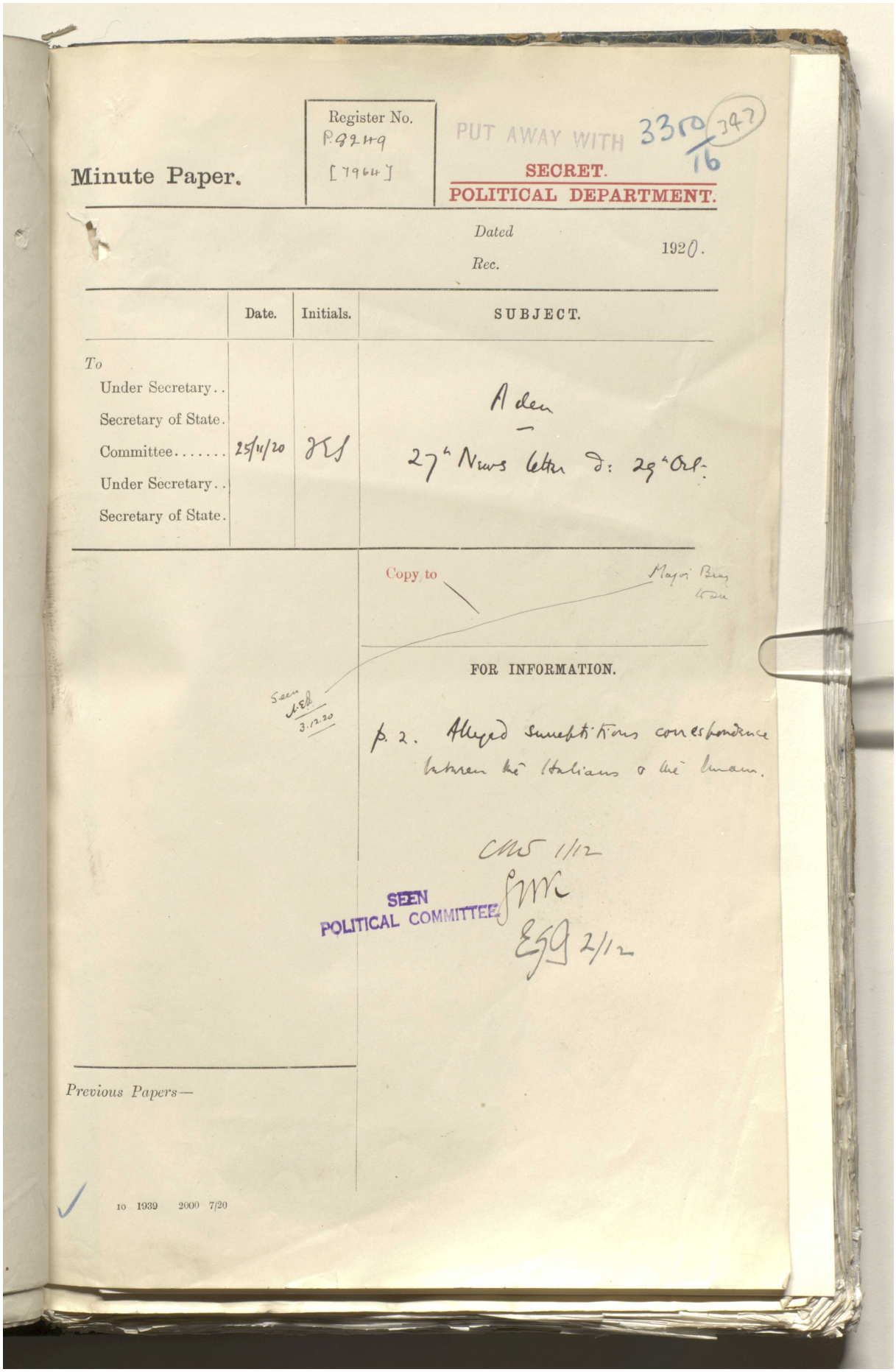

Minute Paper.

Register No. P 8249 [7964]

PUT AWAY WITH 3350/16 (347)

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 1920.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary..			Aden
Secretary of State.			—
Committee.....	25/11/20	JCI	27th News Letter d: 29th Oct.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to Major Bray

Seen MEK 3.12.20

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 2. Alleged superstitious correspondence between the Italians & the Imam.

CMS 1/12

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE

EJG 2/12

Previous Papers—

10 1939 2000 7/20

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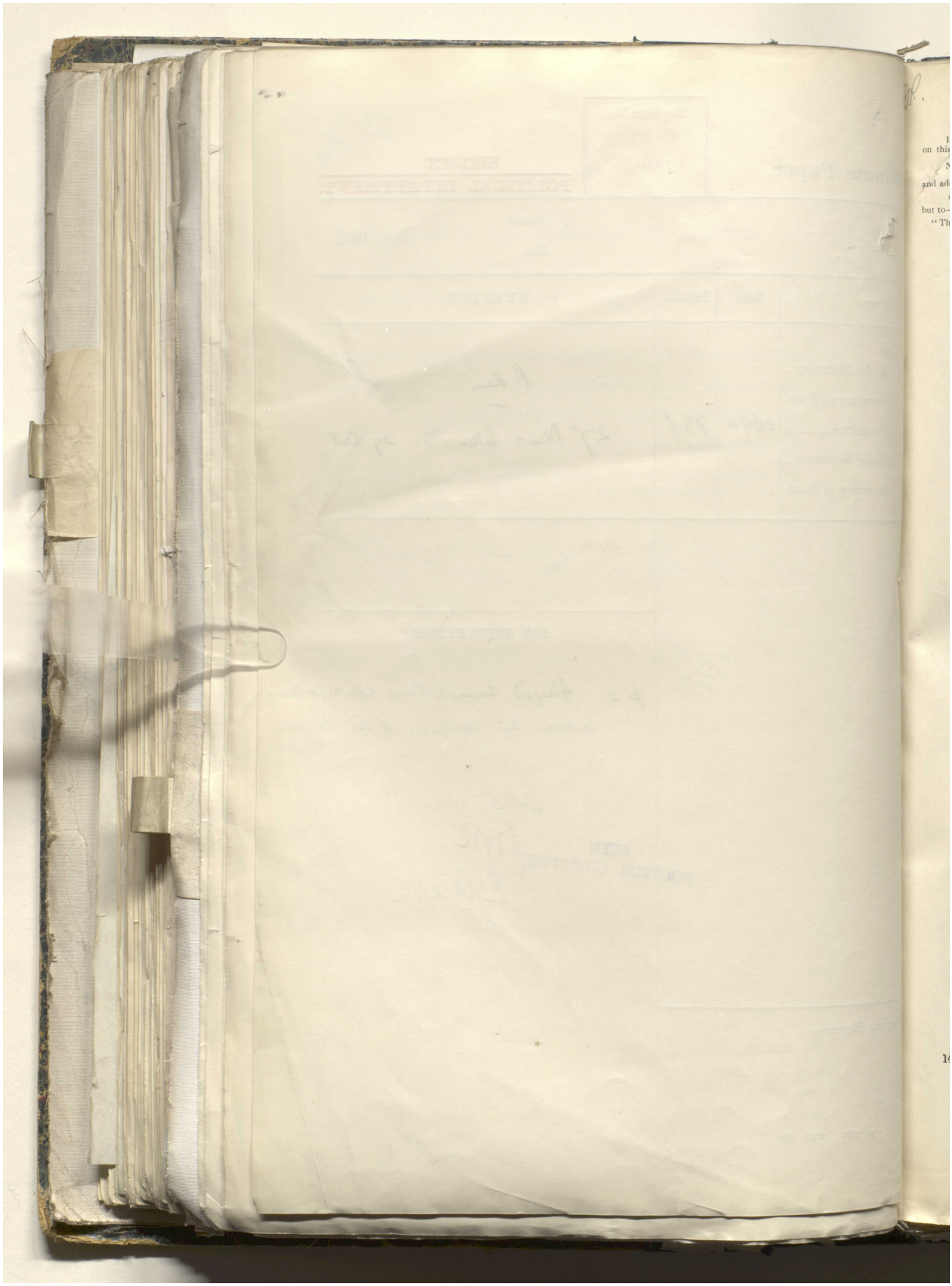

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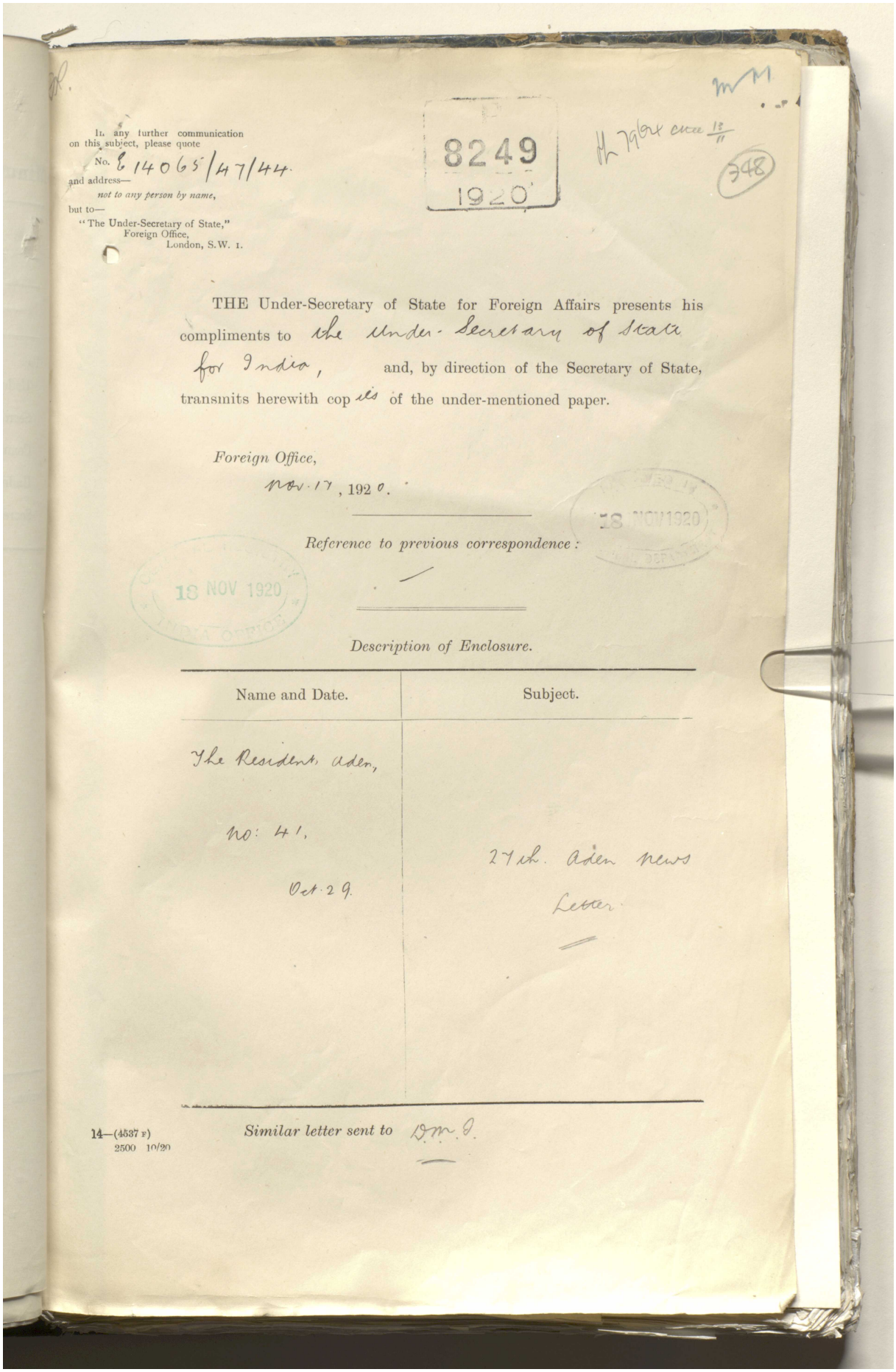

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 14065/47/44.
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

8249
1920

348

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Nov. 17, 1920.

18 NOV 1920 INDIA OFFICE

18 NOV 1920 FOREIGN OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
The Resident, Aden, No: 41, Oct. 29.	27th. Aden News Letter.

14—(4537 F)
2500 10/20

Similar letter sent to Govt. of India.

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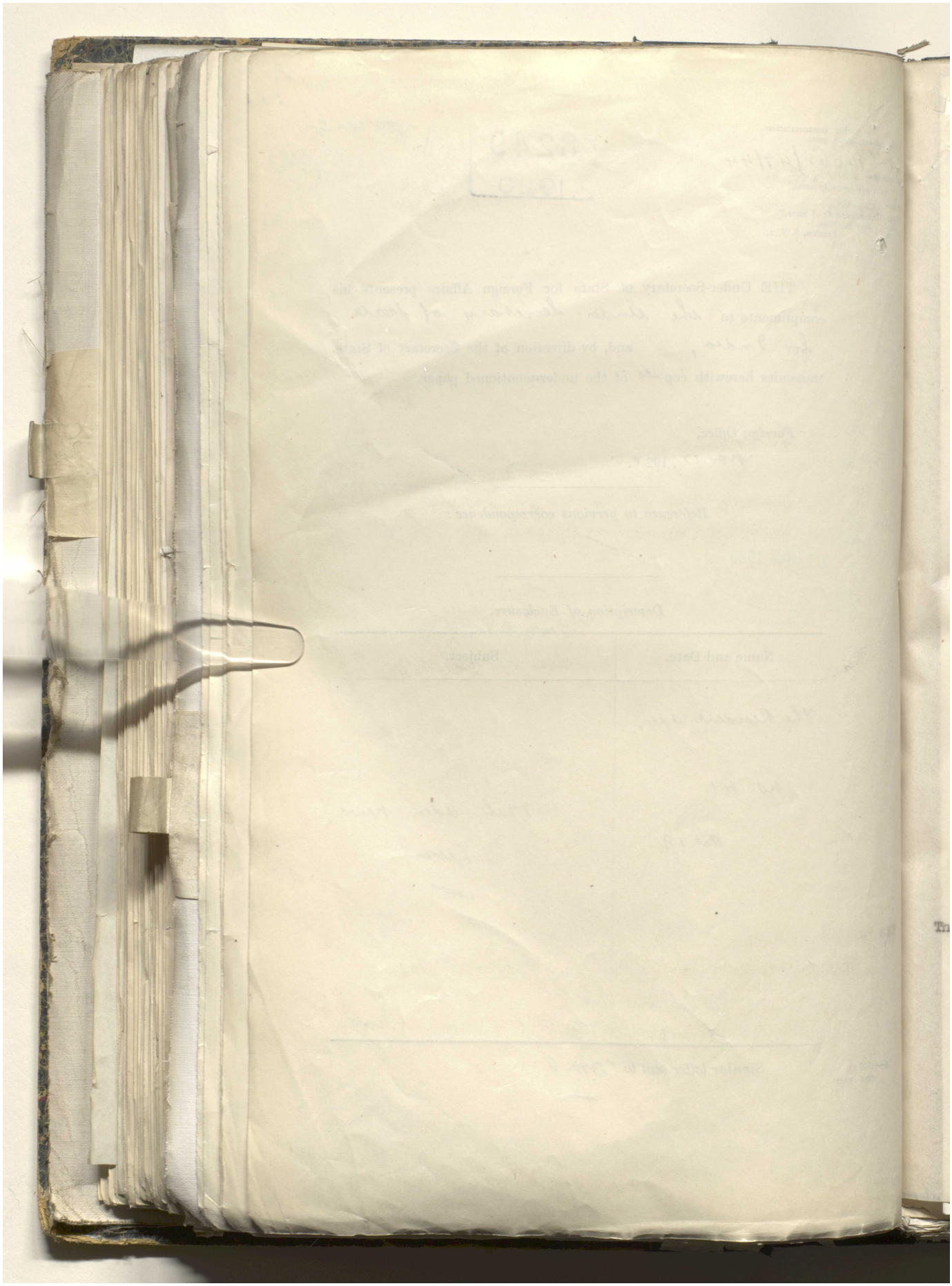

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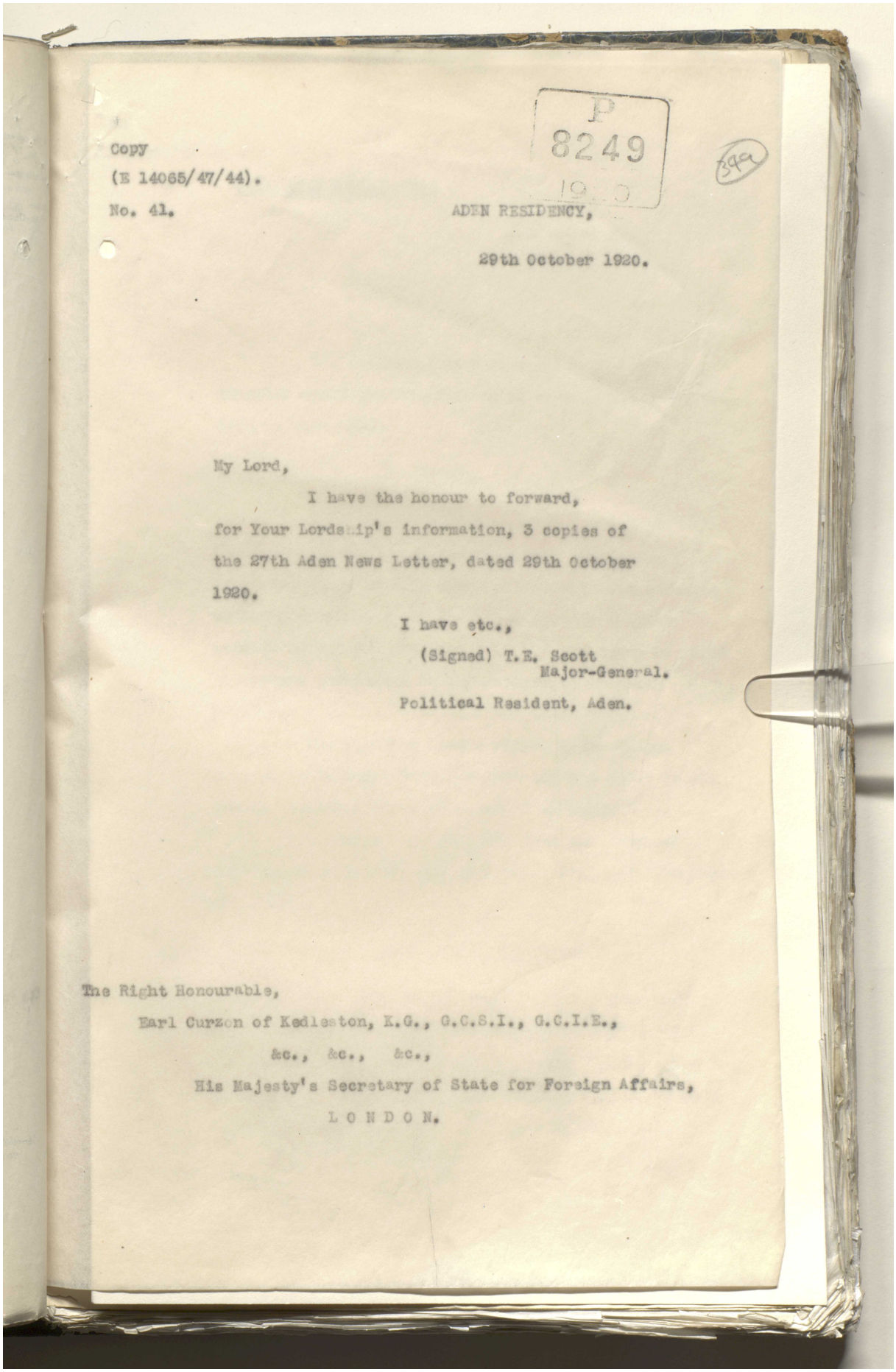

P
8249
19

Copy
(E 14065/47/44).
No. 41.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

29th October 1920.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward, for Your Lordship's information, 3 copies of the 27th Aden News Letter, dated 29th October 1920.

I have etc.,

(Signed) T.E. Scott
Major-General.

Political Resident, Aden.

The Right Honourable,
Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
&c., &c., &c.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
L O N D O N.

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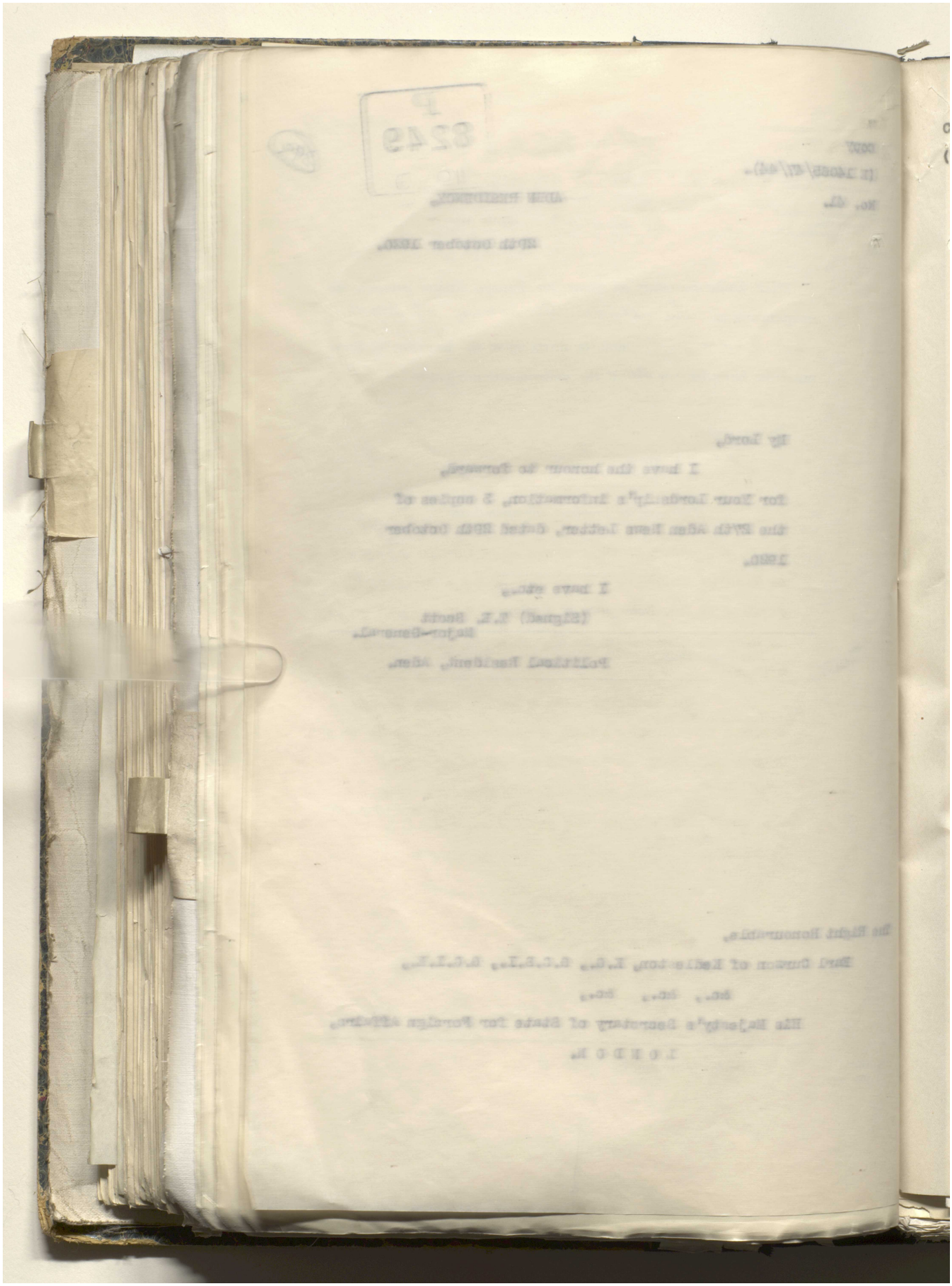

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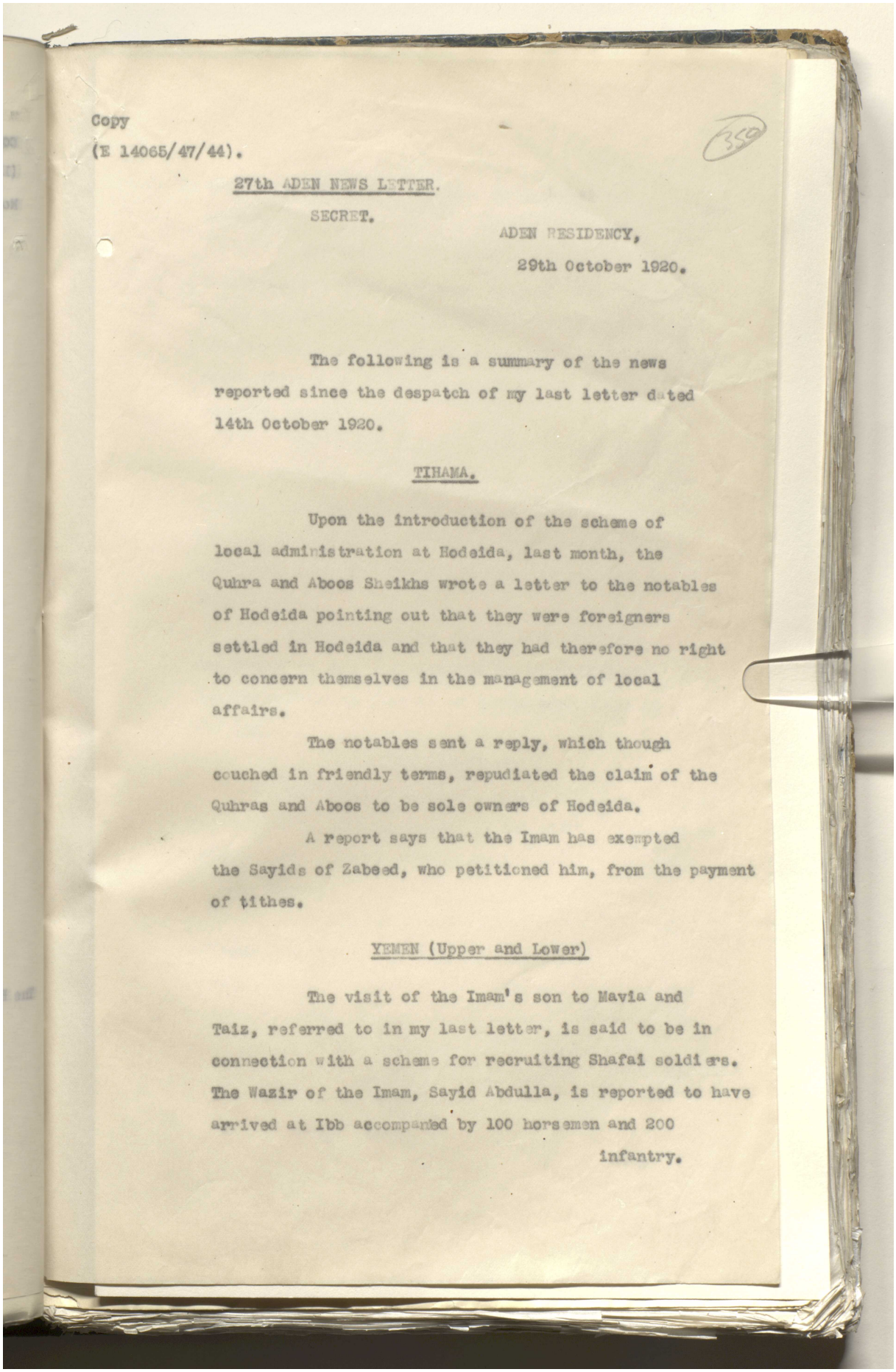

Copy
(E 14065/47/44).

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27th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
29th October 1920.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 14th October 1920.

TIHAMA.

Upon the introduction of the scheme of local administration at Hodeida, last month, the Quhra and Aboos Sheikhs wrote a letter to the notables of Hodeida pointing out that they were foreigners settled in Hodeida and that they had therefore no right to concern themselves in the management of local affairs.

The notables sent a reply, which though couched in friendly terms, repudiated the claim of the Quhras and Aboos to be sole owners of Hodeida.

A report says that the Imam has exempted the Sayids of Zabeed, who petitioned him, from the payment of tithes.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

The visit of the Imam's son to Mavia and Taiz, referred to in my last letter, is said to be in connection with a scheme for recruiting Shafai soldiers. The Wazir of the Imam, Sayid Abdulla, is reported to have arrived at Ibb accompanied by 100 horsemen and 200 infantry.

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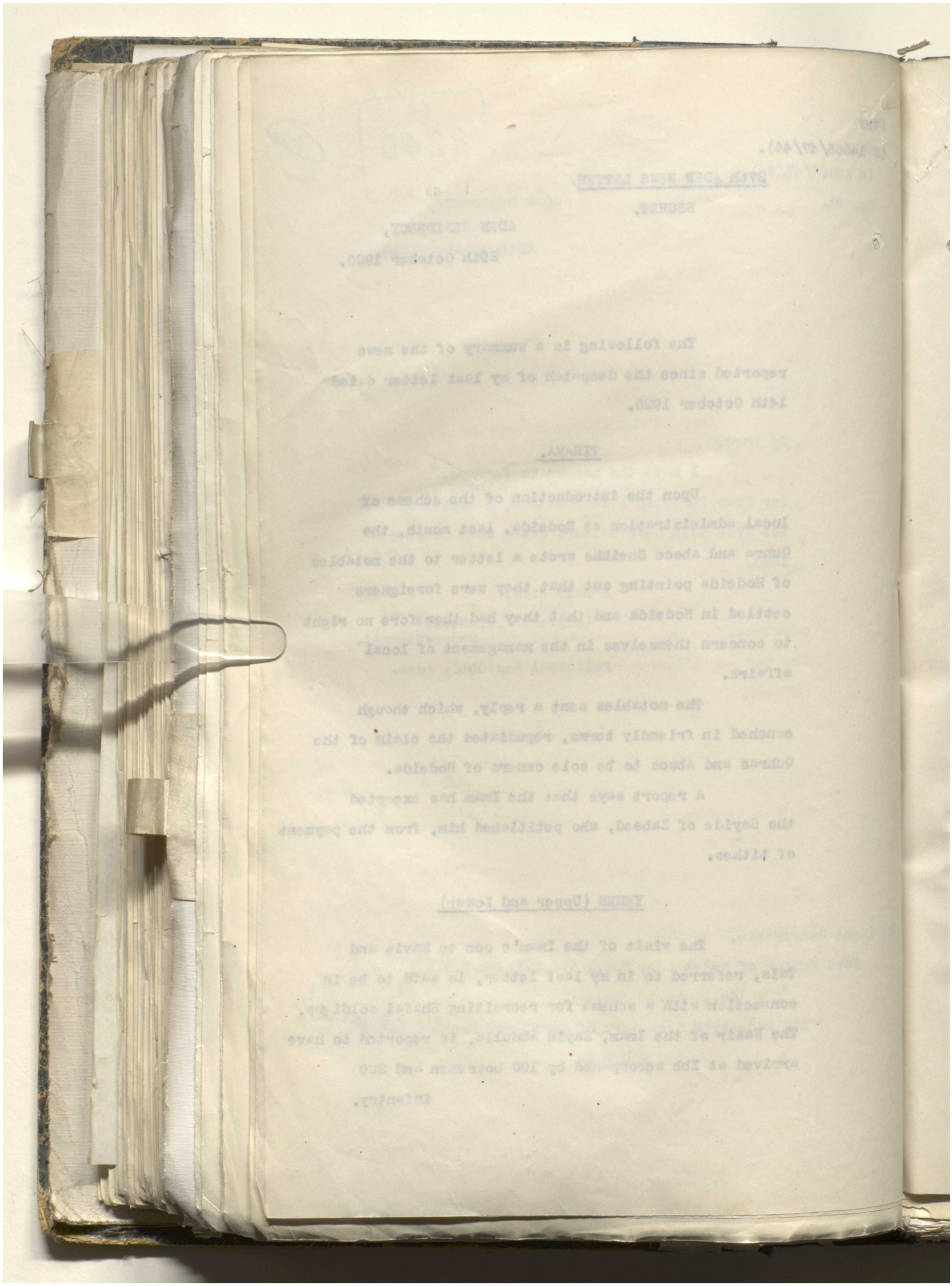

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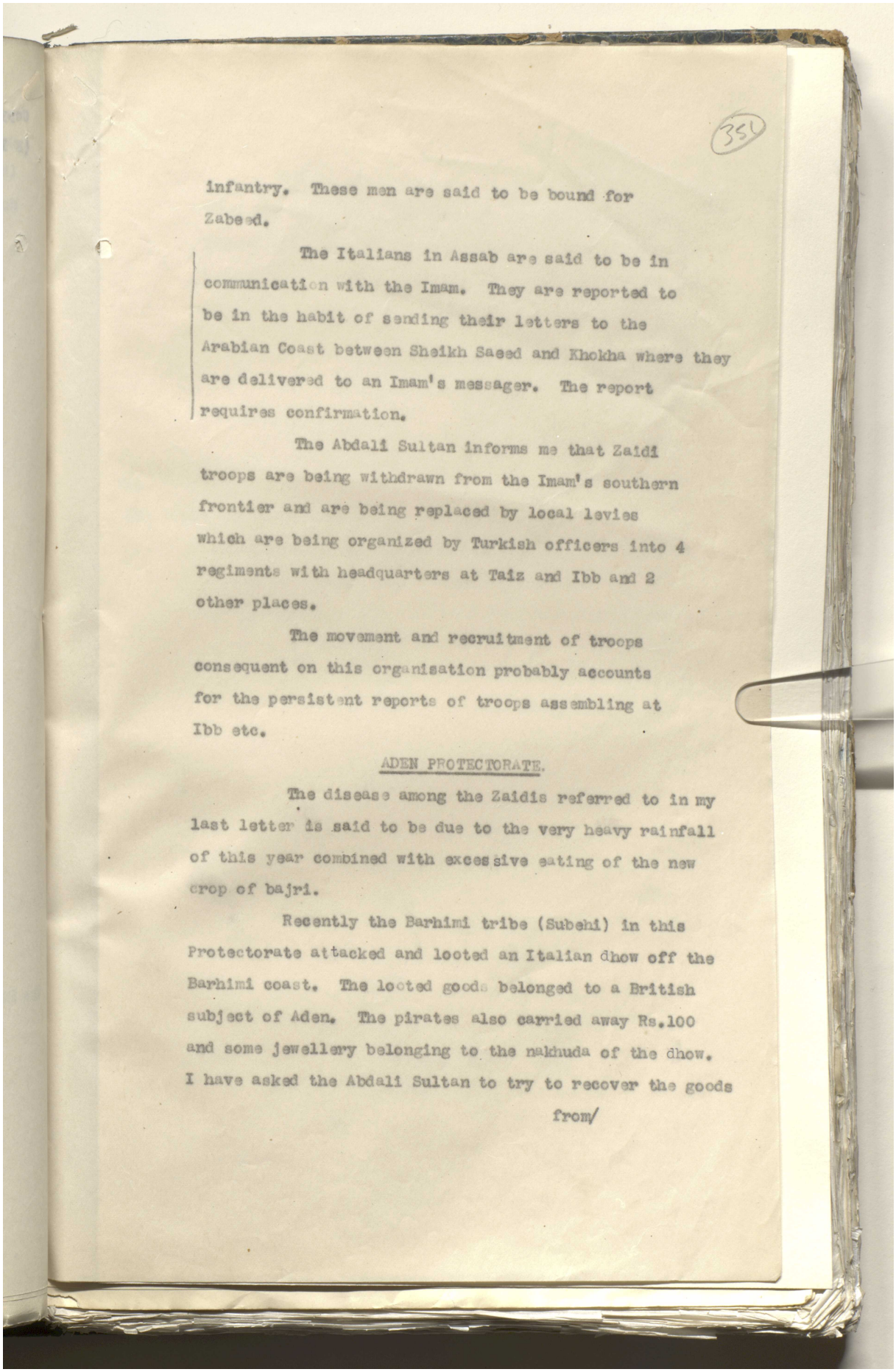

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infantry. These men are said to be bound for Zabeed.

The Italians in Assab are said to be in communication with the Imam. They are reported to be in the habit of sending their letters to the Arabian Coast between Sheikh Saeed and Khokha where they are delivered to an Imam's messager. The report requires confirmation.

The Abdali Sultan informs me that Zaidi troops are being withdrawn from the Imam's southern frontier and are being replaced by local levies which are being organized by Turkish officers into 4 regiments with headquarters at Taiz and Ibb and 2 other places.

The movement and recruitment of troops consequent on this organisation probably accounts for the persistent reports of troops assembling at Ibb etc.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The disease among the Zaidis referred to in my last letter is said to be due to the very heavy rainfall of this year combined with excessive eating of the new crop of bajri.

Recently the Barhimi tribe (Subehi) in this Protectorate attacked and looted an Italian dhow off the Barhimi coast. The looted goods belonged to a British subject of Aden. The pirates also carried away Rs.100 and some jewellery belonging to the nakhuda of the dhow. I have asked the Abdali Sultan to try to recover the goods

from/

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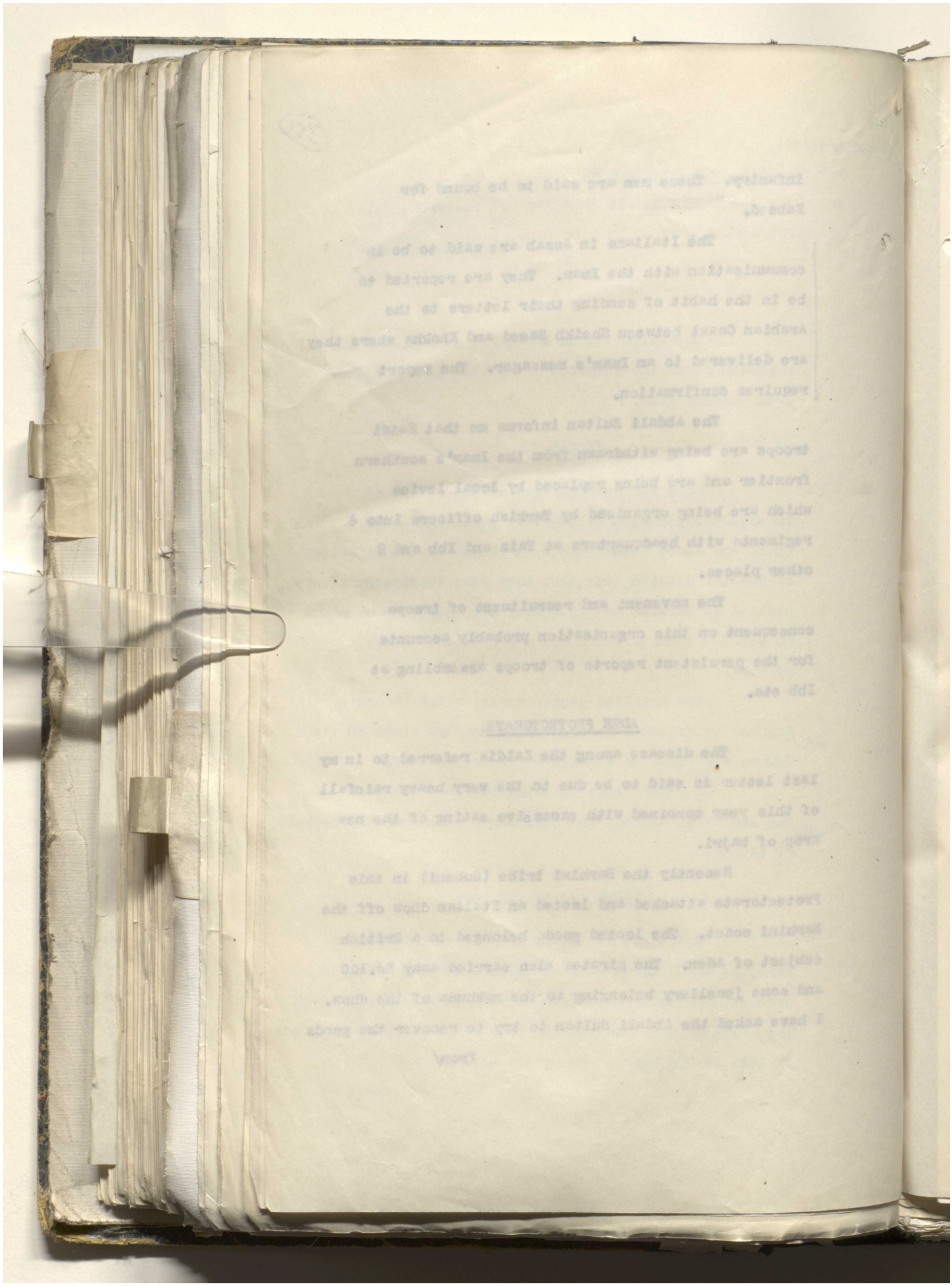

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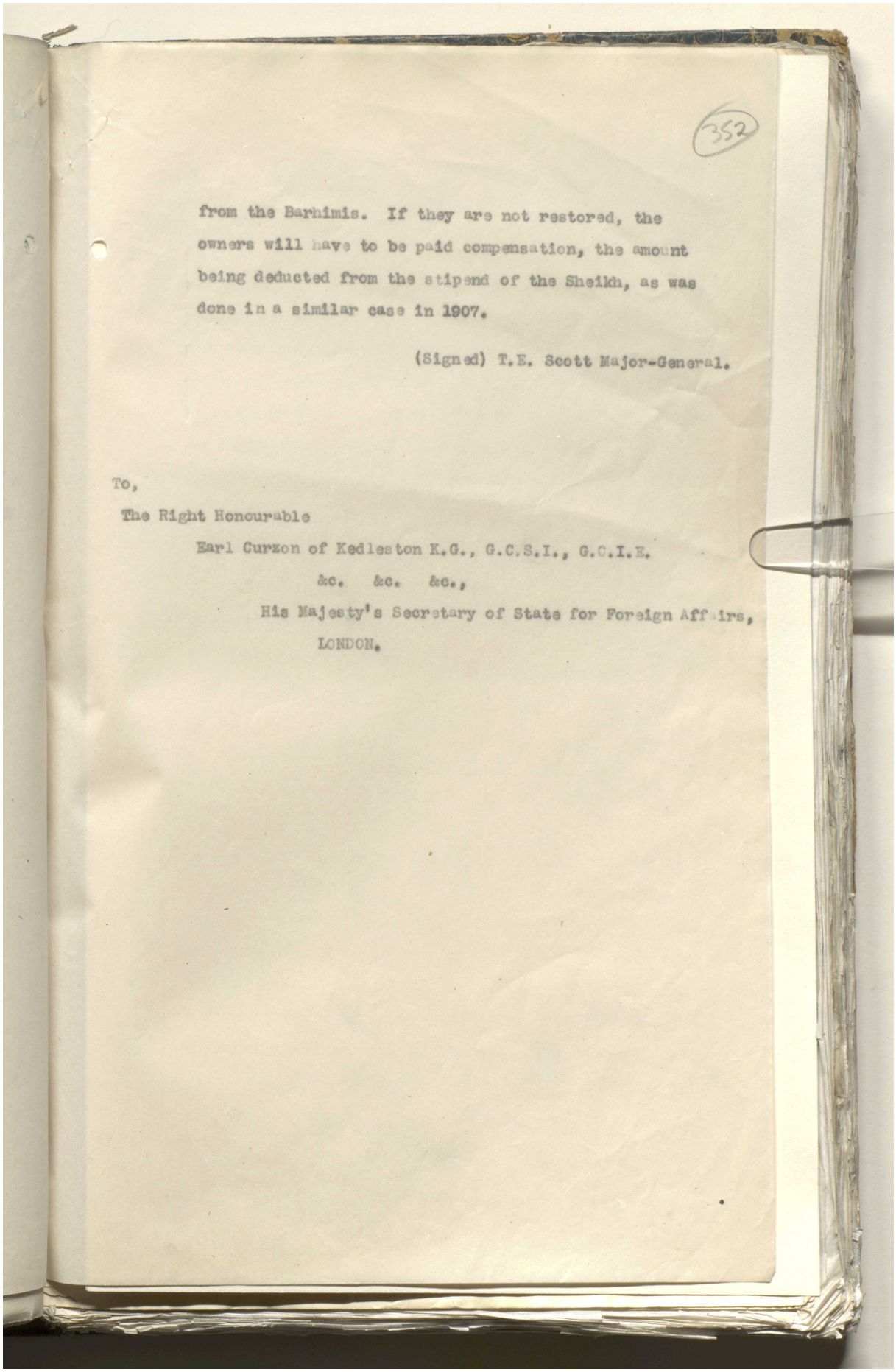

352

from the Barhimis. If they are not restored, the owners will have to be paid compensation, the amount being deducted from the stipend of the Sheikh, as was done in a similar case in 1907.

(Signed) T.E. Scott Major-General.

To,

The Right Honourable

Earl Curzon of Kedleston K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

&c. &c. &c.,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

LONDON.

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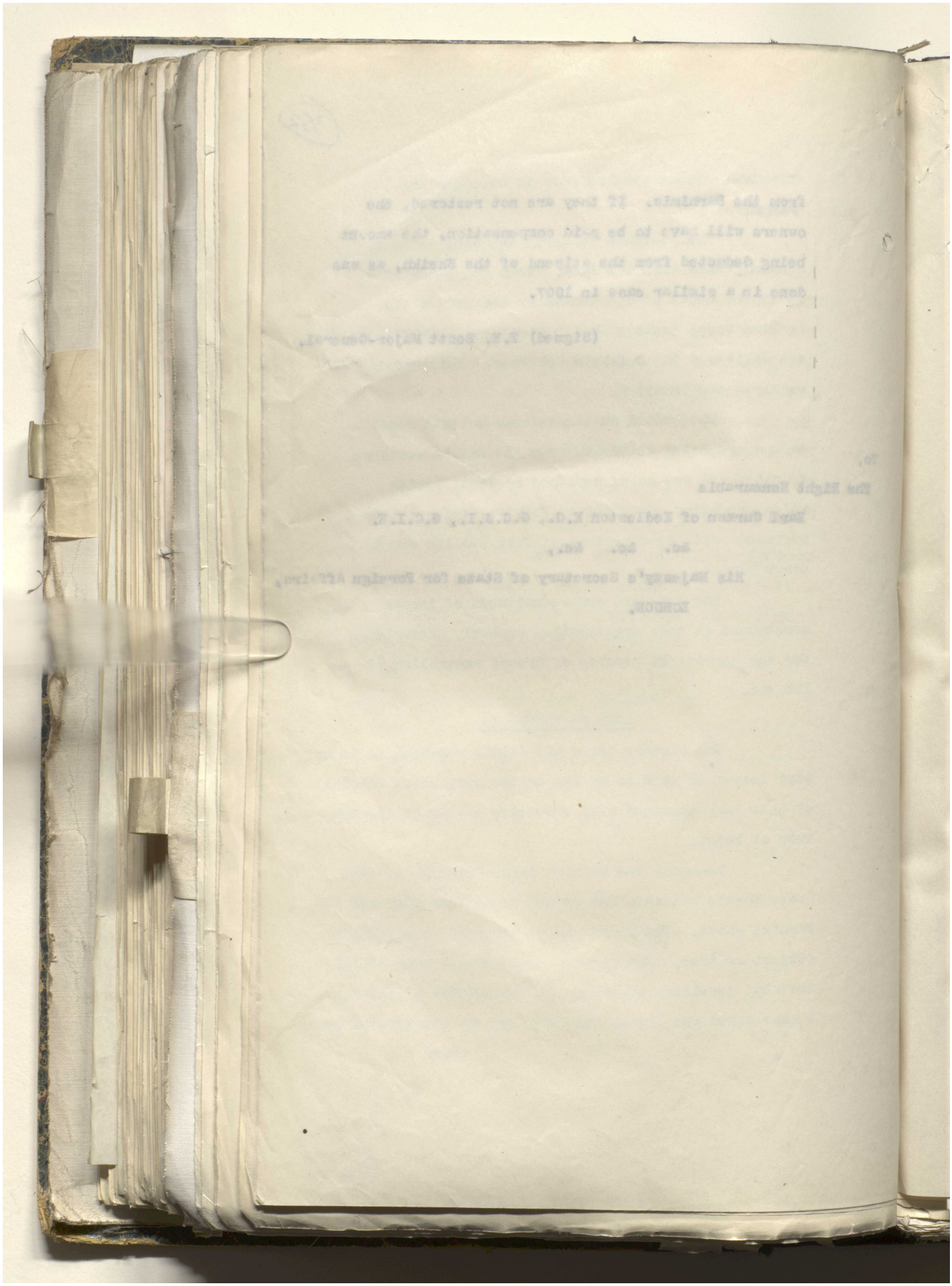

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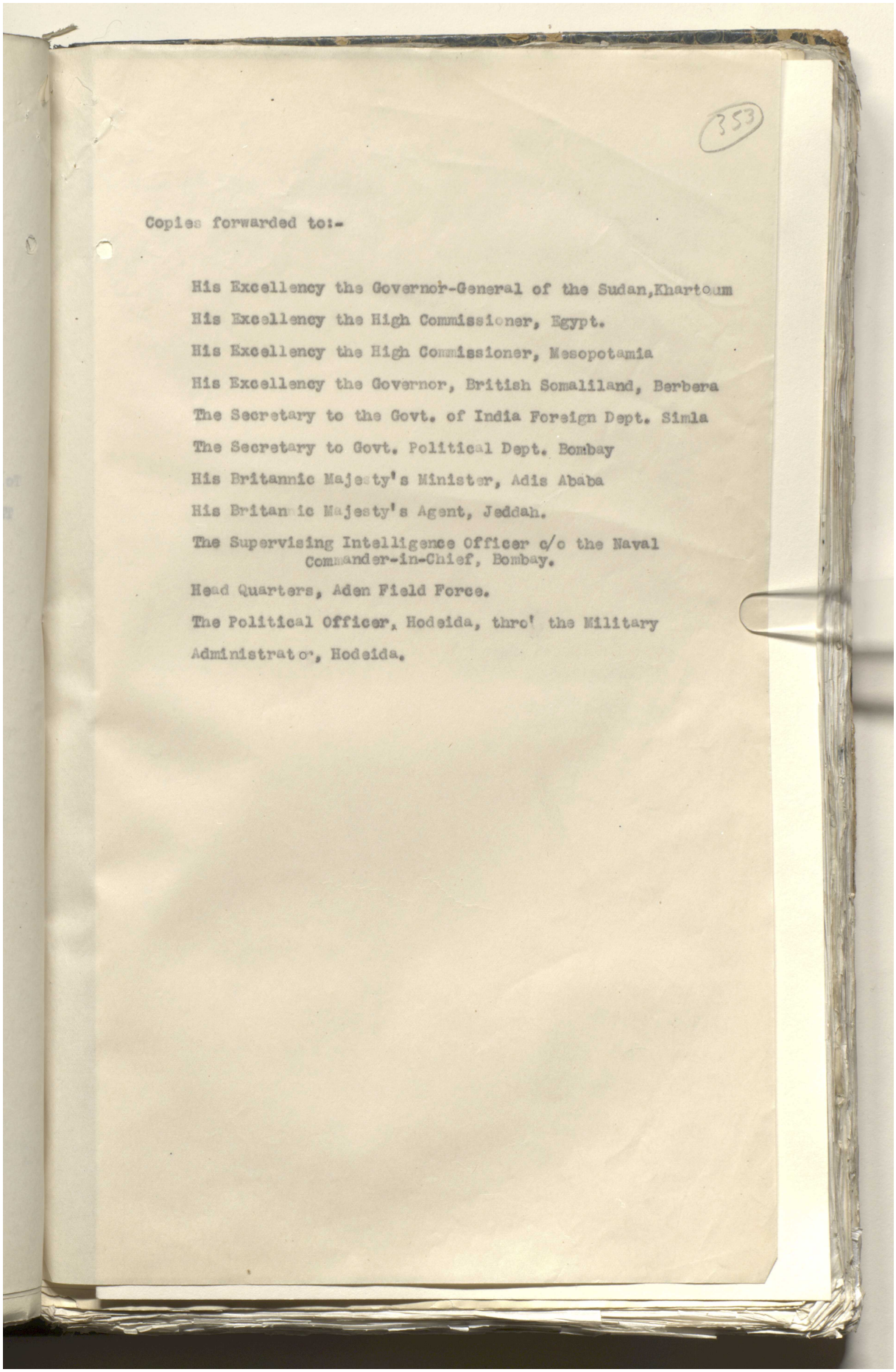

353

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His Excellency the Governor-General of the Sudan, Khartoum
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Egypt.
His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mesopotamia
His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera
The Secretary to the Govt. of India Foreign Dept. Simla
The Secretary to Govt. Political Dept. Bombay
His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa
His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.
The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.
Head Quarters, Aden Field Force.
The Political Officer, Hodeida, thro' the Military Administrator, Hodeida.

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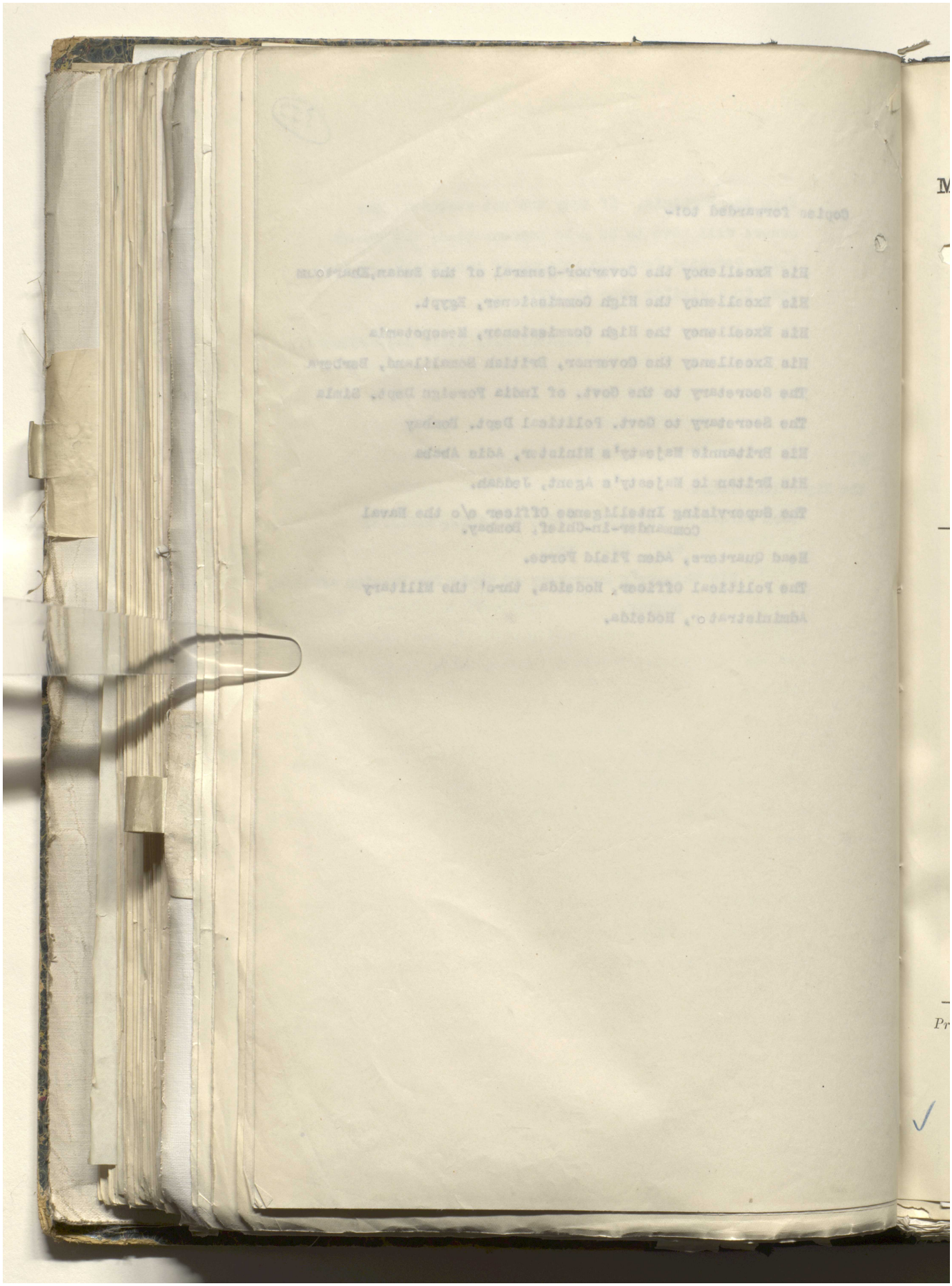

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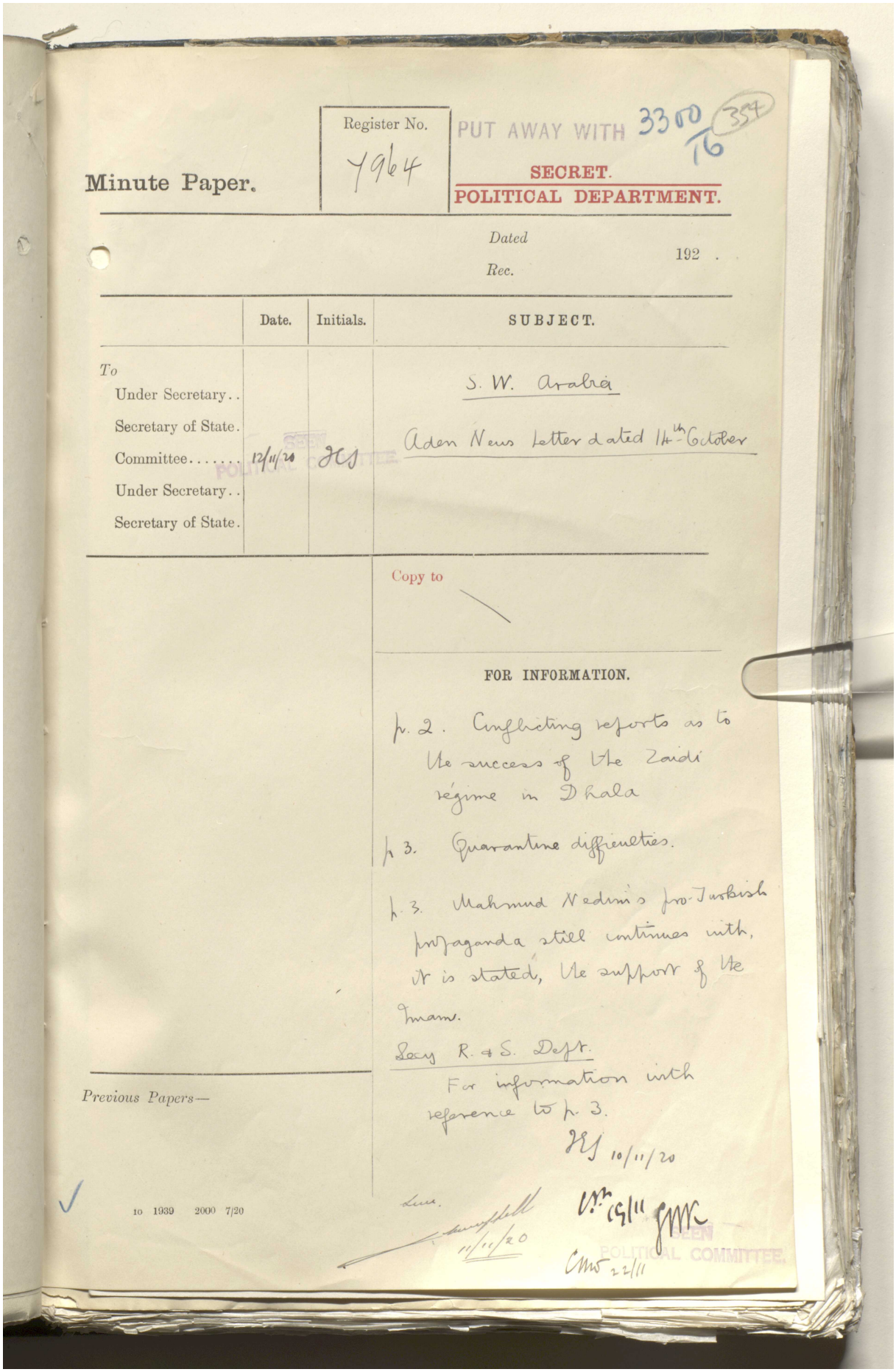

Minute Paper.

Register No. 7964

PUT AWAY WITH 3300/16 (354)

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 192 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			S. W. Arabia
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			Aden News Letter dated 14th October
Committee.....	12/11/20	JCS	
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 2. Conflicting reports as to the success of the Zaidi régime in Dhala

p. 3. Quarantine difficulties.

p. 3. Mahmud Nedim's pro-Turkish propaganda still continues with, it is stated, the support of the Imam.

Secy R. & S. Dept.
For information with reference to p. 3.
JCS 10/11/20

Previous Papers—

10 1939 2000 7/20

Sec. 11/11/20

U/S 13/11 JMC

CMS 22/11

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

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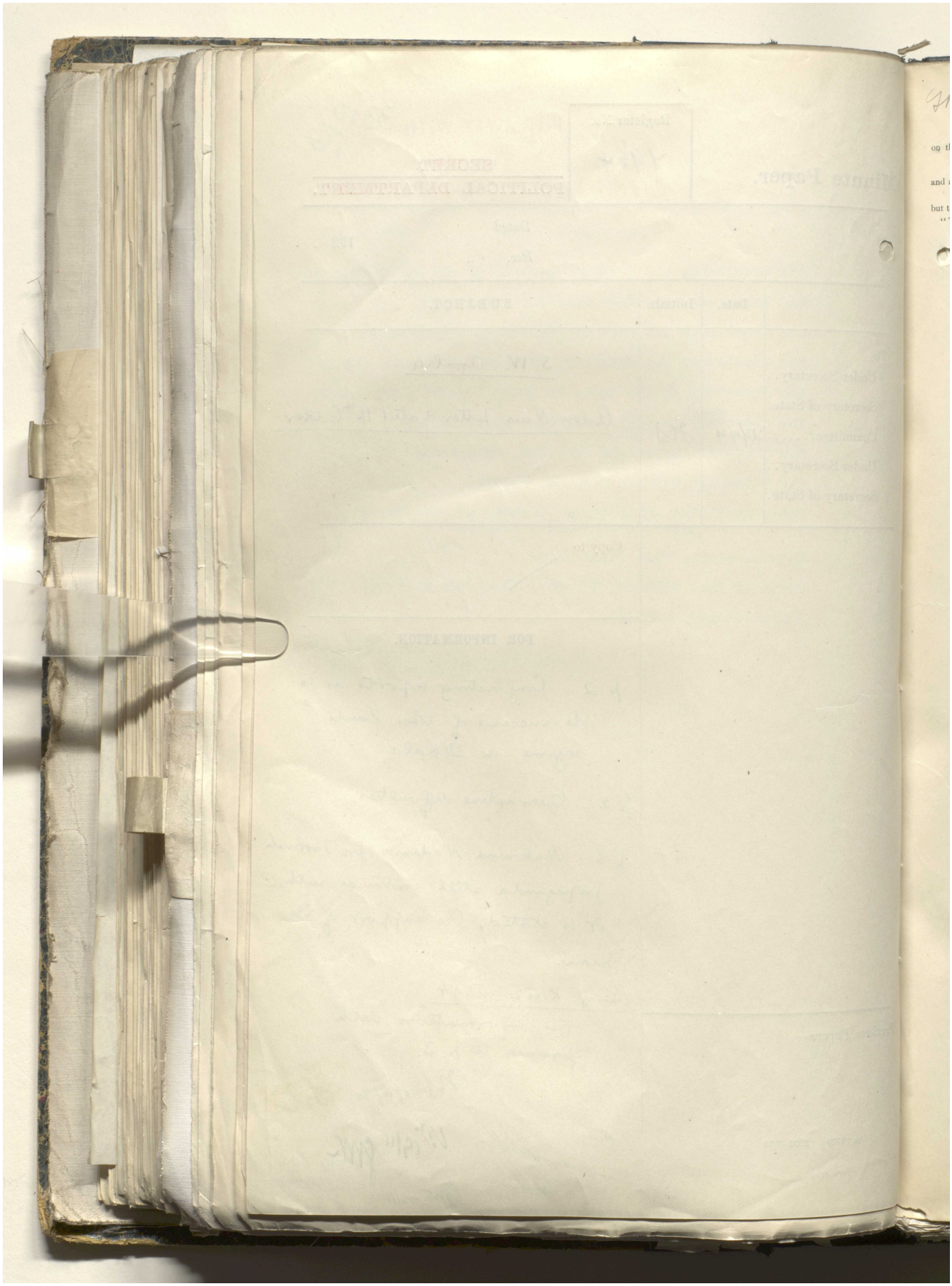

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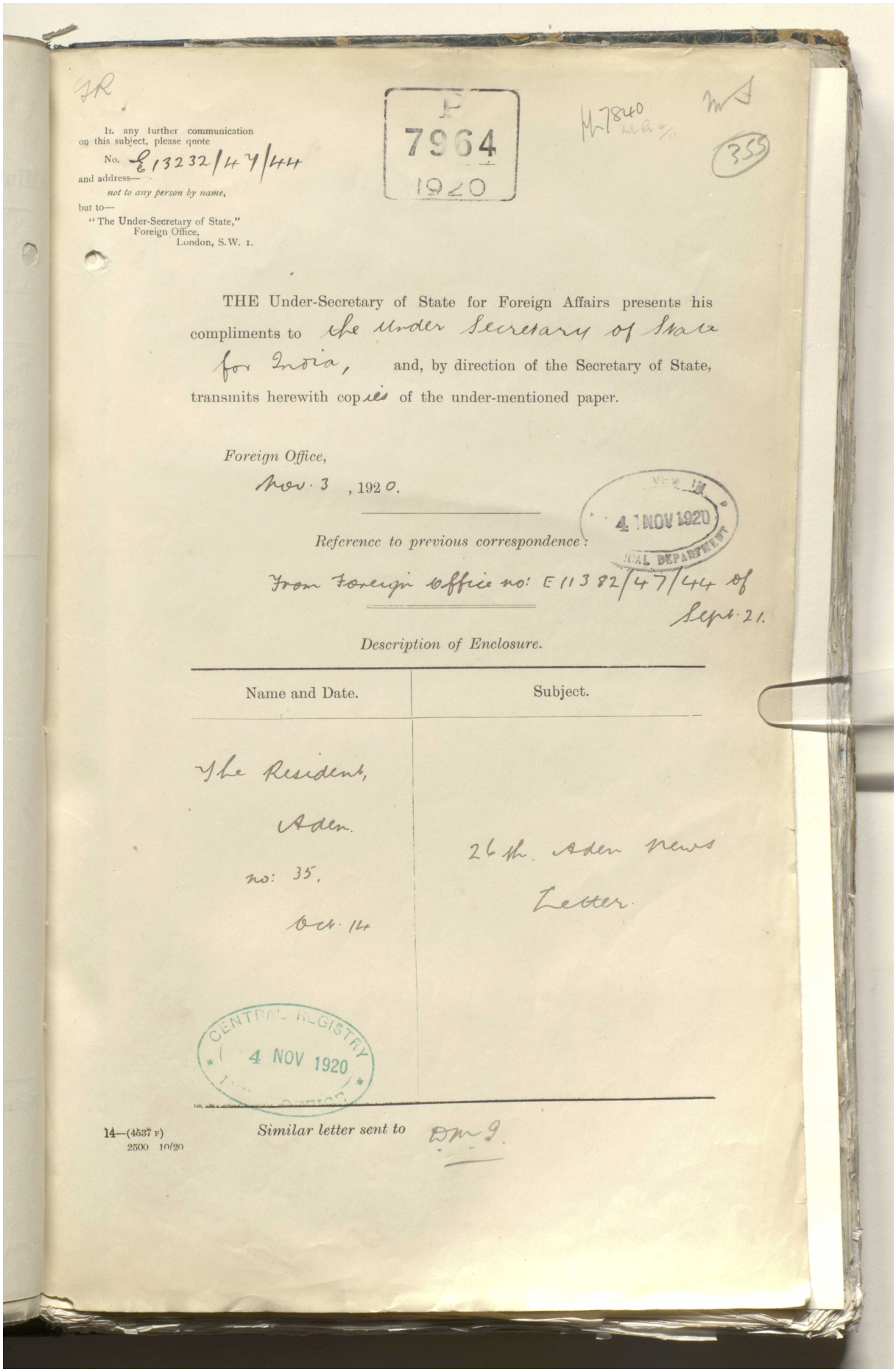

GR

F 7964 1920

M 7840

355

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No. E 13232/47/44
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Nov. 3, 1920.

4 NOV 1920
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence:
From Foreign Office no: E 13382/47/44 of Sept. 21.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
The Resident, Aden. no: 35. Oct. 14	26th. Aden News Letter.

CENTRAL REGISTRY 4 NOV 1920 INDIA OFFICE

14—(4537 F) 2500 10/20

Similar letter sent to DM 9.

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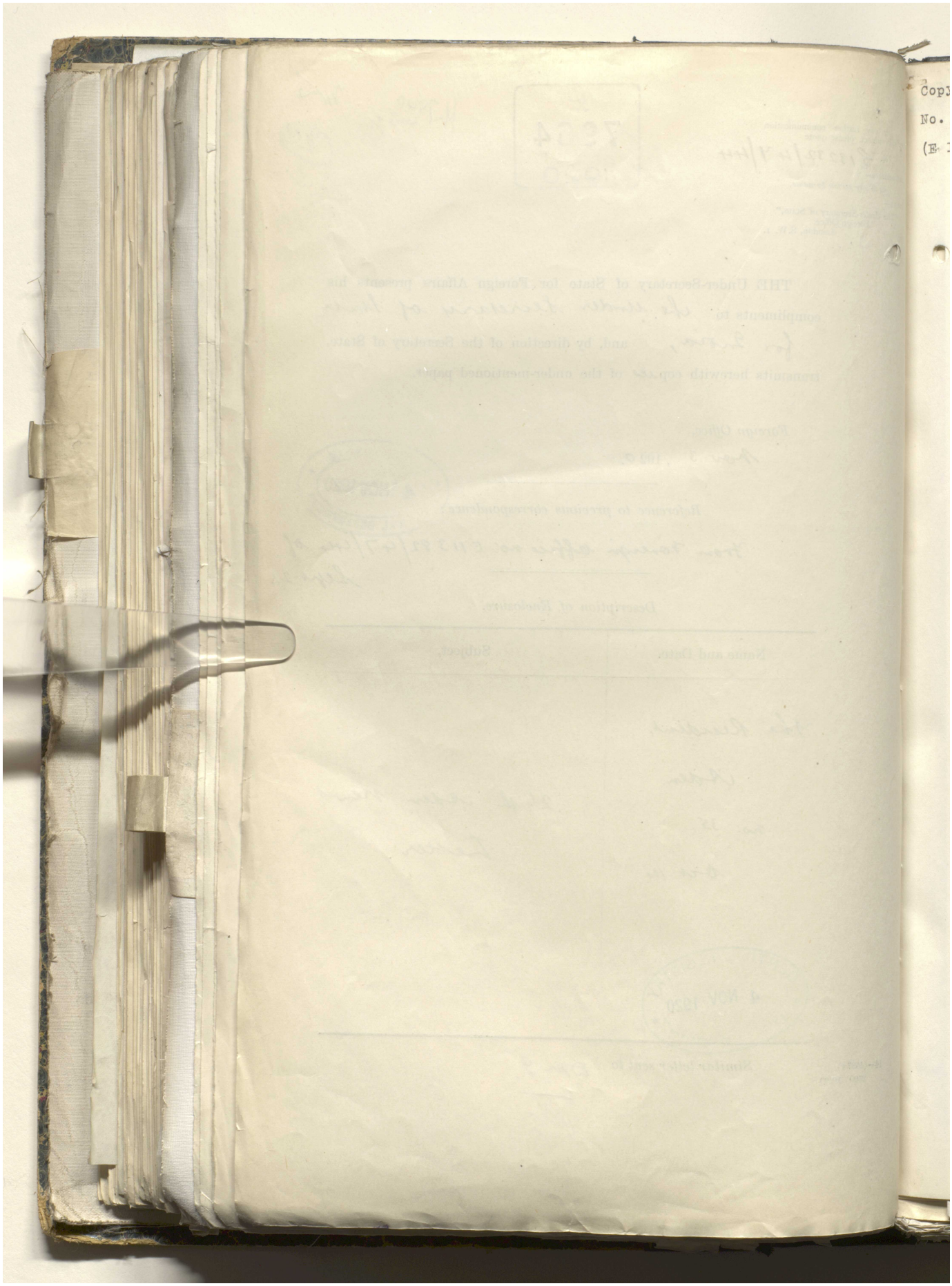

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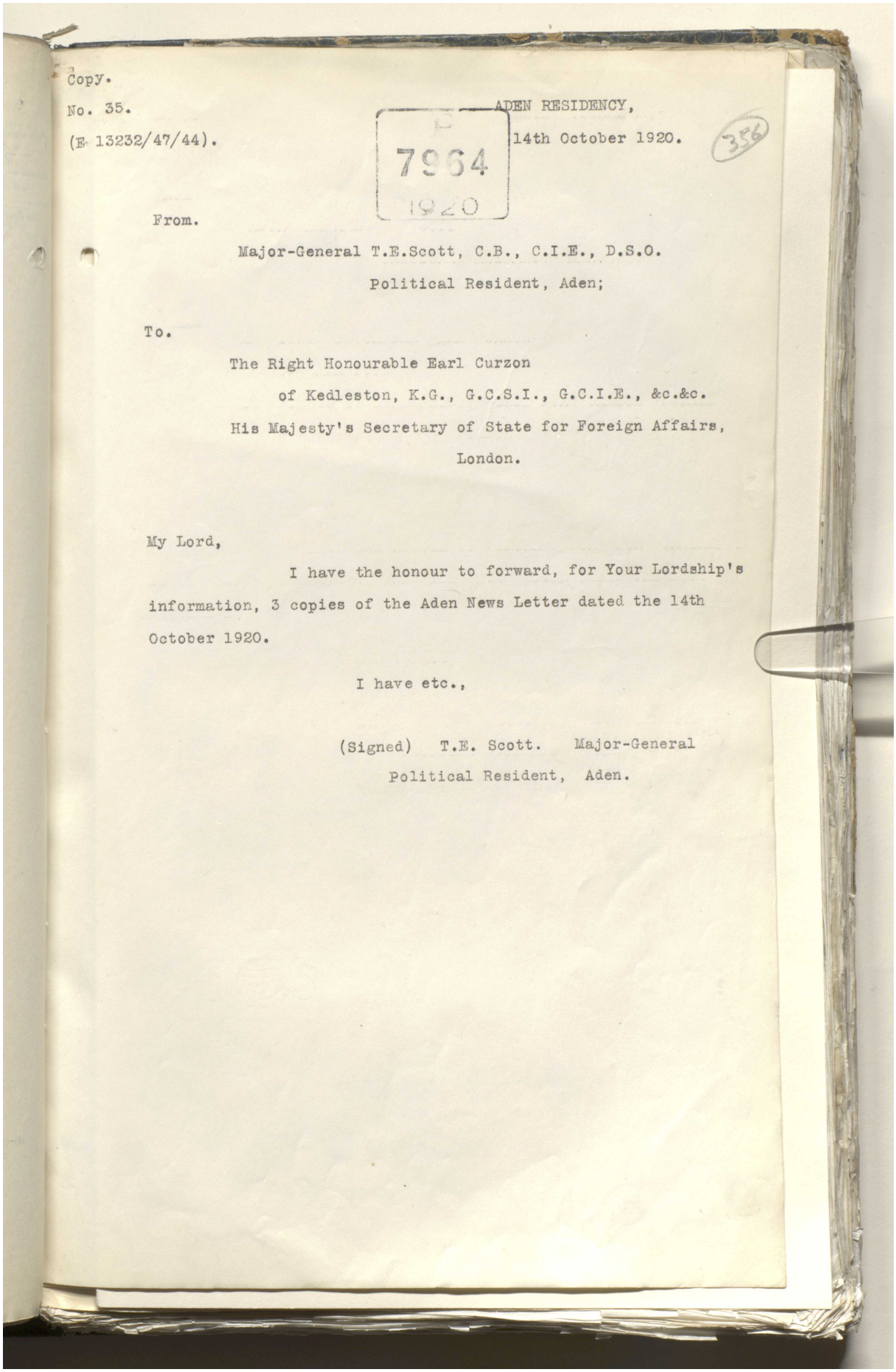

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No. 35.

(E 13232/47/44).

ADEN RESIDENCY,

14th October 1920.

7964
1920

356

From.

Major-General T.E.Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Political Resident, Aden;

To.

The Right Honourable Earl Curzon
of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., &c.&c.
His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
London.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward, for Your Lordship's information, 3 copies of the Aden News Letter dated the 14th October 1920.

I have etc.,

(Signed) T.E. Scott. Major-General
Political Resident, Aden.

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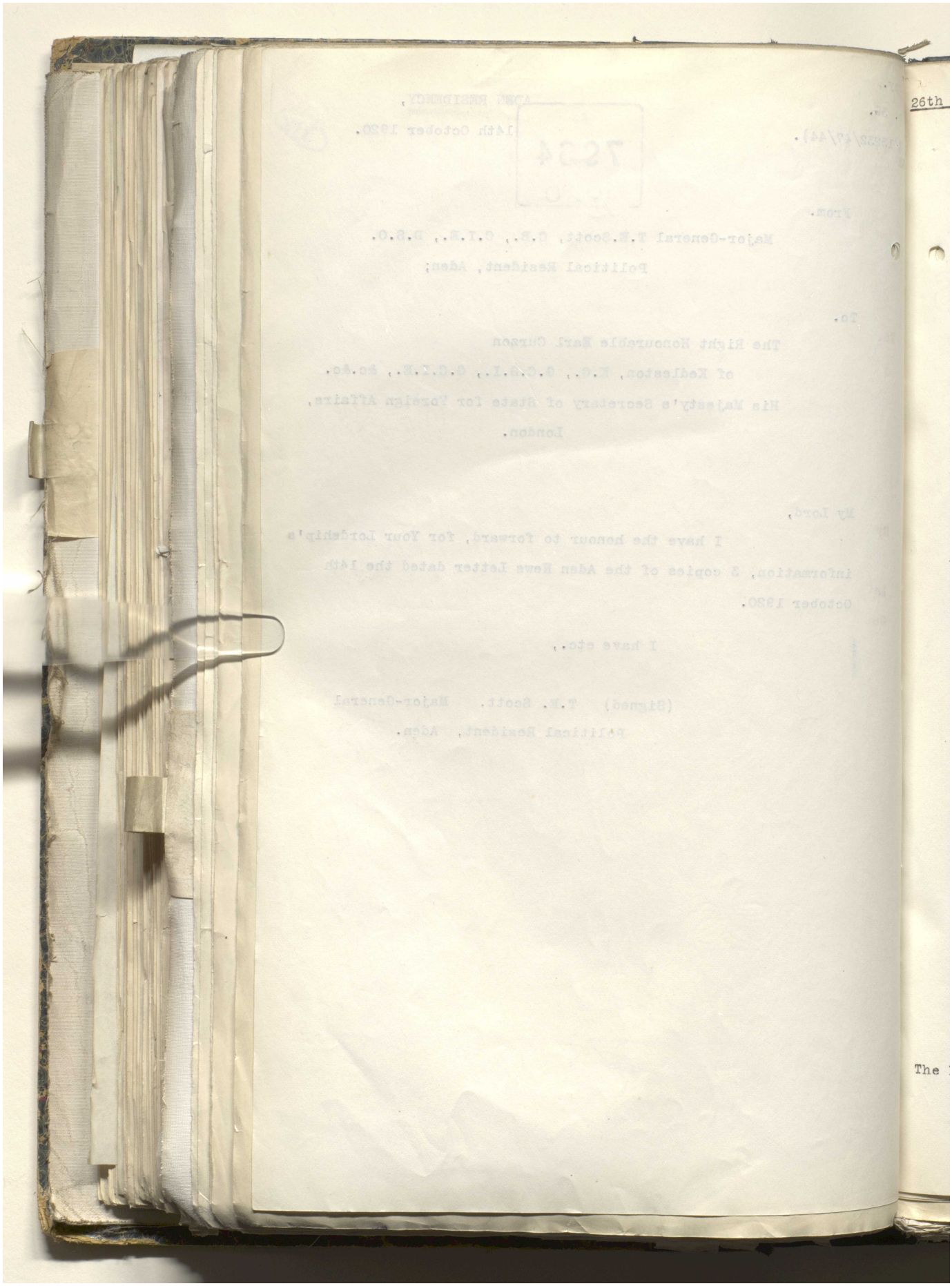

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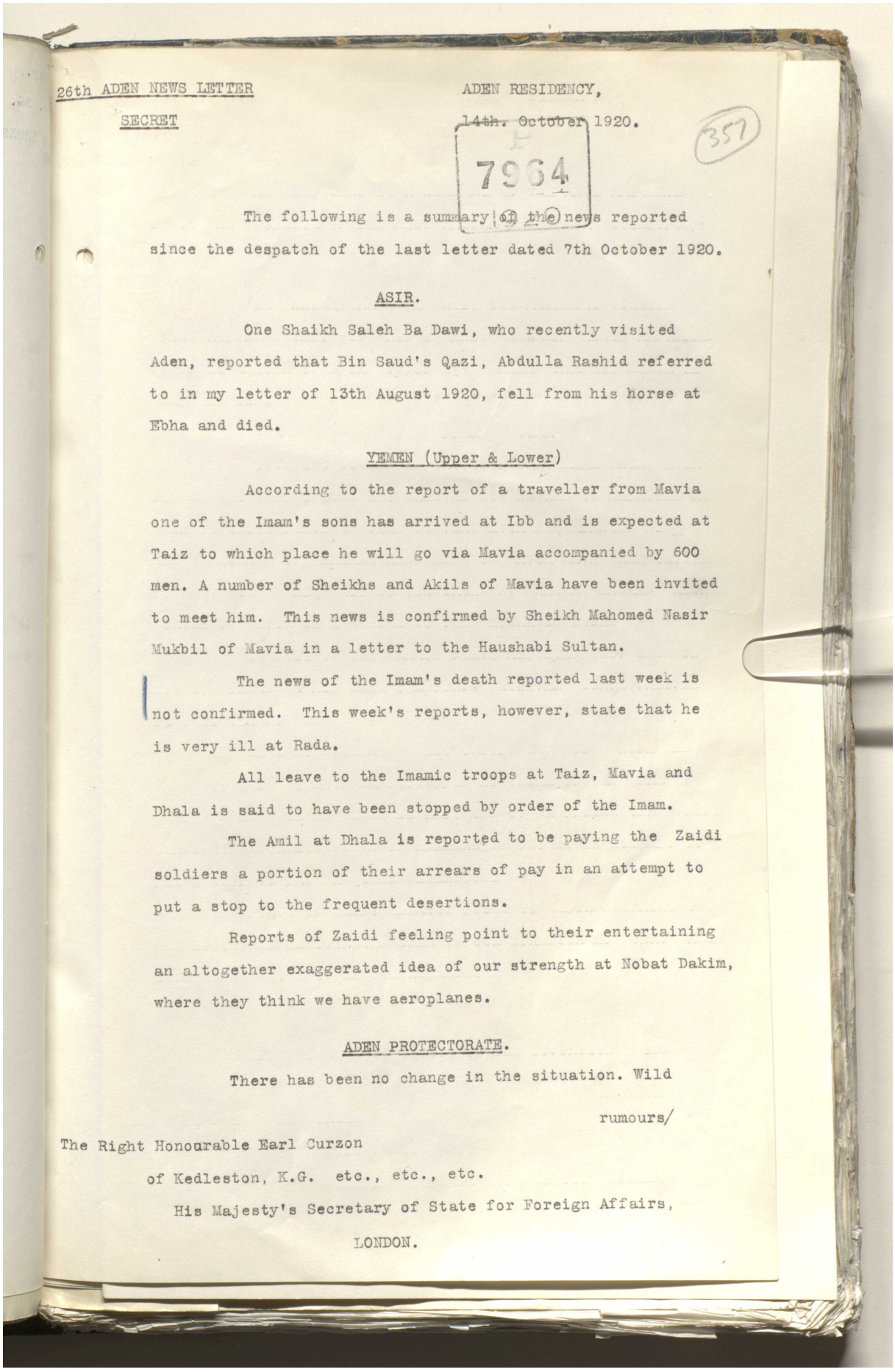

26th ADEN NEWS LETTER

SECRET

ADEN RESIDENCY,

14th. October 1920.

F 7964

357

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of the last letter dated 7th October 1920.

ASIR.

One Shaikh Saleh Ba Dawi, who recently visited Aden, reported that Bin Saud's Qazi, Abdulla Rashid referred to in my letter of 13th August 1920, fell from his horse at Ebha and died.

YEMEN (Upper & Lower)

According to the report of a traveller from Mavia one of the Imam's sons has arrived at Ibb and is expected at Taiz to which place he will go via Mavia accompanied by 600 men. A number of Sheikhs and Akils of Mavia have been invited to meet him. This news is confirmed by Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil of Mavia in a letter to the Haushabi Sultan.

The news of the Imam's death reported last week is not confirmed. This week's reports, however, state that he is very ill at Rada.

All leave to the Imamic troops at Taiz, Mavia and Dhala is said to have been stopped by order of the Imam.

The Amil at Dhala is reported to be paying the Zaidi soldiers a portion of their arrears of pay in an attempt to put a stop to the frequent desertions.

Reports of Zaidi feeling point to their entertaining an altogether exaggerated idea of our strength at Nobat Dakim, where they think we have aeroplanes.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

There has been no change in the situation. Wild

rumours/

The Right Honourable Earl Curzon

of Kedleston, K.G. etc., etc., etc.

His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

LONDON.

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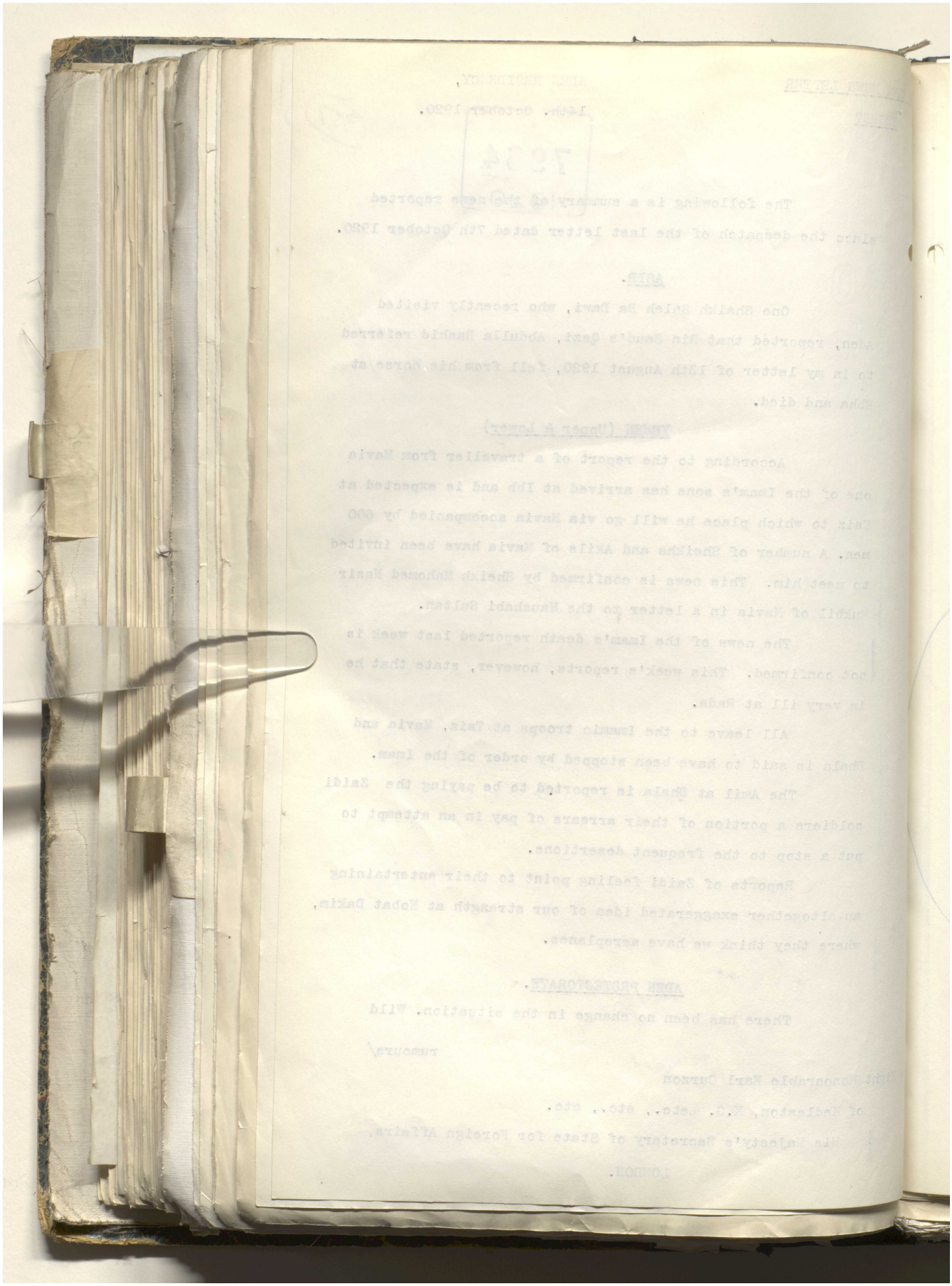

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مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library

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rumours of Zaidi advance on Nobat Dakim and Lahej are, however current. Our Upper Yaffa correspondent states that these rumours as well as those about the arrival of reinforcements at Dhala have been started by the Zaidis to deceive us.

Reports of the prevelance of an epidemic disease among the Zaidis continue to come in, but its nature is still unknown. Numbers are said to be dying daily.

Sheikh Abdu Nabi, the newly elected Chief of the Alawi tribe, returned from his visit to the Imam's Amil at Dhala, Saiyid Yahia, and has addressed a letter to this Residency giving his impressions of the Zaidi regime in Dhala but carefully avoiding mention of what passed between him and the Amil. He says that Saiyid Yahia, the Amil at Dhala, is mentioned in the daily prayers by the people at Dhala. The state of the country is prosperous and that the Zaidis have no difficulty in collecting their taxes which are paid to the Amil by the Shaikhs of villages, without the intervention of tax collectors.

Sheikh Abdul Nabi says that he had received an invitation from the Amil to come to Dhala and he went, as to decline would mean bringing trouble on himself and his country. At the same time he professes his firm loyalty to us and says he is anxiously looking forward to the day when the British Protectorate will be rid of the Zaidis and urges an early advance on Dhala.

The Officer Commanding troops at Nobat Dakim has received a letter from one of the Nakibs of Mausatta again pressing for the advance of our troops to Dhala. He says that the Zaidis are exacting heavy taxes and all the tribes would be glad to see the last of them.

The Upper Yafa petty Sheikhs referred to in my letter of 17th September 1920 are reported to be still in Dhala negotiating for the release of prisoners.

The Muflahi Shaikh of Upper Yafa is at present in Aden to urge on me the desirability of an early advance on Dhala, in which he says all the Yafa Shaikhs and Sultans will co-operate/

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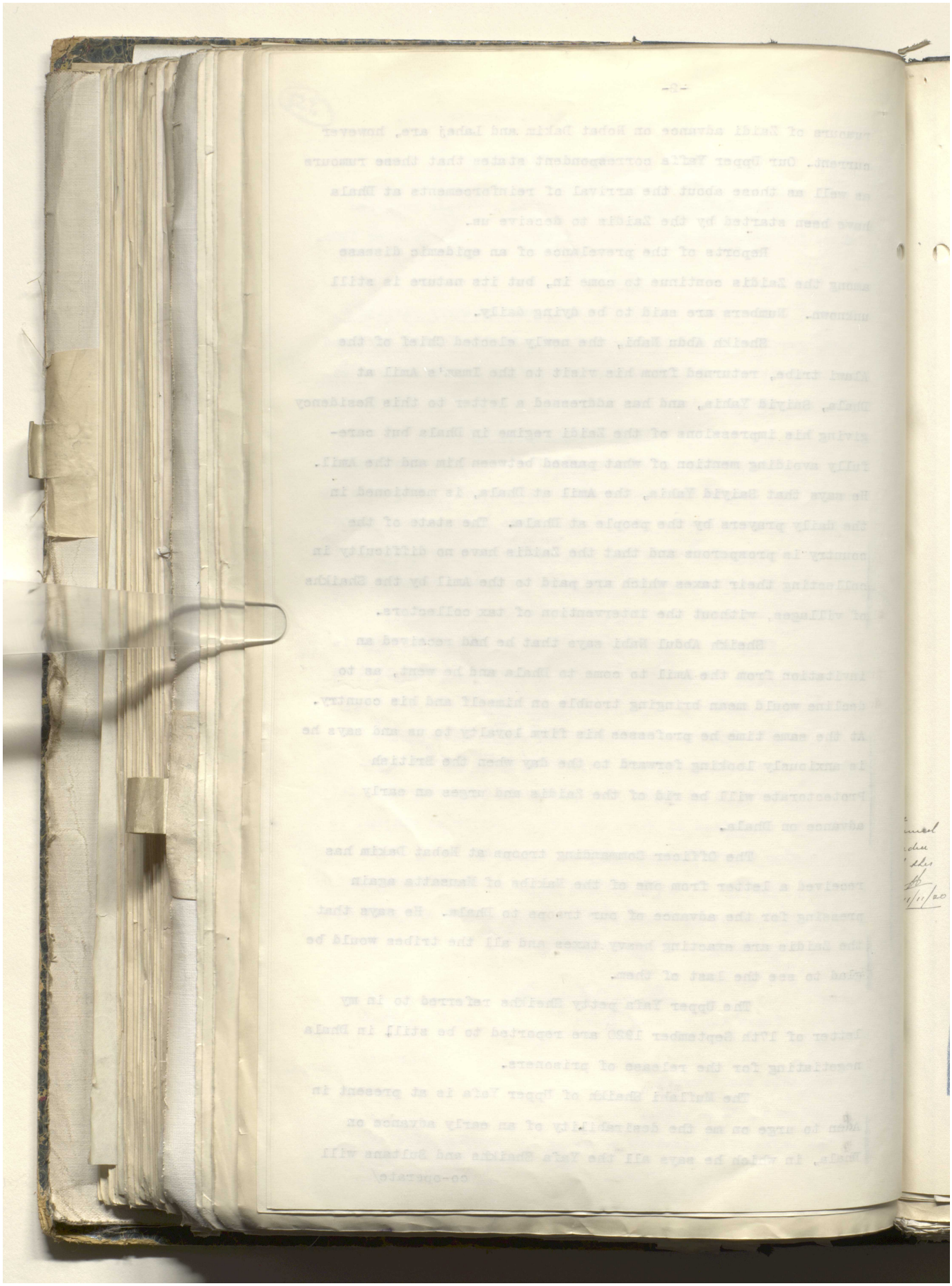

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co-operate with us.

The Muflahi brings with him letters of recommendation from the Naqibs of Mausatta and Saleh bin Umer, Sultan of the Upper Yafa.

The Muflahi explains the extreme eagerness of himself and other Yafa Chiefs to see that Zaidis out of Dhala and the Shairi and Shaibi territories occupied by them, by saying that they have deprived him of his revenues from certian villages in these territories. They feel themselves strong enough to resist further Zaidi agression, but not sufficiently powerful to take the offensive.

MISCELLANEOUS.

393 returning Yemen pilgrims in an entirely destitute and helpless condition were dumped down at Kamaran last month by pilgrim ships from Jeddah. One of these ships was carrying 1324 pilgrims many of whom were dying of starvation on account of the shortage of food on board.

The Military Administrator, Kamaran reports that owing to the extreme shortage of food in the island the dumping of these pilgrims caused the utmost trouble.

The British Agent, Jeddah, who was requested by telegraph to see that no such pilgrims were sent to Kamaran where food supplies were scarce and means of onward despatch were wanting, points out that as the quarantine arrangements this year are quite outside the control of the British authorities at Jeddah, there is no means by which they can check the embarkation of any particular class of pilgrims, or notify the authorities at Kamaran in time for arrangements to be made.

Hodeida reports that Mahmud Nadhim's pro-Turkish propaganda still continues and is receiving the support of the Imam who has informed the tribes of the Tehama that the ex-Vali is their lawful Governor and that his own forces and money are at the Vali's disposal.

Zaidi tribesmen are mustering at SANAA and Zaidi reinforcements have reached SAAFAN but on the other hand 1000

QUHRA/

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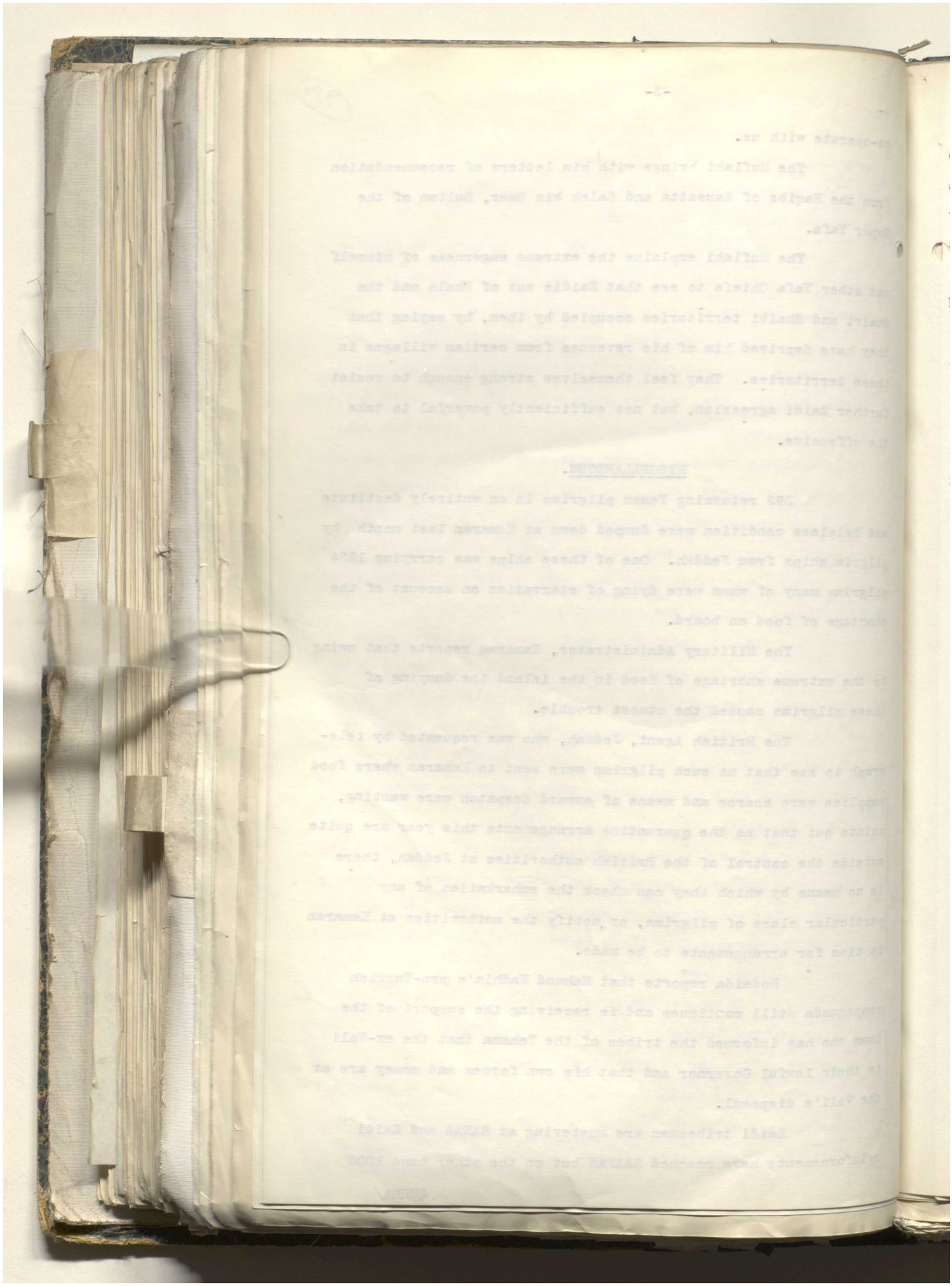

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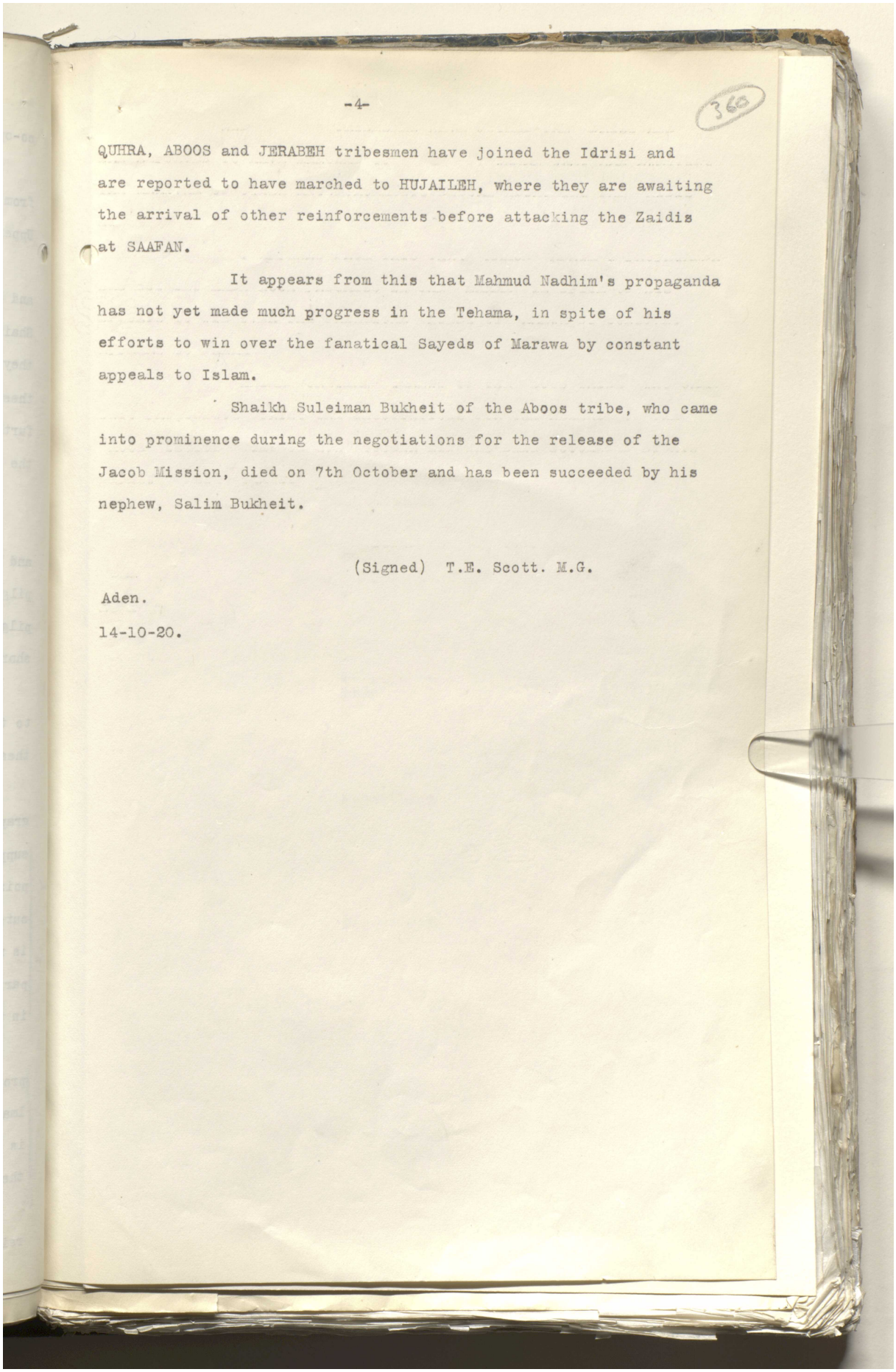

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QUHRA, ABOOS and JERABEH tribesmen have joined the Idrisi and are reported to have marched to HUJAILEH, where they are awaiting the arrival of other reinforcements before attacking the Zaidis at SAAFAN.

It appears from this that Mahmud Nadhim's propaganda has not yet made much progress in the Tehama, in spite of his efforts to win over the fanatical Sayeds of Marawa by constant appeals to Islam.

Shaikh Suleiman Bukheit of the Aboos tribe, who came into prominence during the negotiations for the release of the Jacob Mission, died on 7th October and has been succeeded by his nephew, Salim Bukheit.

(Signed) T.E. Scott. M.G.

Aden.

14-10-20.

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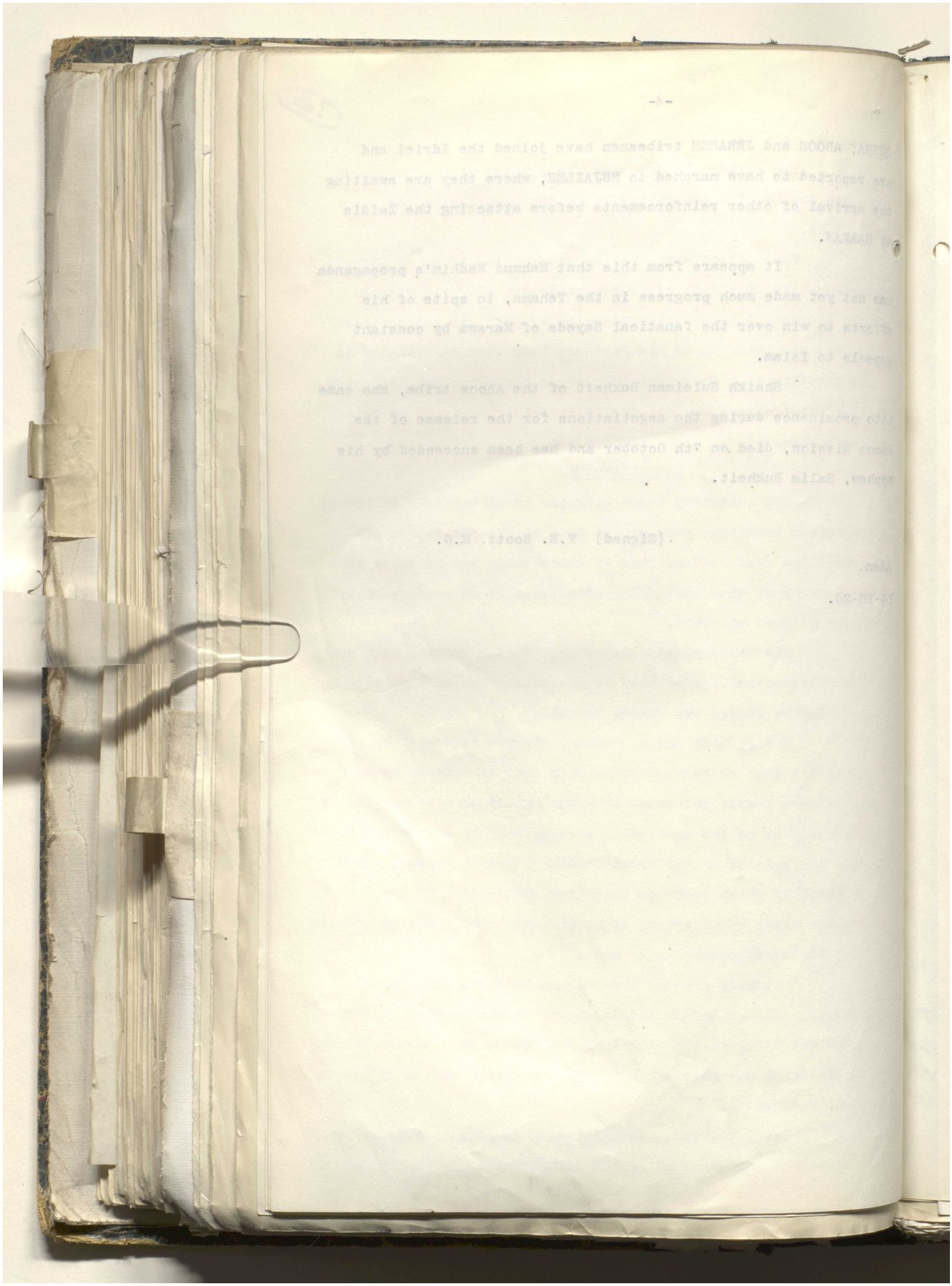

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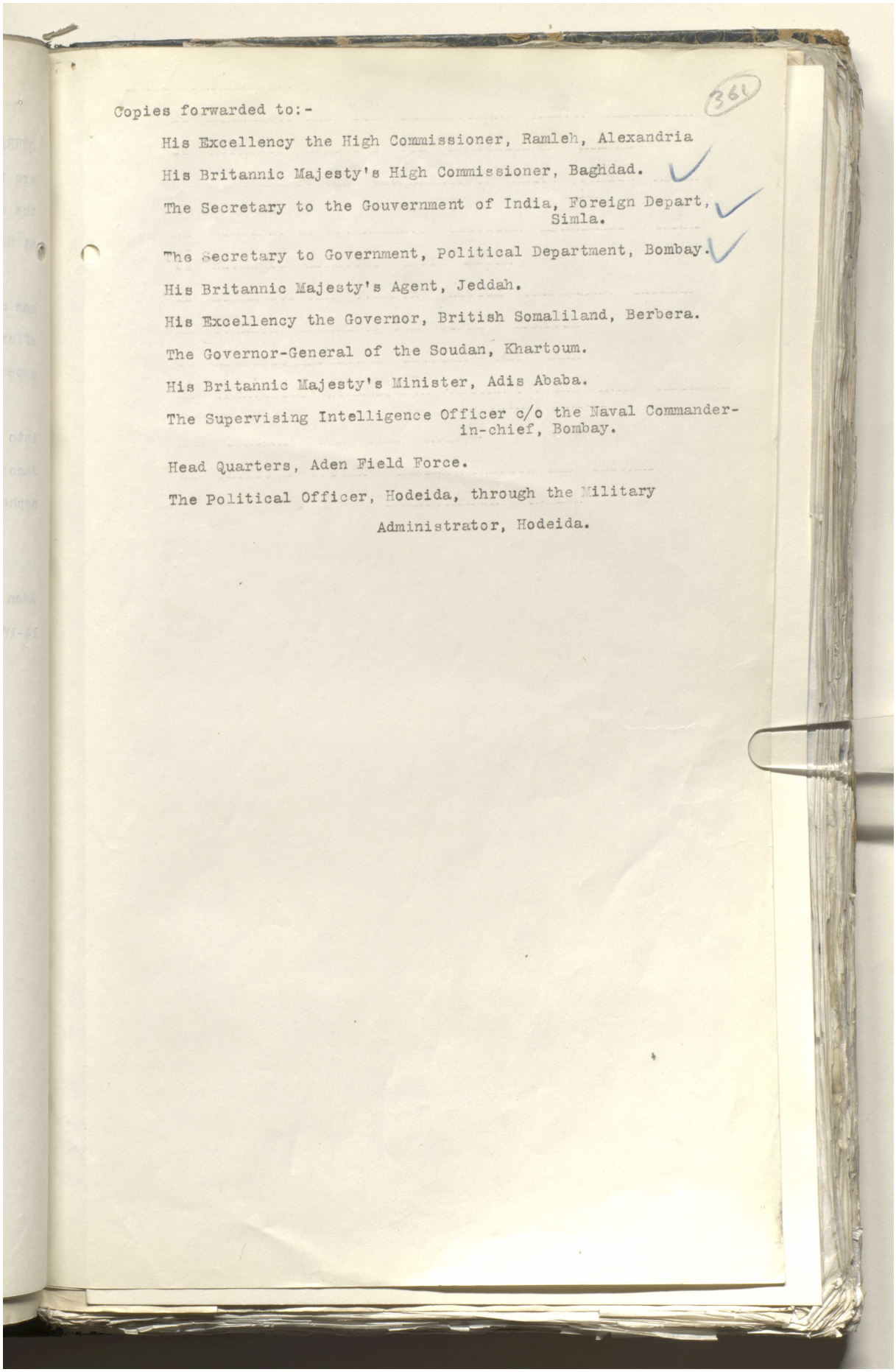

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Copies forwarded to:-

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Ramleh, Alexandria

His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner, Baghdad.

The Secretary to the Gouvernment of India, Foreign Depart, Simla.

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.

The Governor-General of the Soudan, Khartoum.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa.

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-chief, Bombay.

Head Quarters, Aden Field Force.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, through the Military Administrator, Hodeida.

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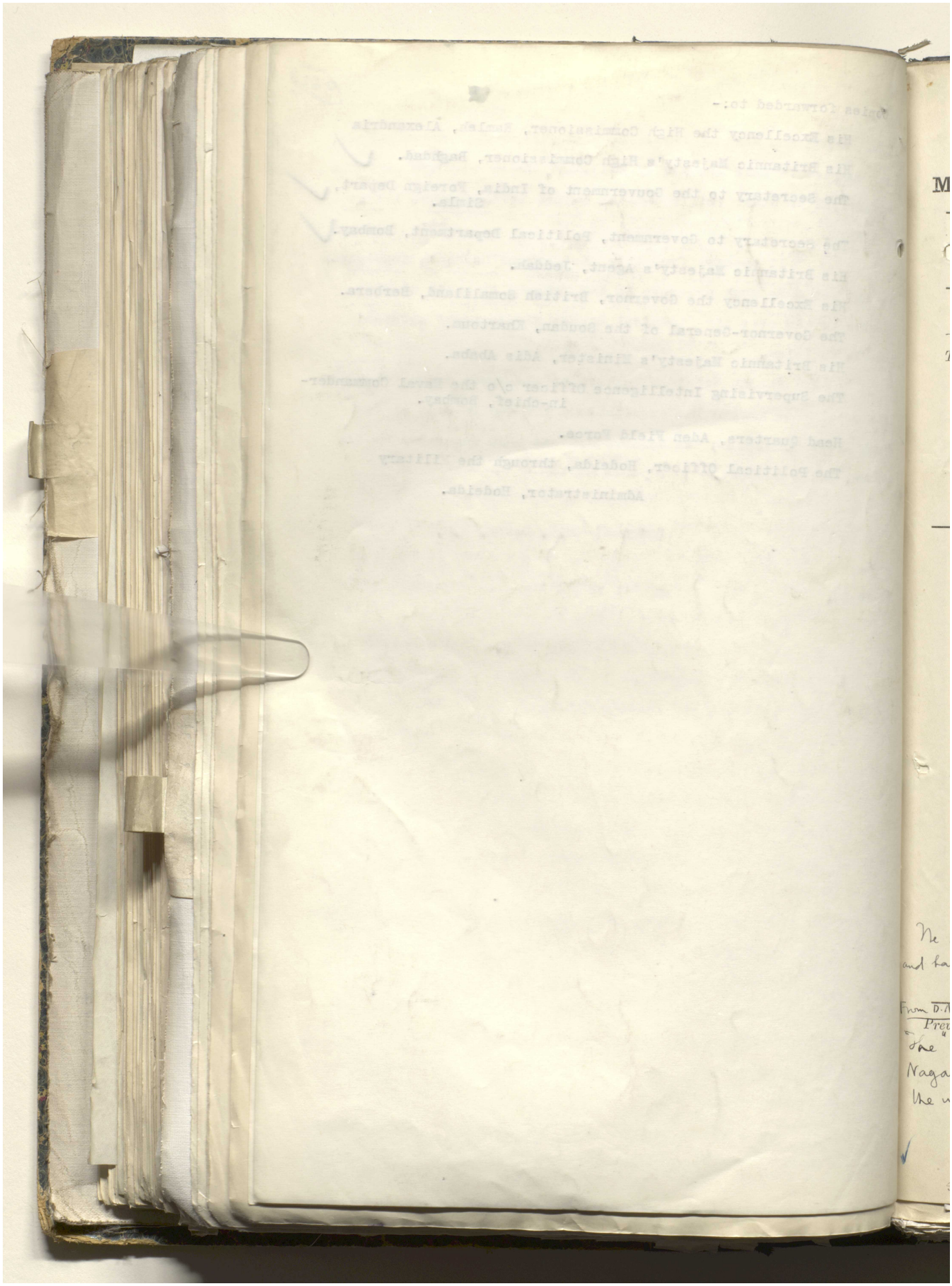

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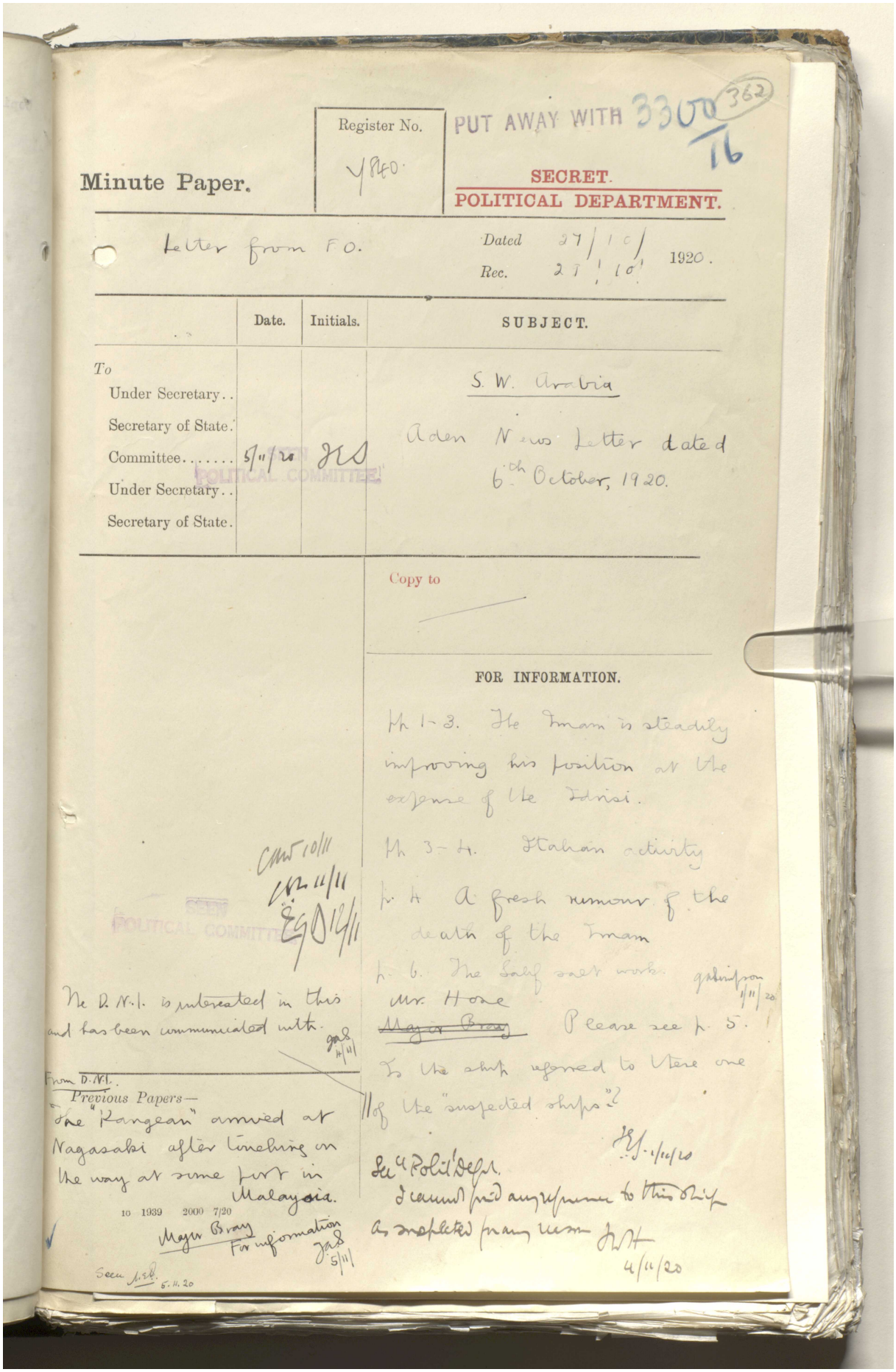

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SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Minute Paper.

Letter from F.O. Dated 27/10/ Rec. 27/10/ 1920.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			S. W. Arabia
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			Aden News Letter dated
Committee.....	5/11/20	JRS	6th October, 1920.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to

FOR INFORMATION.

Pp 1-3. The Imam is steadily improving his position at the expense of the Idrisi.

Pp 3-4. Italian activity

p. 4 A fresh rumour of the death of the Imam

p. 6. The Salf sect work gathering 1/11/20

Mr. Hope

~~Major Bray~~ Please see p. 5.

Is the ship referred to there one of the "suspected ships"?

JRS. 4/11/20

Sec^y Polit^l Dept.

I cannot find any reference to this ship as suspected from here.

4/11/20

CMG 10/11

EG 12/11

H.M. 11/11

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

H.M. D.N.I. is interested in this and has been communicated with. JAS 4/11

From D.N.I.

Previous Papers—

The "Rangoon" arrived at Nagasaki after touching on the way at some port in Malaysia.

10 1939 2000 7/20

Major Bray For information JAS 5/11

Seen A.S.H. 5.11.20

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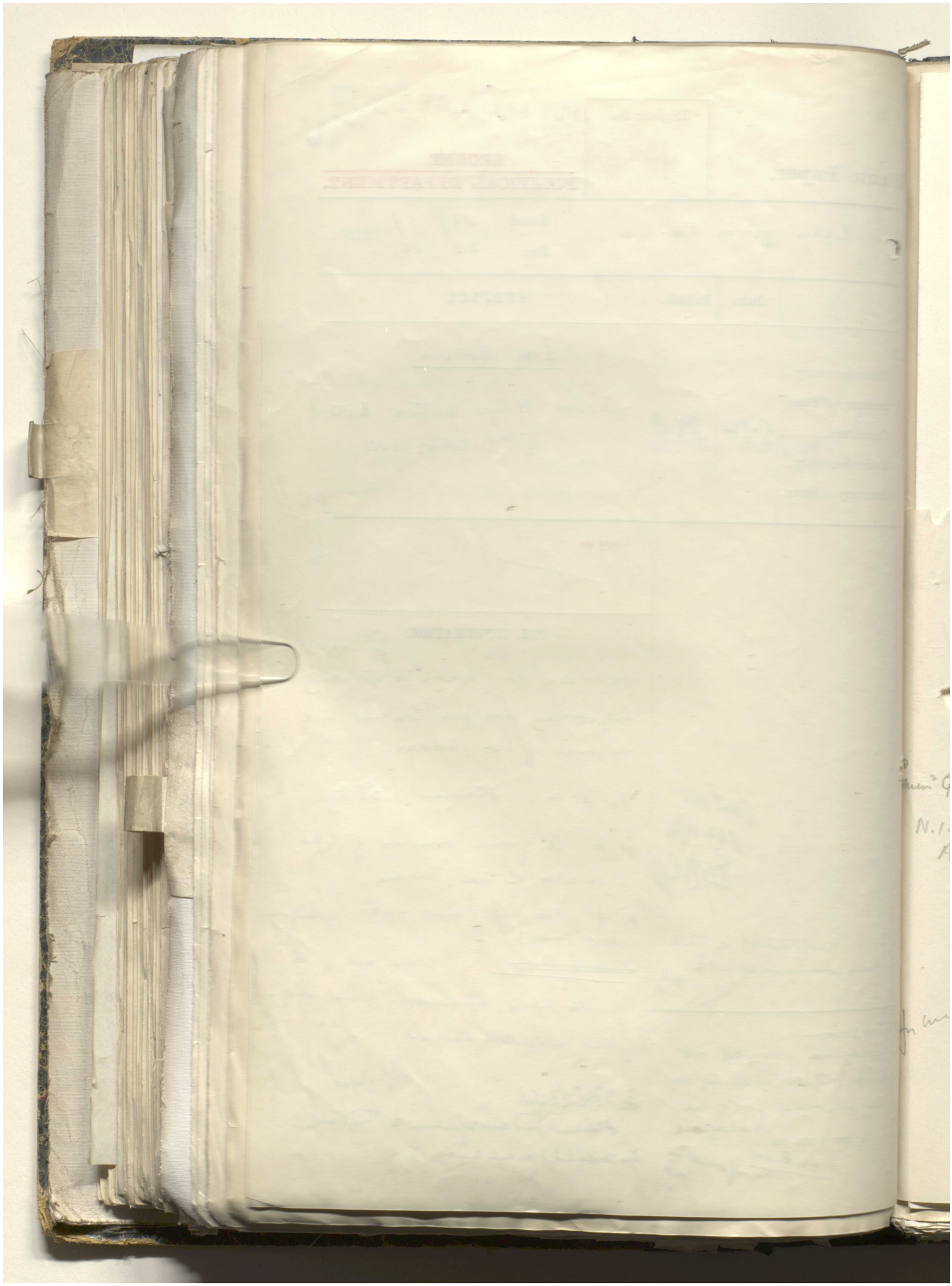

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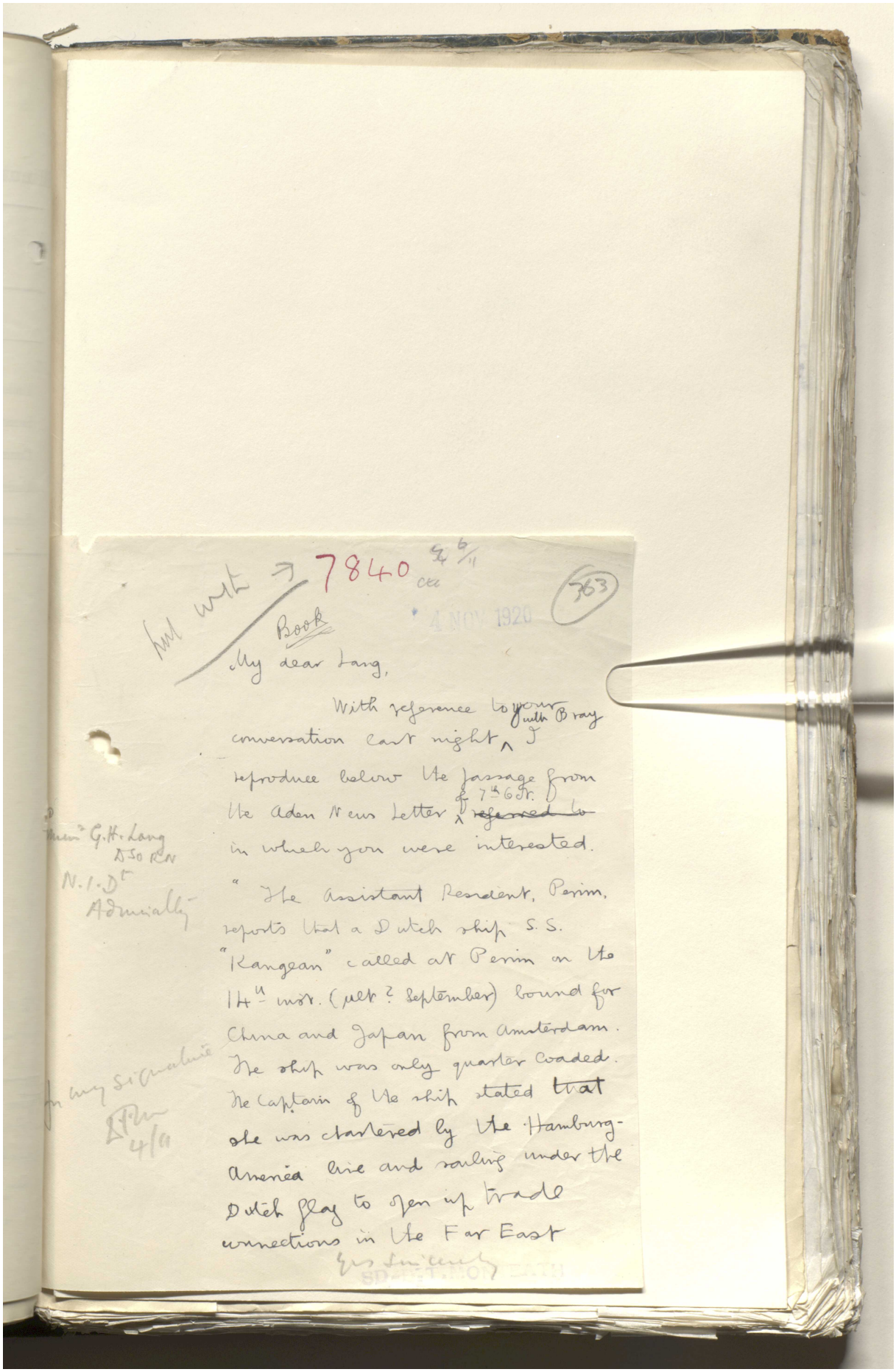

Ind Writ → 7840 Cen 4 6/11

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4 NOV 1920

Book

My dear Lang,

With reference to your talk with Bray conversation last night I reproduce below the passage from the Aden News Letter ~~referred to~~ in which you were interested.

"The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports that a Dutch ship S.S. "Kangean" called at Perim on the 14th inst. (qy? September) bound for China and Japan from Amsterdam. The ship was only quarter loaded. The Captain of the ship stated that she was chartered by the Hamburg-America line and sailing under the Dutch flag to open up trade connections in the Far East

Yrs sincerely

Sgd. G.H. Lang

Asst Sec Govt

N.I.D.t

Admiralty

for my Secretariat

4/a

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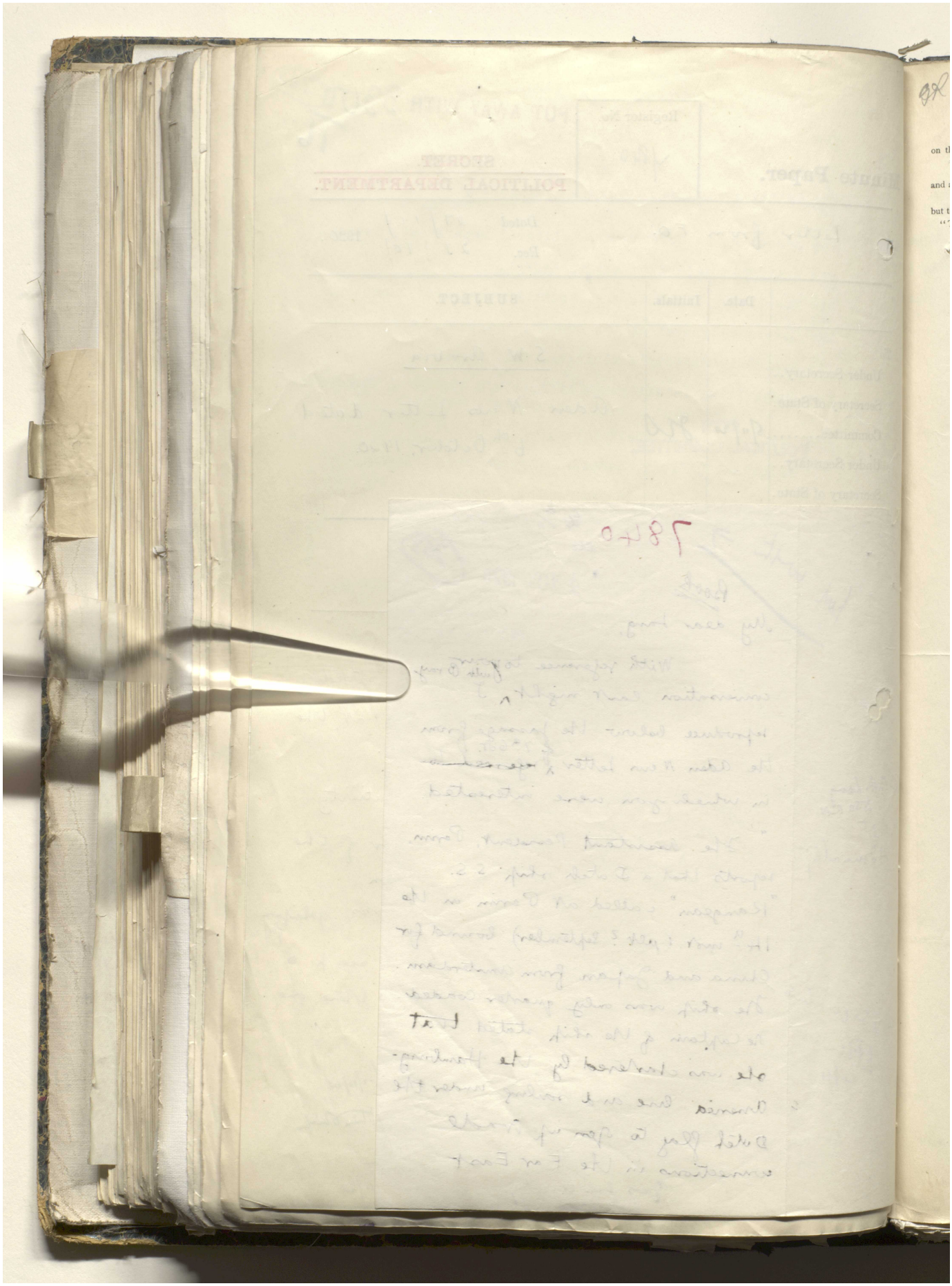

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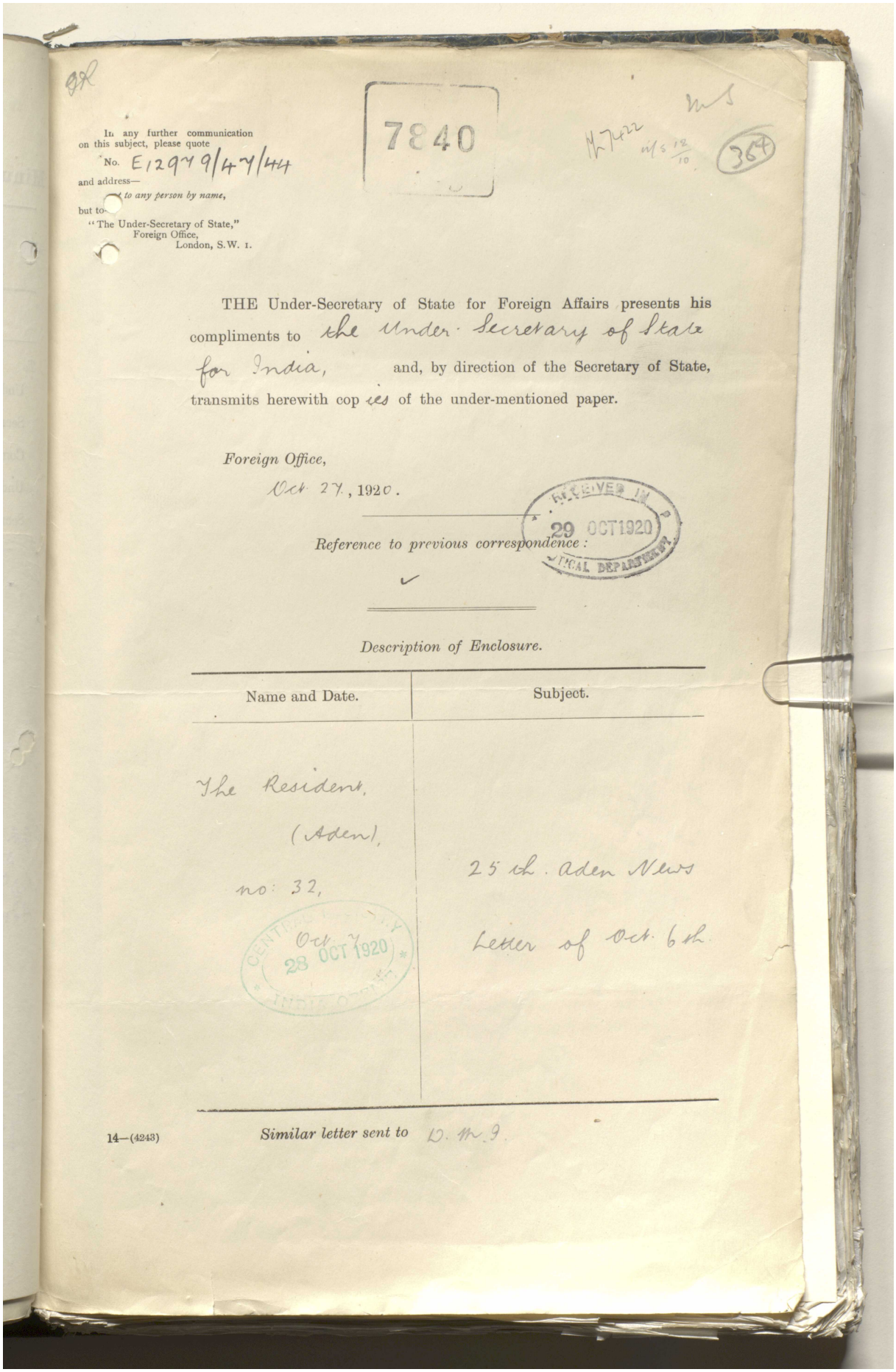

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 12974/47/44
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

7840

M 7422 M/S 12/10

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Oct 27, 1920.

RECEIVED IN 29 OCT 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
The Resident, (Aden), no: 32, Oct 7	25 ch. Aden News Letter of Oct. 6th

CENTRAL REGISTRY 28 OCT 1920 INDIA OFFICE

14—(4243)

Similar letter sent to D. M. I.

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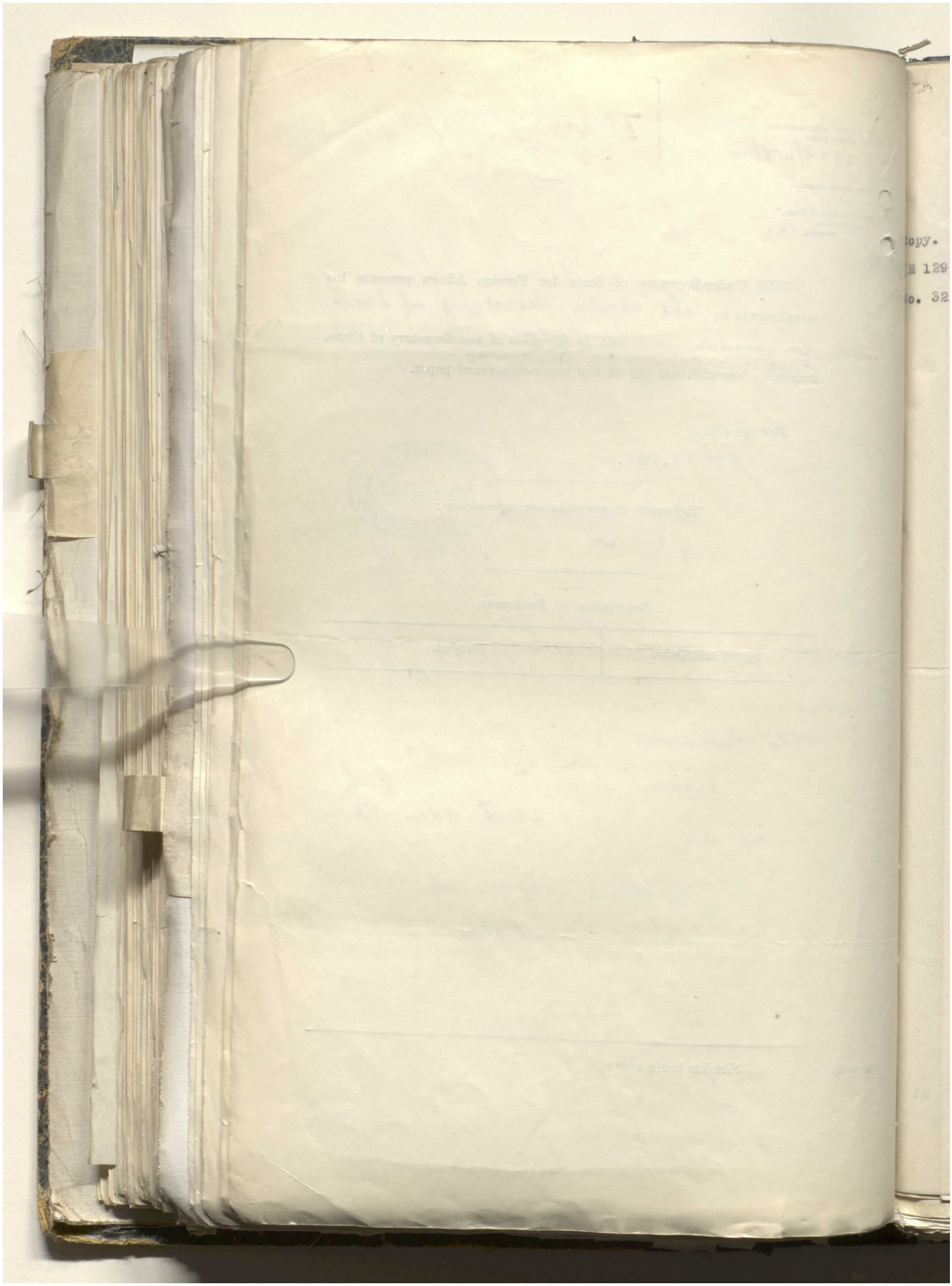

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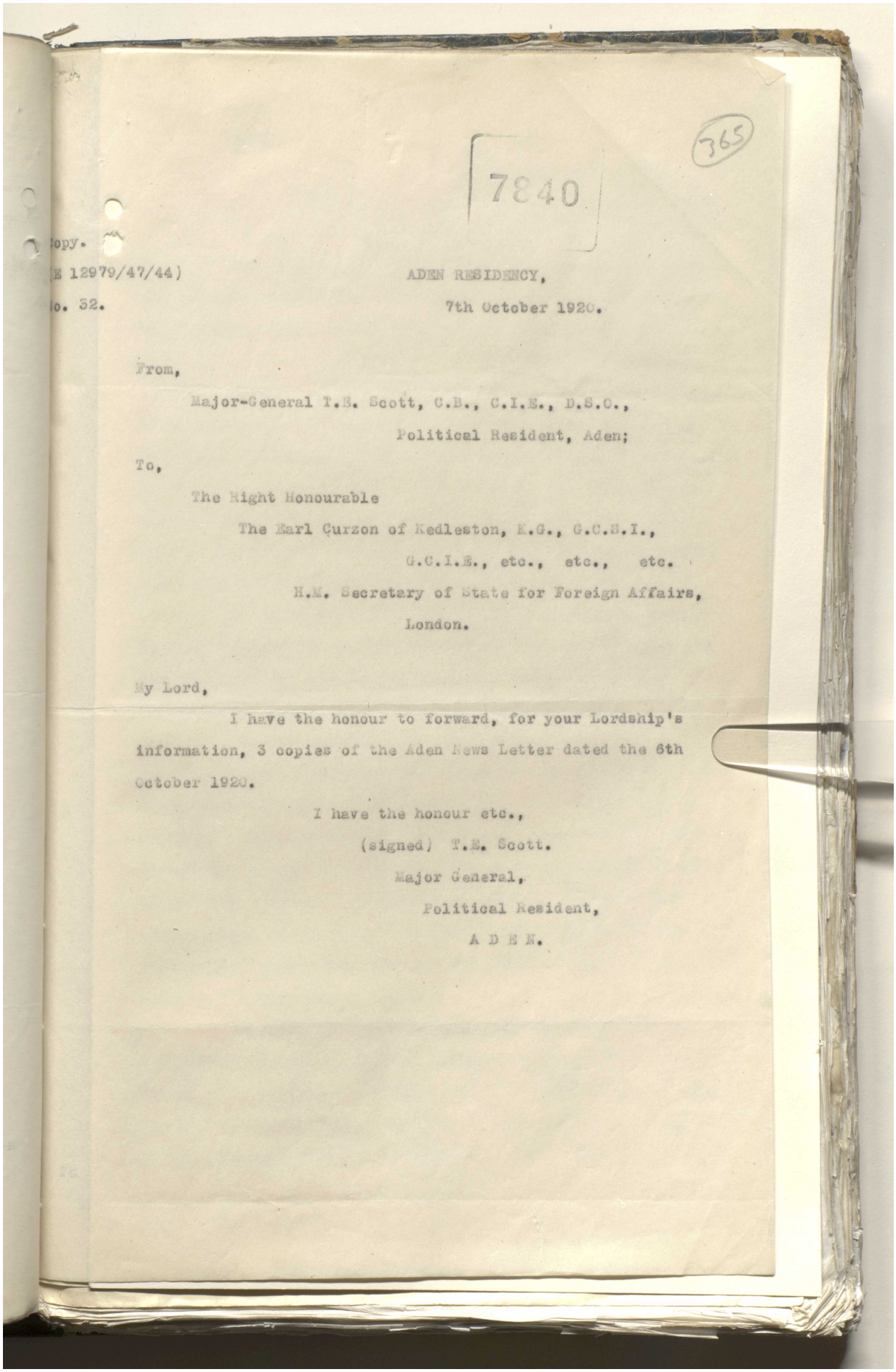

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opy.
E 12979/47/44)
o. 52.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
7th October 1920.

From,

Major-General T.E. Scott, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Political Resident, Aden;

To,

The Right Honourable
The Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I.,
G.C.I.E., etc., etc., etc.
H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
London.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, 3 copies of the Aden News Letter dated the 6th October 1920.

I have the honour etc.,
(signed) T.E. Scott.
Major General,
Political Resident,
A D E N.

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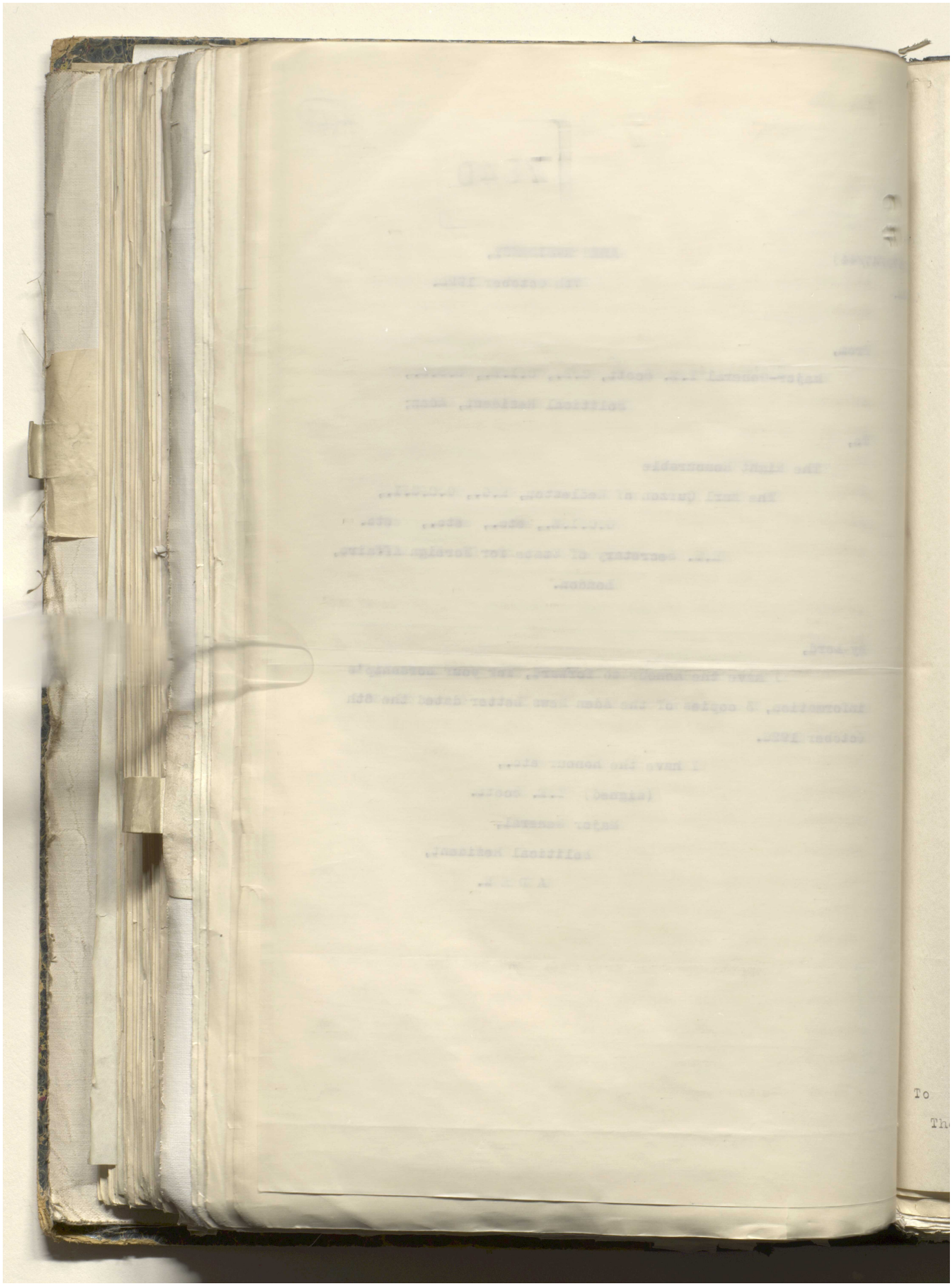

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25th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

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ADEN RESIDENCY,

6th October 1920.

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter to His Excellency, the High Commissioner, Egypt, dated the 17th September 1920.

TIHAMA.

Captain Fazluddin writes that the Idrisi had a serious reverse at Jebel Saafan, which he has evacuated. The Idrisi had also to retire from a position in Jebel Reimah to Sukel-Jumaa which is the present headquarters of Sheikh Abu Hadi, the head Quhra Sheikh. As reported in my letter of 2nd September the news of the Idrisi's reverse at Jebel Saafan was received here early last month, but it was denied by Syed Mustafa.

As the Akhwans have marched north, the Imam appears to have strengthened all his centres in the southern Yemen and has available for service elsewhere all the forces he had collected to oppose the anticipated Akhwan attack.

Captain Fazluddin says that he has heard from a reliable source that the Hashid and Bakil were reconciled to the Imamic cause as against Ibn Saud by the Imam's son in Hajjah offering a bull as sacrifice at the door of each of the principal Sheikhs of the Hashid and Bakil. The Sheikhs promised to fight against Ibn Saud but not against the Idrisi. Now that the Akhwan menace has passed, at least for the present, it will be interesting to know what will be the future attitude of the Hashid and Bakil towards the Imam.

Reports received this week from Hodeida disclose a situation which may possibly, in the event of an Idrisi reverse, develop into a serious menace to Hodeida. The Idrisi has been driven back at Wadi Har, Beni Saad and Jebel Reima. Al these places have been occupied by the Imam. Sheikh Abu Hadi and his men.....

To

The Right Honourable
The Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
etc., etc., etc.
His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
London.

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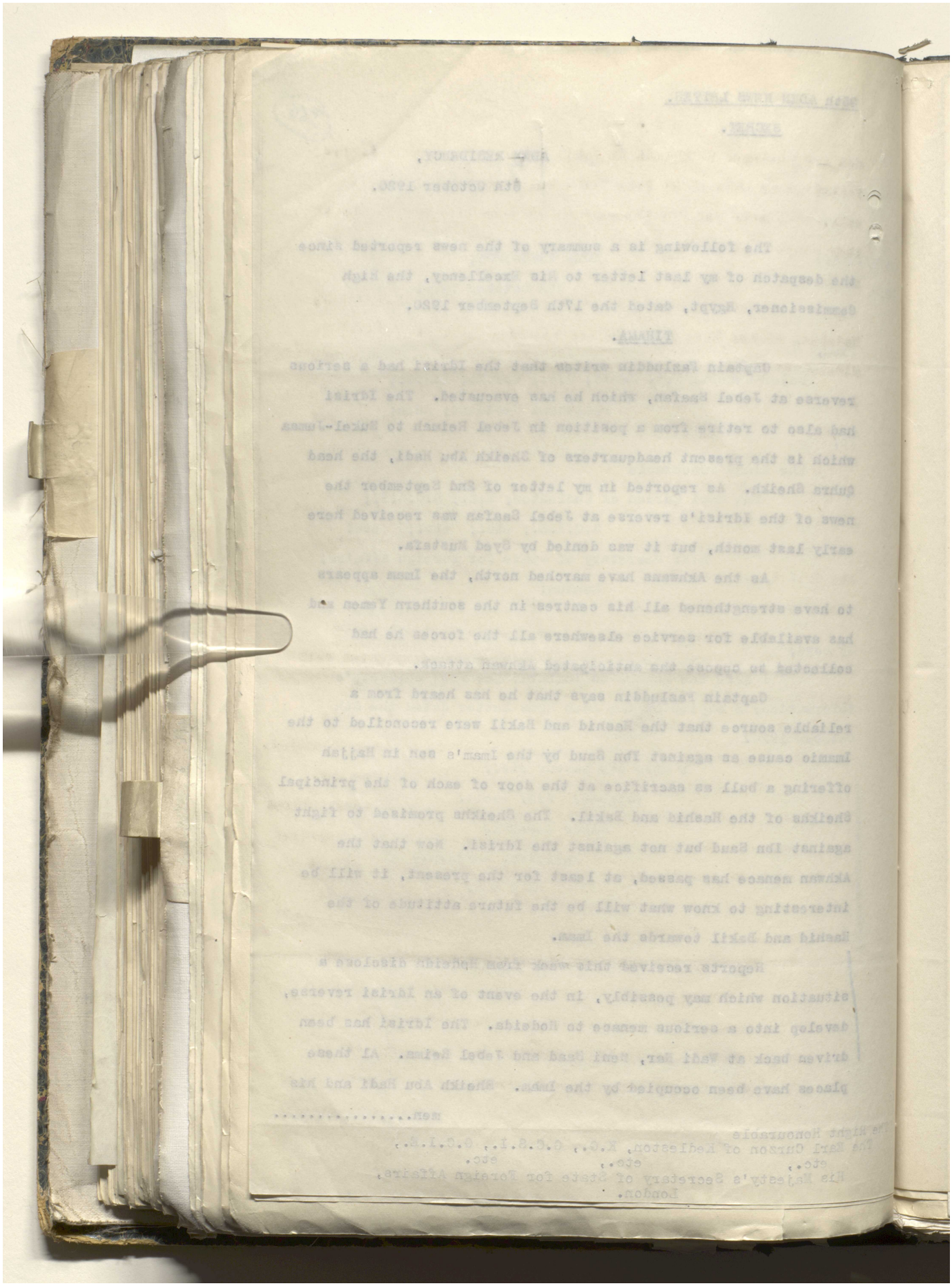

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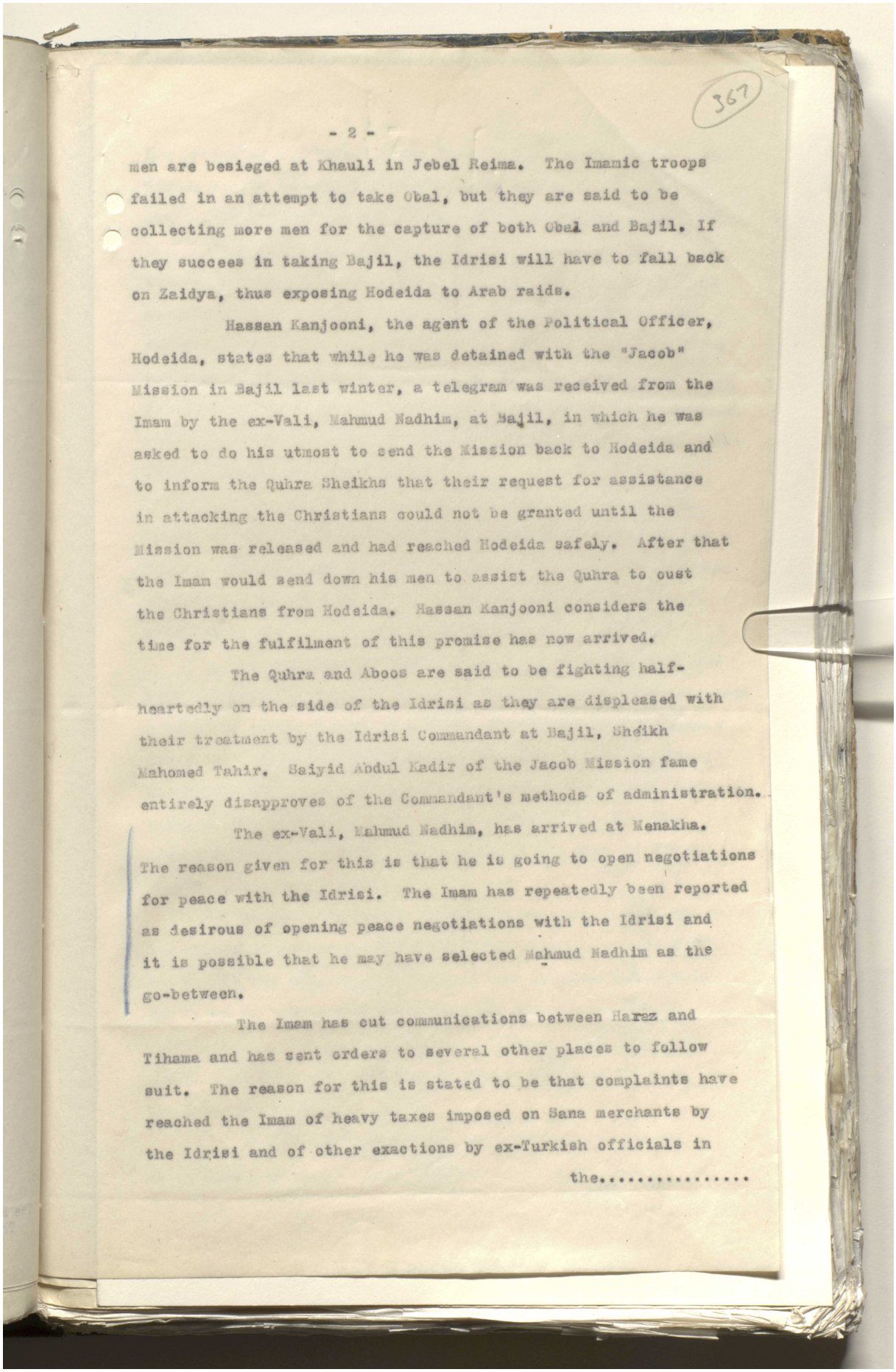

men are besieged at Khauli in Jebel Reima. The Imamic troops failed in an attempt to take Obal, but they are said to be collecting more men for the capture of both Obal and Bajil. If they succees in taking Bajil, the Idrisi will have to fall back on Zaidya, thus exposing Hodeida to Arab raids.

Hassan Kanjooni, the agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, states that while he was detained with the "Jacob" Mission in Bajil last winter, a telegram was received from the Imam by the ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, at Bajil, in which he was asked to do his utmost to send the Mission back to Hodeida and to inform the Quhra Sheikhs that their request for assistance in attacking the Christians could not be granted until the Mission was released and had reached Hodeida safely. After that the Imam would send down his men to assist the Quhra to oust the Christians from Hodeida. Hassan Kanjooni considers the time for the fulfilment of this promise has now arrived.

The Quhra and Aboos are said to be fighting half-heartedly on the side of the Idrisi as they are displeased with their treatment by the Idrisi Commandant at Bajil, Shéikh Mahomed Tahir. Saiyid Abdul Kadir of the Jacob Mission fame entirely disapproves of the Commandant's methods of administration.

The ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim, has arrived at Menakha. The reason given for this is that he is going to open negotiations for peace with the Idrisi. The Imam has repeatedly been reported as desirous of opening peace negotiations with the Idrisi and it is possible that he may have selected Mahmud Nadhim as the go-between.

The Imam has cut communications between Haraz and Tihama and has sent orders to several other places to follow suit. The reason for this is stated to be that complaints have reached the Imam of heavy taxes imposed on Sana merchants by the Idrisi and of other exactions by ex-Turkish officials in

the.....

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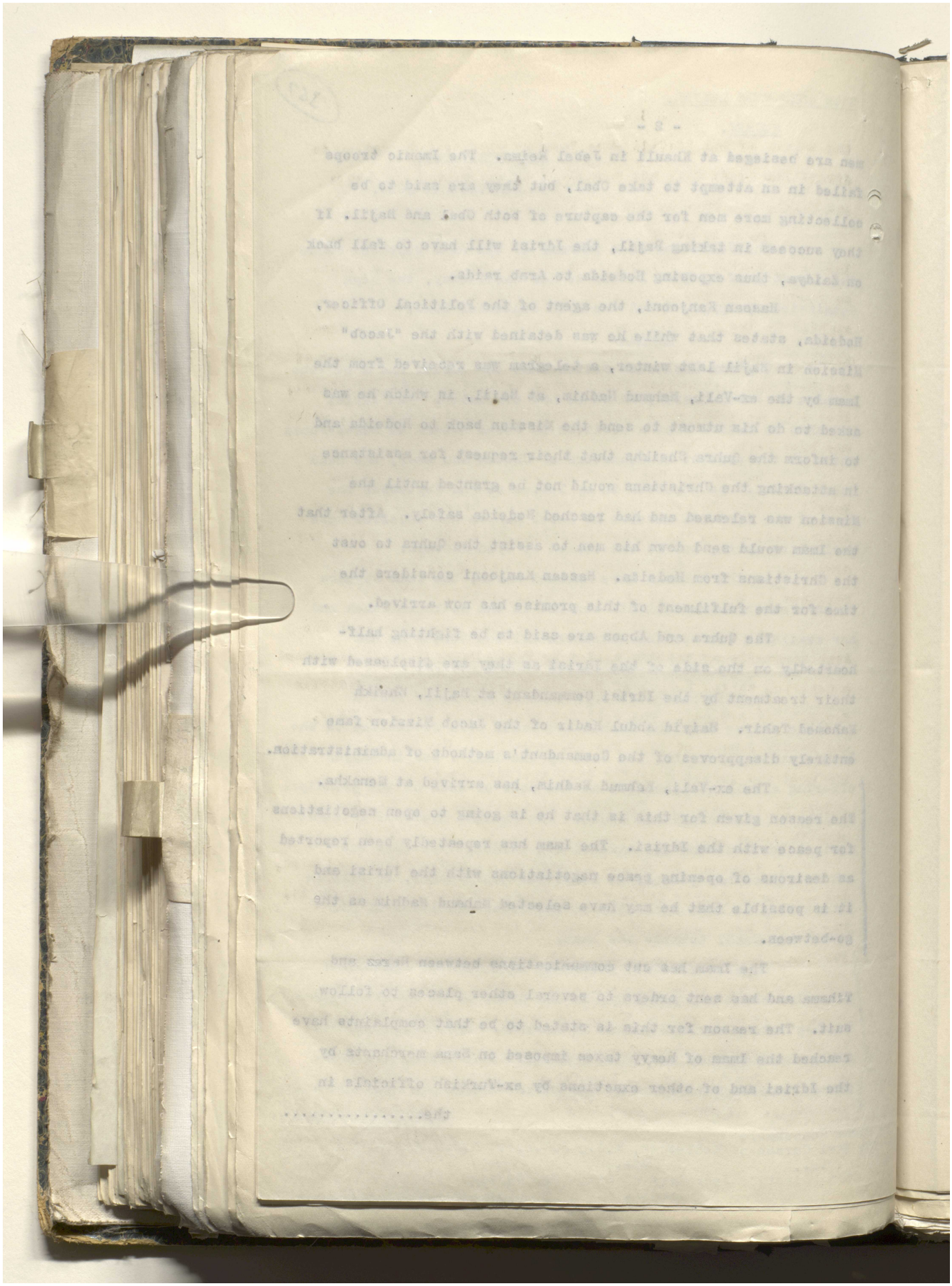

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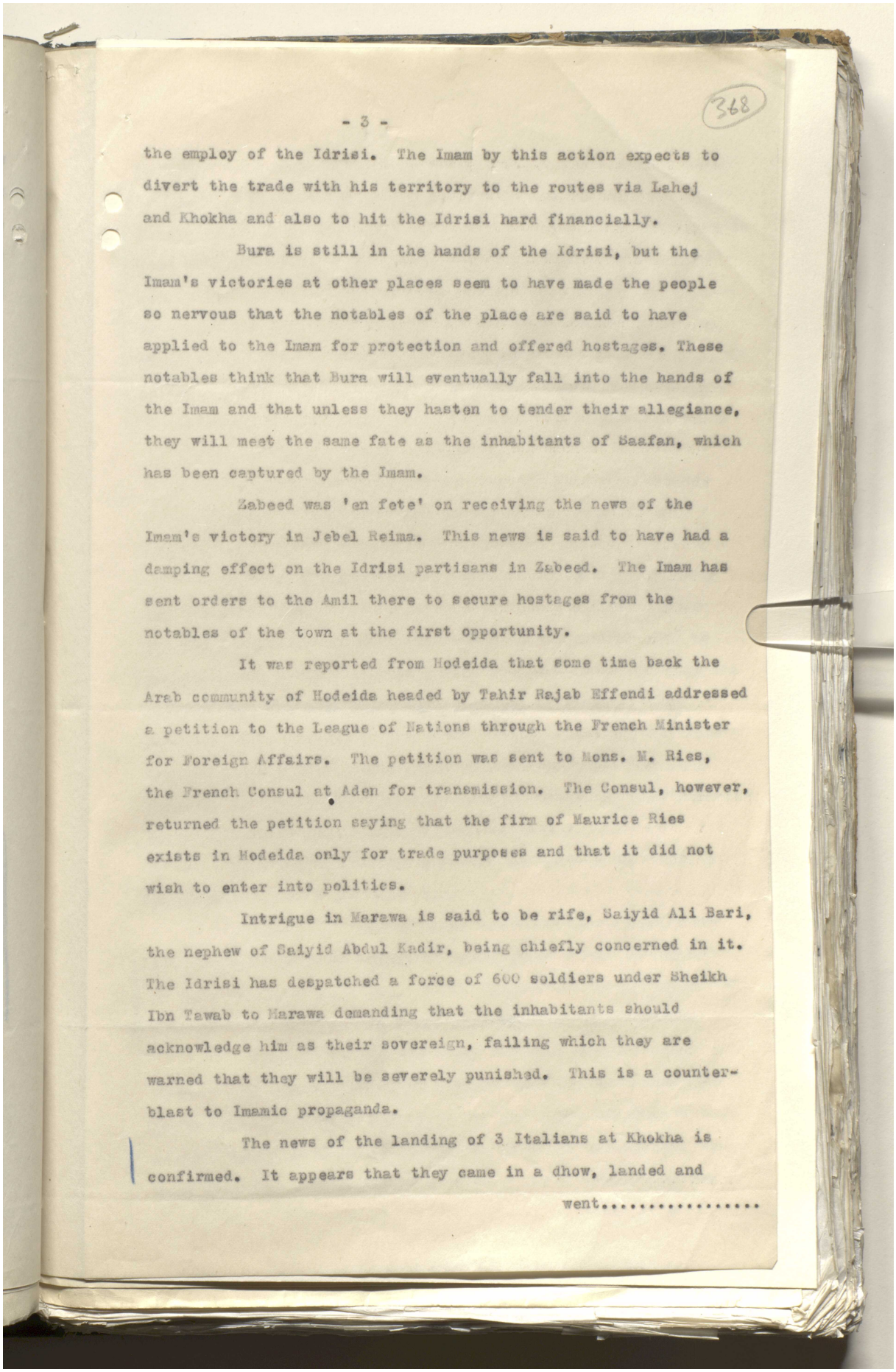

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the employ of the Idrisi. The Imam by this action expects to divert the trade with his territory to the routes via Lahej and Khokha and also to hit the Idrisi hard financially.

Bura is still in the hands of the Idrisi, but the Imam's victories at other places seem to have made the people so nervous that the notables of the place are said to have applied to the Imam for protection and offered hostages. These notables think that Bura will eventually fall into the hands of the Imam and that unless they hasten to tender their allegiance, they will meet the same fate as the inhabitants of Saafan, which has been captured by the Imam.

Zabeed was 'en fete' on receiving the news of the Imam's victory in Jebel Reima. This news is said to have had a damping effect on the Idrisi partisans in Zabeed. The Imam has sent orders to the Amil there to secure hostages from the notables of the town at the first opportunity.

It was reported from Hodeida that some time back the Arab community of Hodeida headed by Tahir Rajab Effendi addressed a petition to the League of Nations through the French Minister for Foreign Affairs. The petition was sent to Mons. M. Ries, the French Consul at Aden for transmission. The Consul, however, returned the petition saying that the firm of Maurice Ries exists in Hodeida only for trade purposes and that it did not wish to enter into politics.

Intrigue in Marawa is said to be rife, Saiyid Ali Bari, the nephew of Saiyid Abdul Kadir, being chiefly concerned in it. The Idrisi has despatched a force of 600 soldiers under Sheikh Ibn Tawab to Marawa demanding that the inhabitants should acknowledge him as their sovereign, failing which they are warned that they will be severely punished. This is a counter-blast to Imamic propaganda.

The news of the landing of 3 Italians at Khokha is confirmed. It appears that they came in a dhow, landed and

went.....

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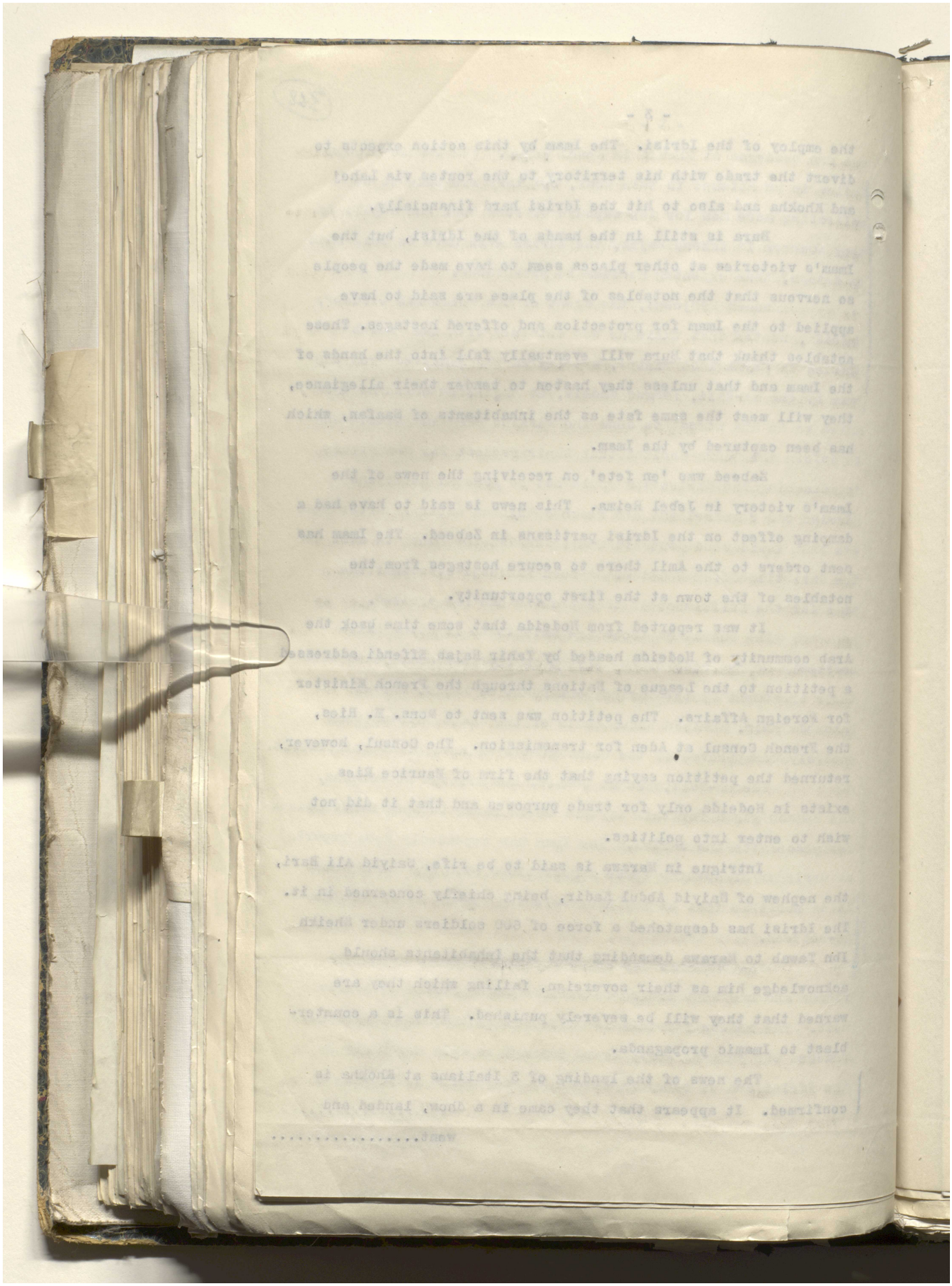

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went to Sheikh Abdullah Mohsin Dubola, the brother of the Sheikh of Khokha. Thence they proceeded to Hais where they met the Imam's Amil and having obtained his promise of safety and permission to trade returned to Khokha. Before leaving Khokha they bought two houses for the storage of the goods which are expected to arrive shortly. They did not bring with them any goods. There is no truth in the report that Italian troops had landed at Khokha or that they were helping the Imam against the Idrisi. The apparent object of the Italians is to open trade with Sana.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

The Zaidis are reported to be repairing the Turkish telegraph line between Taiz and Mawia. They have already repaired the line between Ebb and Taiz.

It is reported that the Imam's Amil at Taiz summoned all the Taiz Sheikhs and asked them to supply men to replace the Zaidi soldiers there who are required in Sana and also to furnish hostages as a guarantee that they will not side with the British who, the Amil said, were expected to advance. The result of this meeting is not known. Simultaneously, the Imam's Amil at Mawia called a meeting of Sheikhs there for the same purpose, but the latter are said to have refused to give hostages with the result that they have been imprisoned.

The Zaidis at Taiz and Dala are said to be dying in numbers of some unknown sickness.

Travellers' reports from the Yemen state that there is a concentration of troops at Damar under Sayed Abdulla who is busy enlisting more men. Their destination is not known but they give out that one of their objectives is Nobat Dakim.

A rumour is again current that the Imam is dead. A similar rumour was circulated a short time ago but turned out to be false. A report says that Ibn El Wazir, the Imam's Amil at Taiz has been summoned to Sana by the Imam who is said to be very ill, and another report says that the Imam has left Sana

and.....

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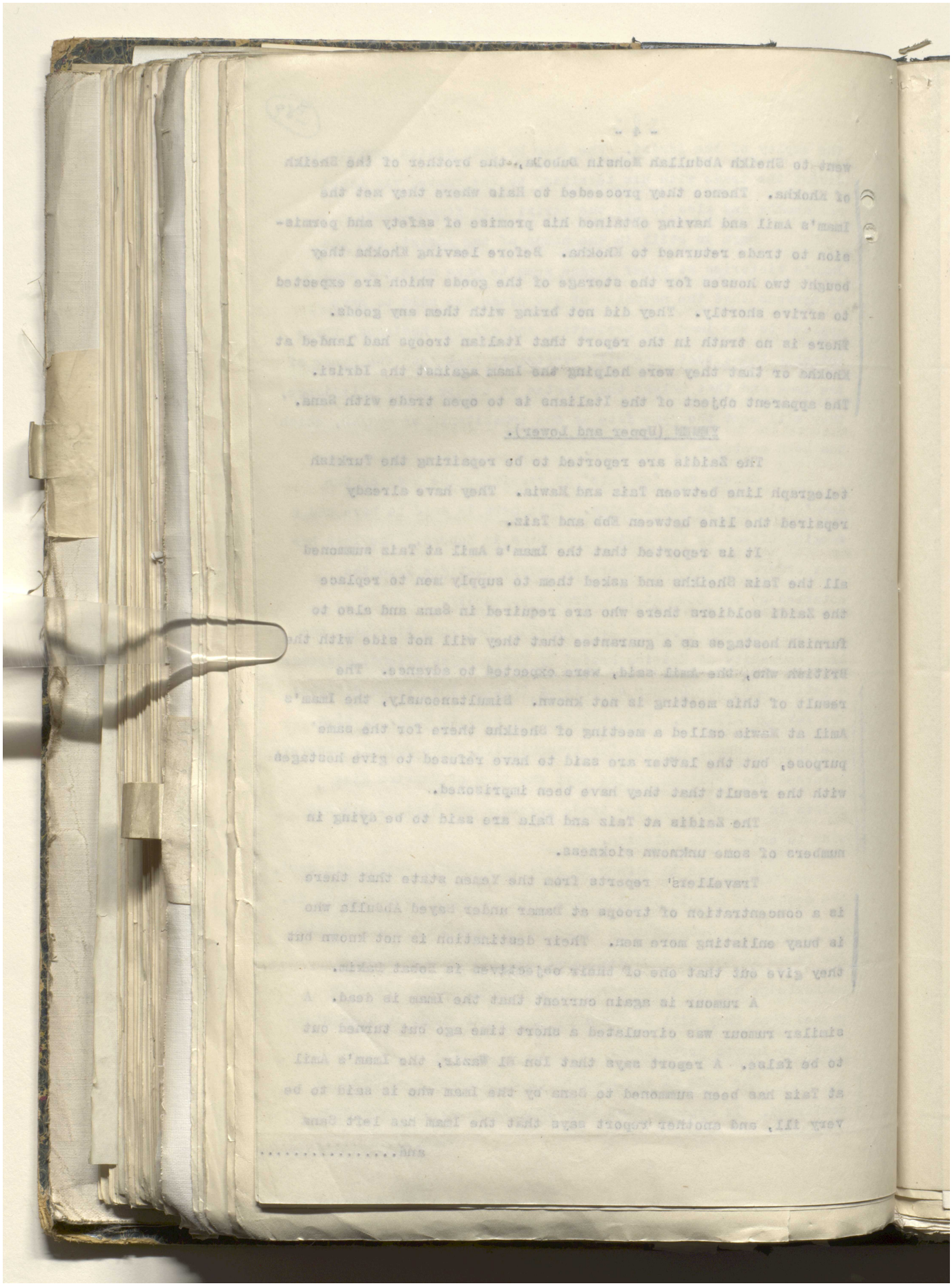

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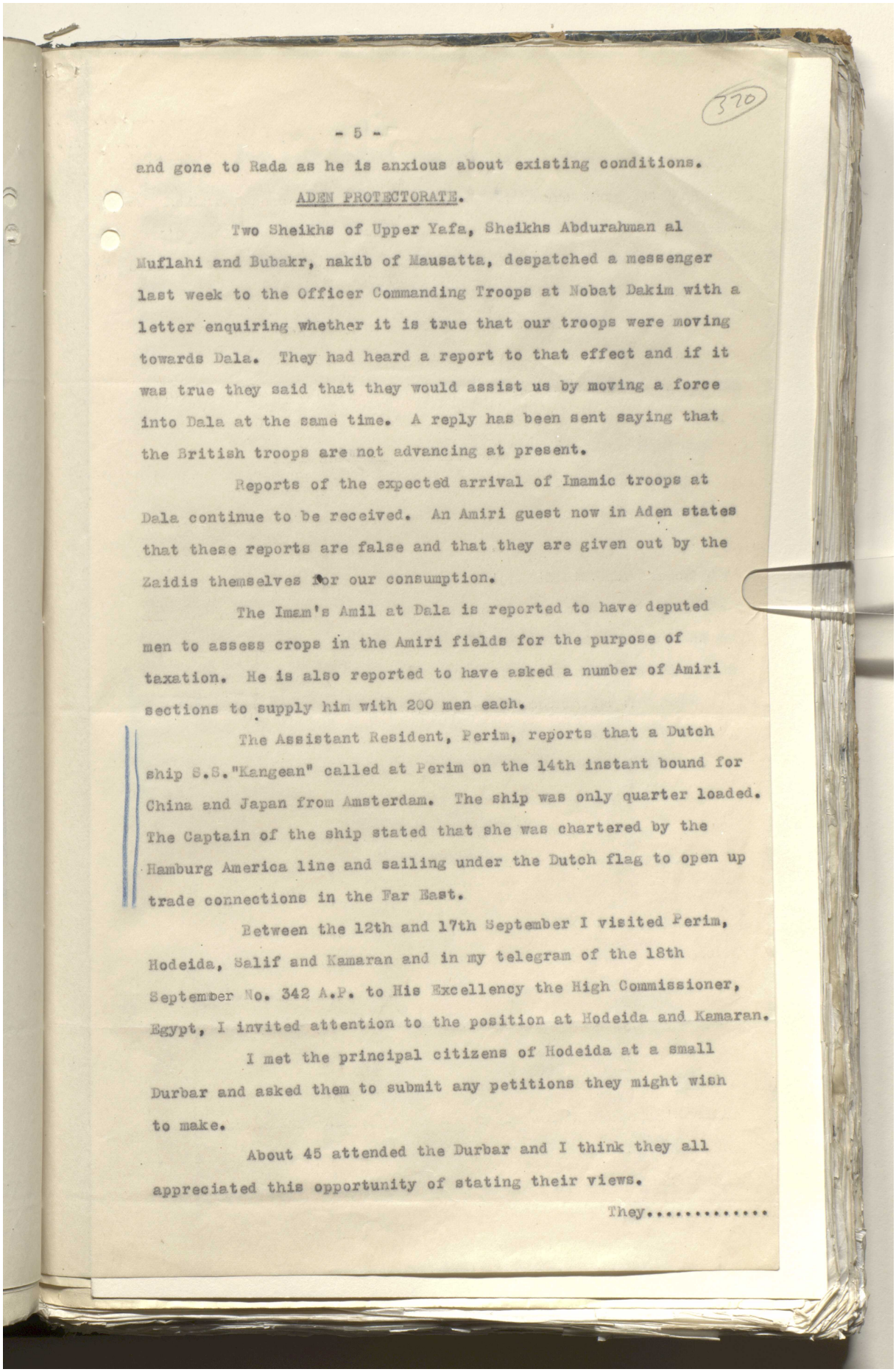

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and gone to Rada as he is anxious about existing conditions.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Two Sheikhs of Upper Yafa, Sheikhs Abdurahman al Muflahi and Bubakr, nakib of Mausatta, despatched a messenger last week to the Officer Commanding Troops at Nobat Dakim with a letter enquiring whether it is true that our troops were moving towards Dala. They had heard a report to that effect and if it was true they said that they would assist us by moving a force into Dala at the same time. A reply has been sent saying that the British troops are not advancing at present.

Reports of the expected arrival of Imamic troops at Dala continue to be received. An Amiri guest now in Aden states that these reports are false and that they are given out by the Zaidis themselves for our consumption.

The Imam's Amil at Dala is reported to have deputed men to assess crops in the Amiri fields for the purpose of taxation. He is also reported to have asked a number of Amiri sections to supply him with 200 men each.

The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports that a Dutch ship S.S."Kangean" called at Perim on the 14th instant bound for China and Japan from Amsterdam. The ship was only quarter loaded. The Captain of the ship stated that she was chartered by the Hamburg America line and sailing under the Dutch flag to open up trade connections in the Far East.

Between the 12th and 17th September I visited Perim, Hodeida, Salif and Kamaran and in my telegram of the 18th September No. 342 A.P. to His Excellency the High Commissioner, Egypt, I invited attention to the position at Hodeida and Kamaran.

I met the principal citizens of Hodeida at a small Durbar and asked them to submit any petitions they might wish to make.

About 45 attended the Durbar and I think they all appreciated this opportunity of stating their views.

They.....

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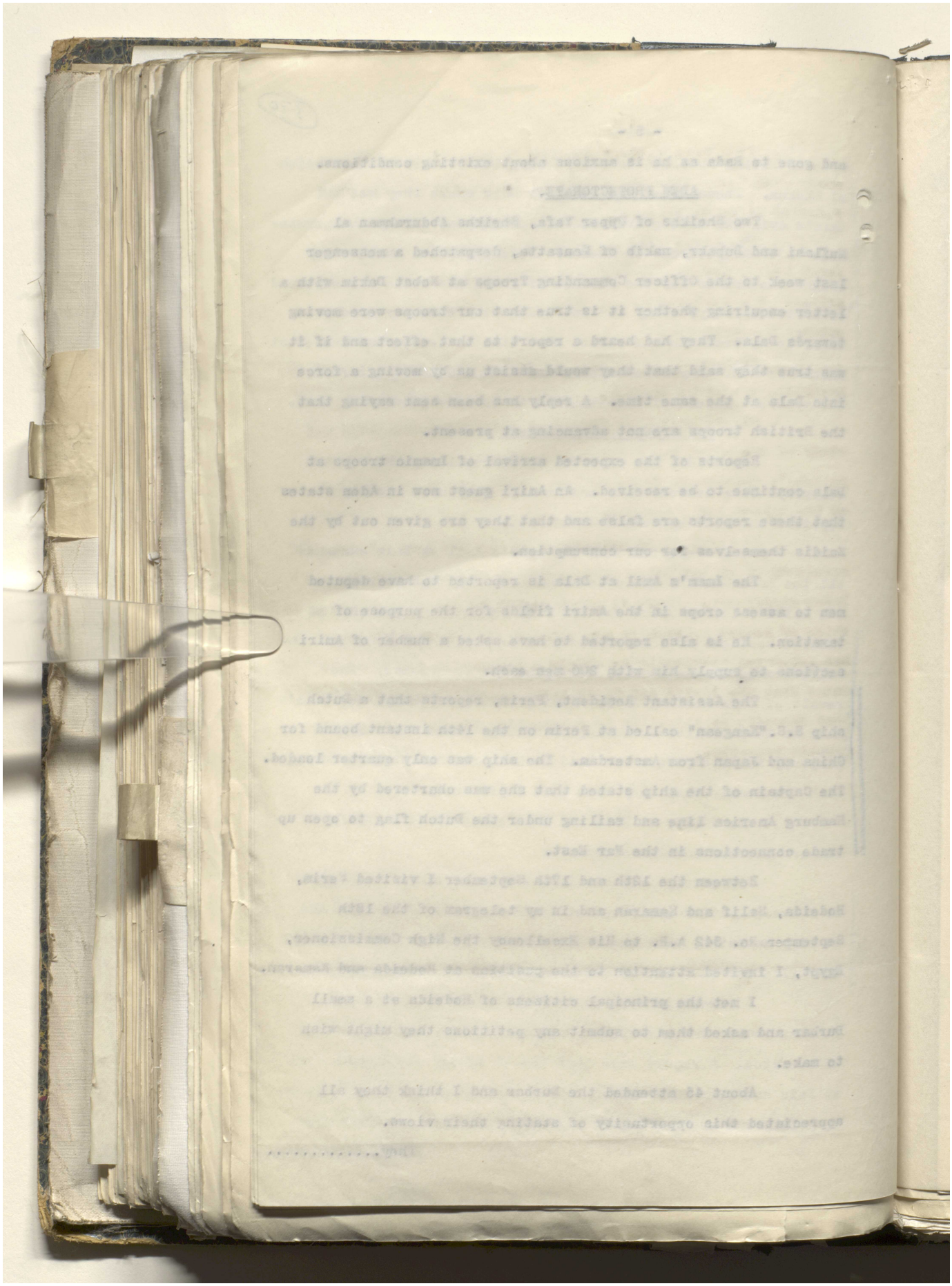

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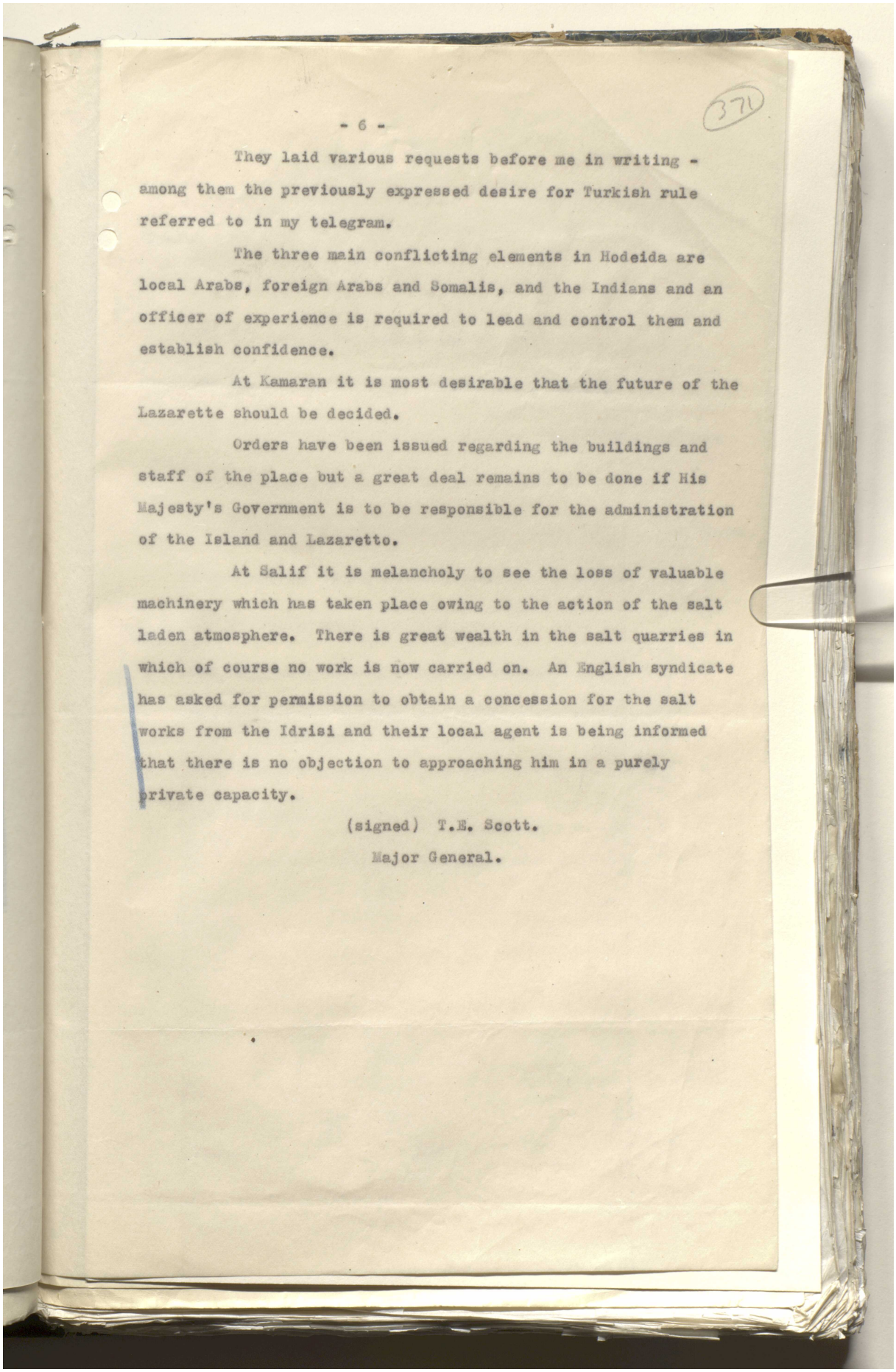

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They laid various requests before me in writing - among them the previously expressed desire for Turkish rule referred to in my telegram.

The three main conflicting elements in Hodeida are local Arabs, foreign Arabs and Somalis, and the Indians and an officer of experience is required to lead and control them and establish confidence.

At Kamaran it is most desirable that the future of the Lazarette should be decided.

Orders have been issued regarding the buildings and staff of the place but a great deal remains to be done if His Majesty's Government is to be responsible for the administration of the Island and Lazaretto.

At Salif it is melancholy to see the loss of valuable machinery which has taken place owing to the action of the salt laden atmosphere. There is great wealth in the salt quarries in which of course no work is now carried on. An English syndicate has asked for permission to obtain a concession for the salt works from the Idrisi and their local agent is being informed that there is no objection to approaching him in a purely private capacity.

(signed) T.E. Scott.
Major General.

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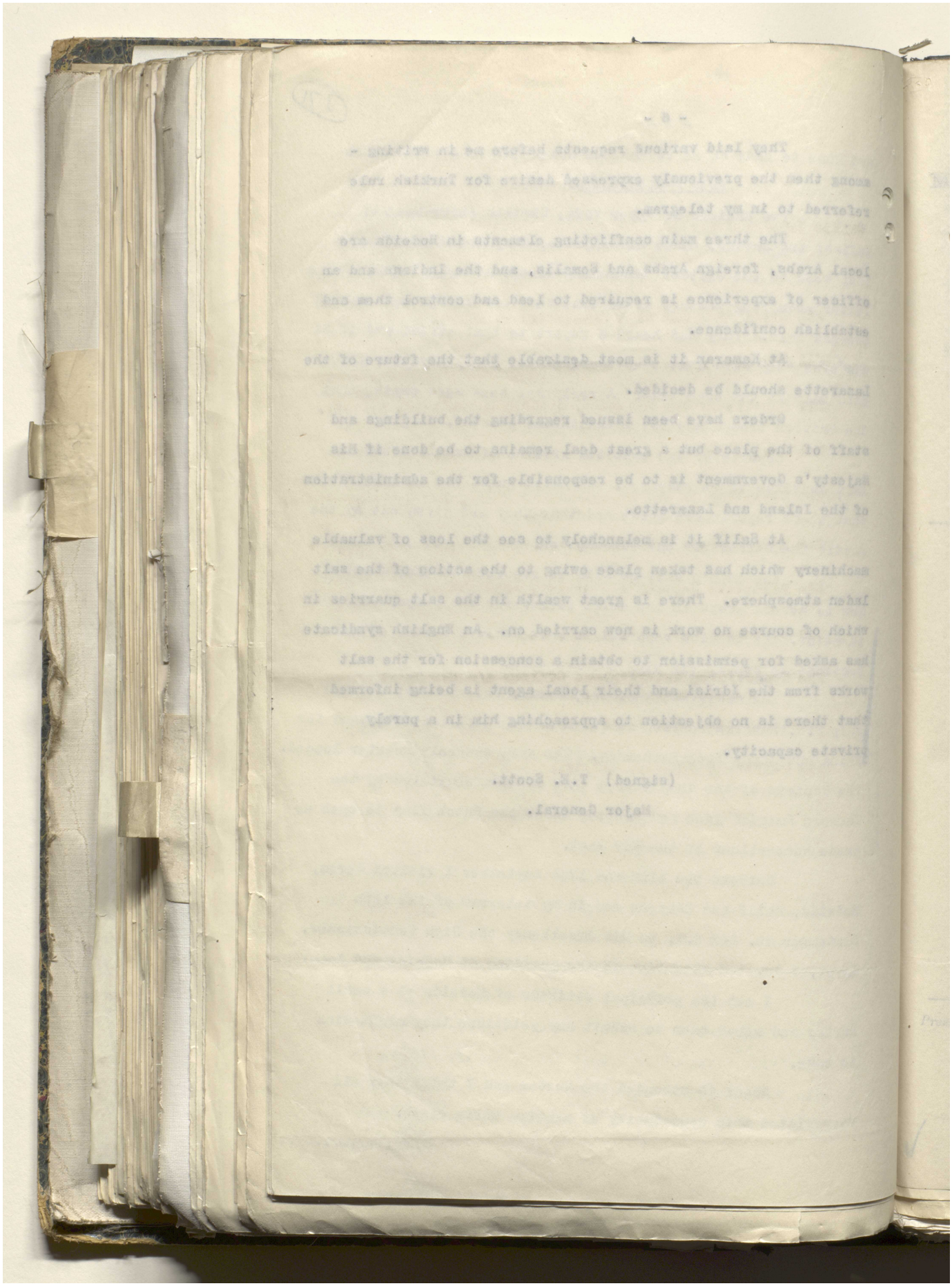

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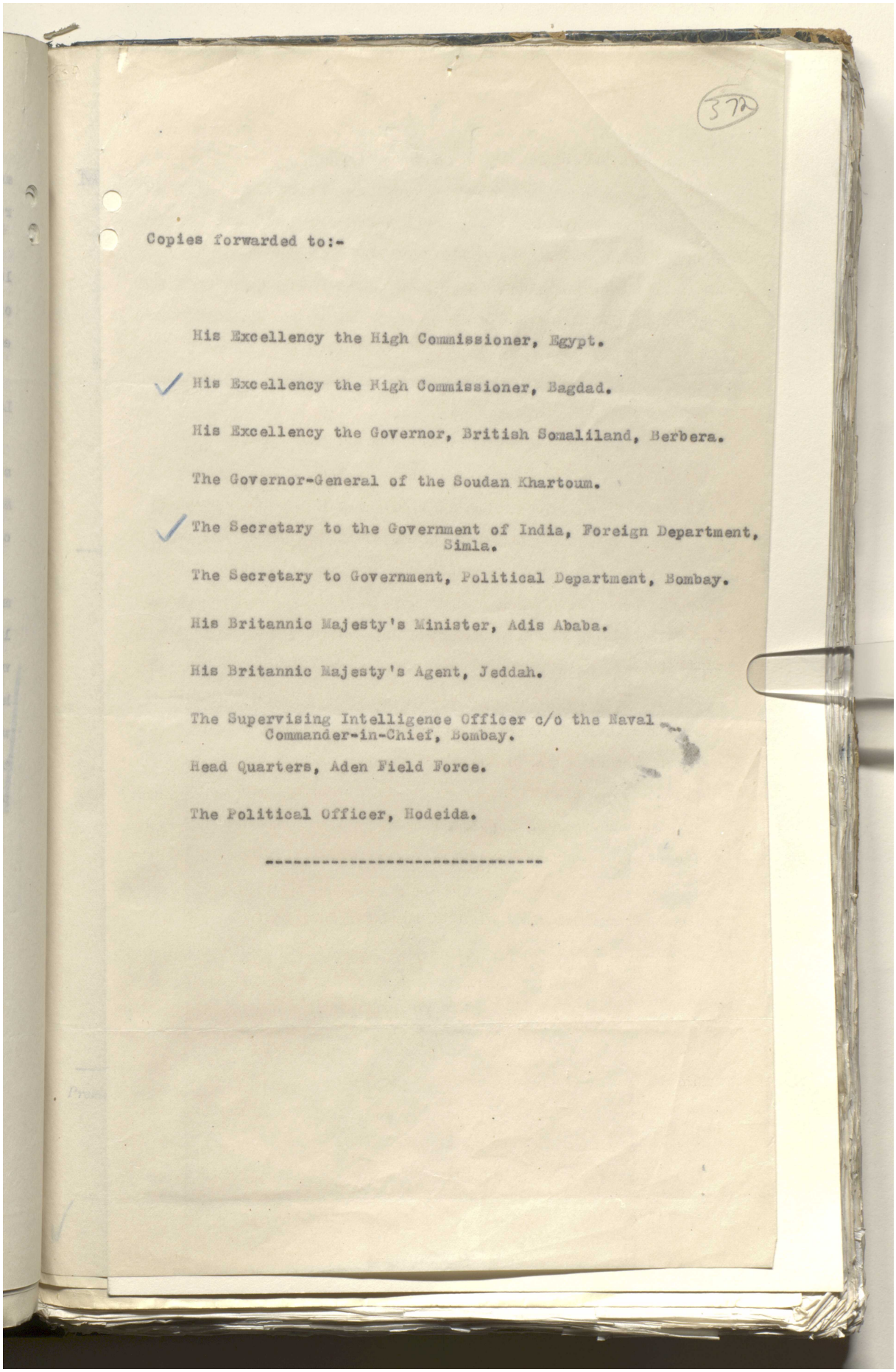

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Copies forwarded to:-

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Egypt.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Bagdad.

His Excellency the Governor, British Somaliland, Berbera.

The Governor-General of the Soudan Khartoum.

The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Adis Ababa.

His Britannic Majesty's Agent, Jeddah.

The Supervising Intelligence Officer c/o the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.

Head Quarters, Aden Field Force.

The Political Officer, Hodeida.

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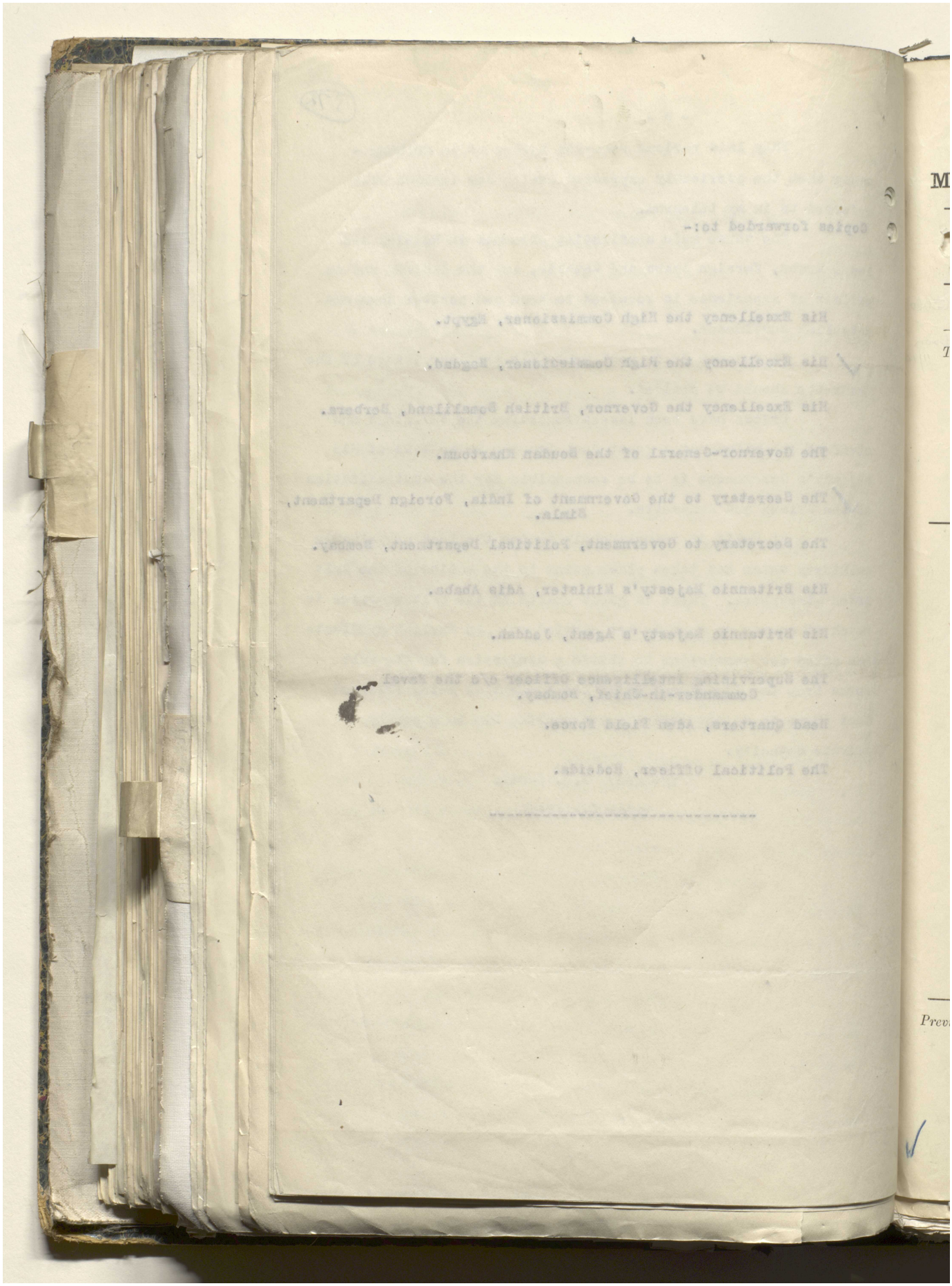

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 4422 [4090]

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SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter from F.O. Dated 7/10/ 1920.
Rec. 8/10/

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			S. W. Arabia
Under Secretary..	12/10/20	HLS	
Secretary of State.	28	[illegible]	Aden News Letter of
Committee.....	SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE	E	17th Sept.
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to ~~India~~ ~~Baghdad~~ } Sent direct.

FOR INFORMATION.

The present letter is interesting and important. Details are given of attempts by the Italians to give active assistance to the Imam. Their general object is to establish their influence, both commercial and political, in the Yemen. For places mentioned please see map overleaf.

Ops 4 contains an expression of the Idrisi's opinion on the Akhwan movement. He considers that the movement is not likely to last long; although their simple ideas of unity of God and equality of mankind appeal to popular fancy, by their bigotry and fanaticism they leave in the

Previous Papers—

10 1939 2000 7/20

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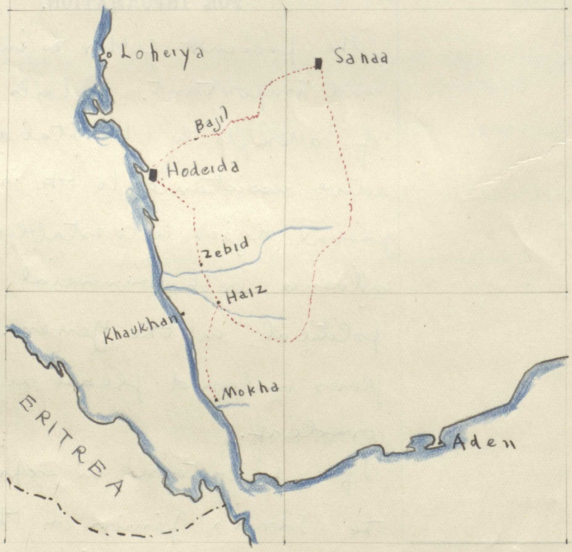
minds of the people nothing but hatred and repulsion.
An interesting point revealed by the letter is that the northward march of the Akhwan forces after the capture of Ebha was due not to the ~~instigation~~ orders of Ibn Saud but to the instigation of the Idrisi.
The latter probably considered them somewhat uncomfortable allies.

J.A. Simpson 11/

The description of the Akhwan forces might be an account of Cromwell's New Model Army.

K.J. 12/10/20.



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CAS 11/11
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SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE

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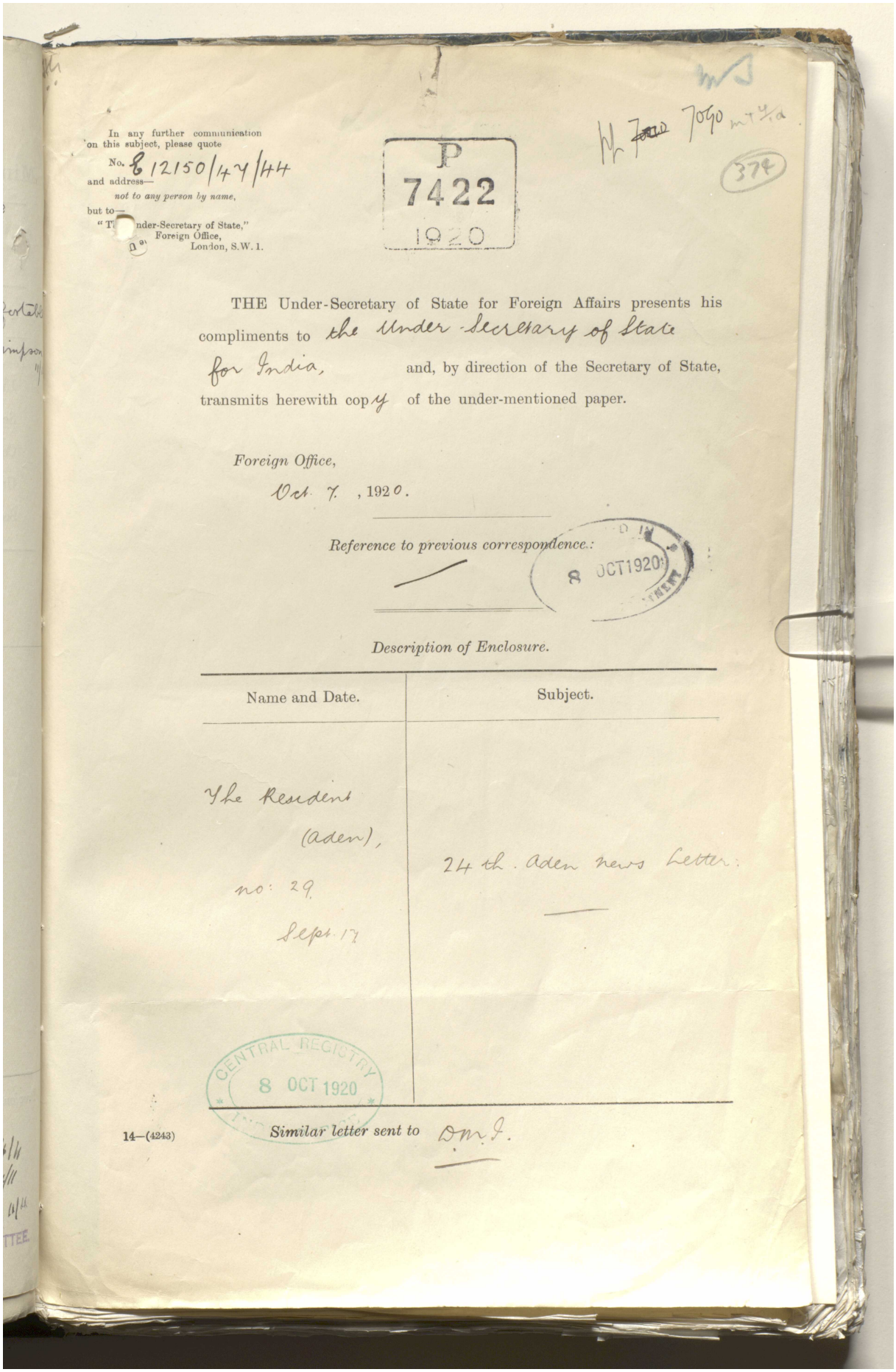

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. 8 12150/17/44
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

P
7422
1920

Mr Jones 7090 mt 4/a

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Oct 7, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence.:
—

8 OCT 1920

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
The Resident (aden), no: 29 Sept 17	24th. Aden news Letter:

CENTRAL REGISTRY
8 OCT 1920

14—(4243)

Similar letter sent to Govt. I.

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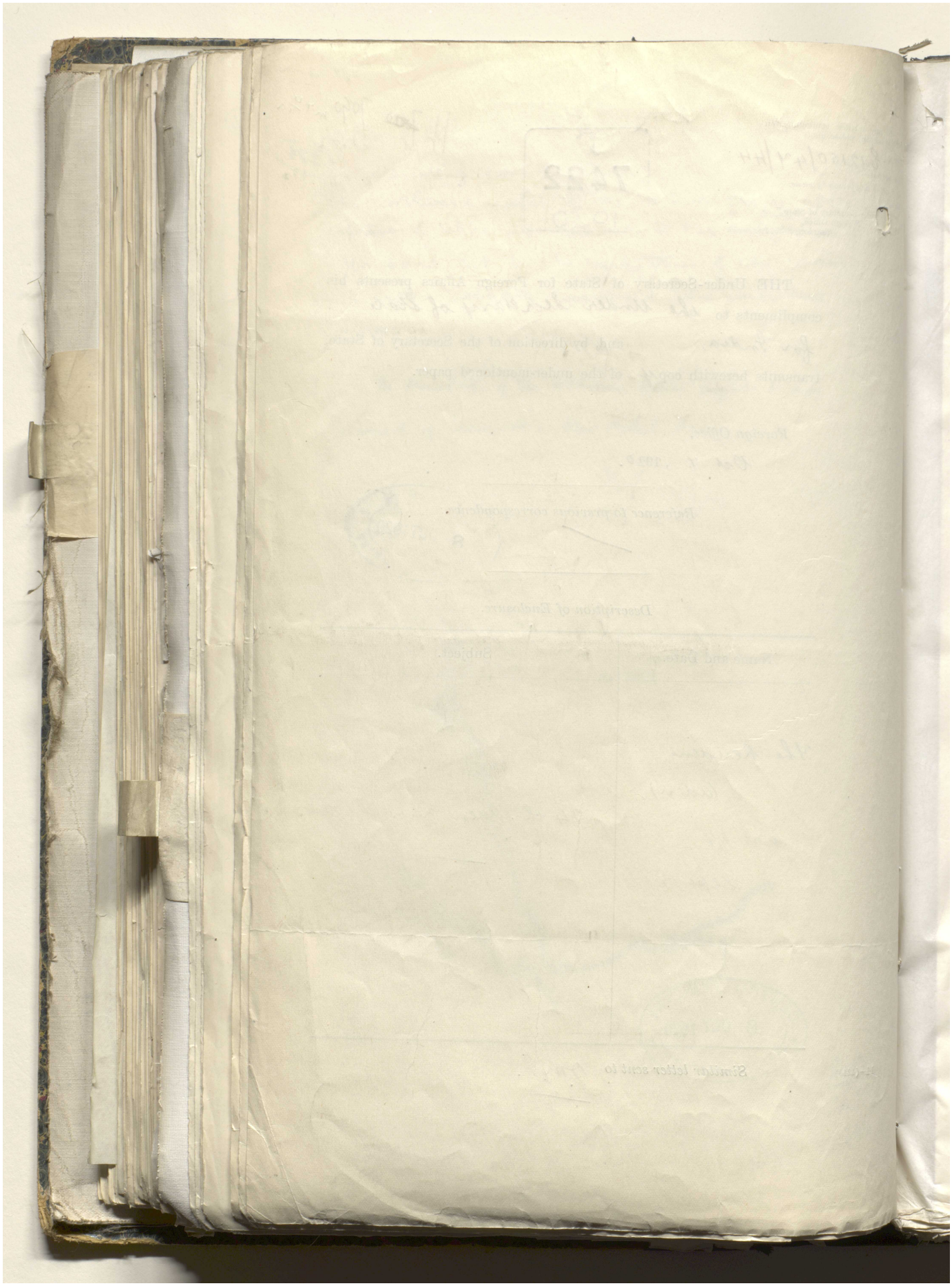

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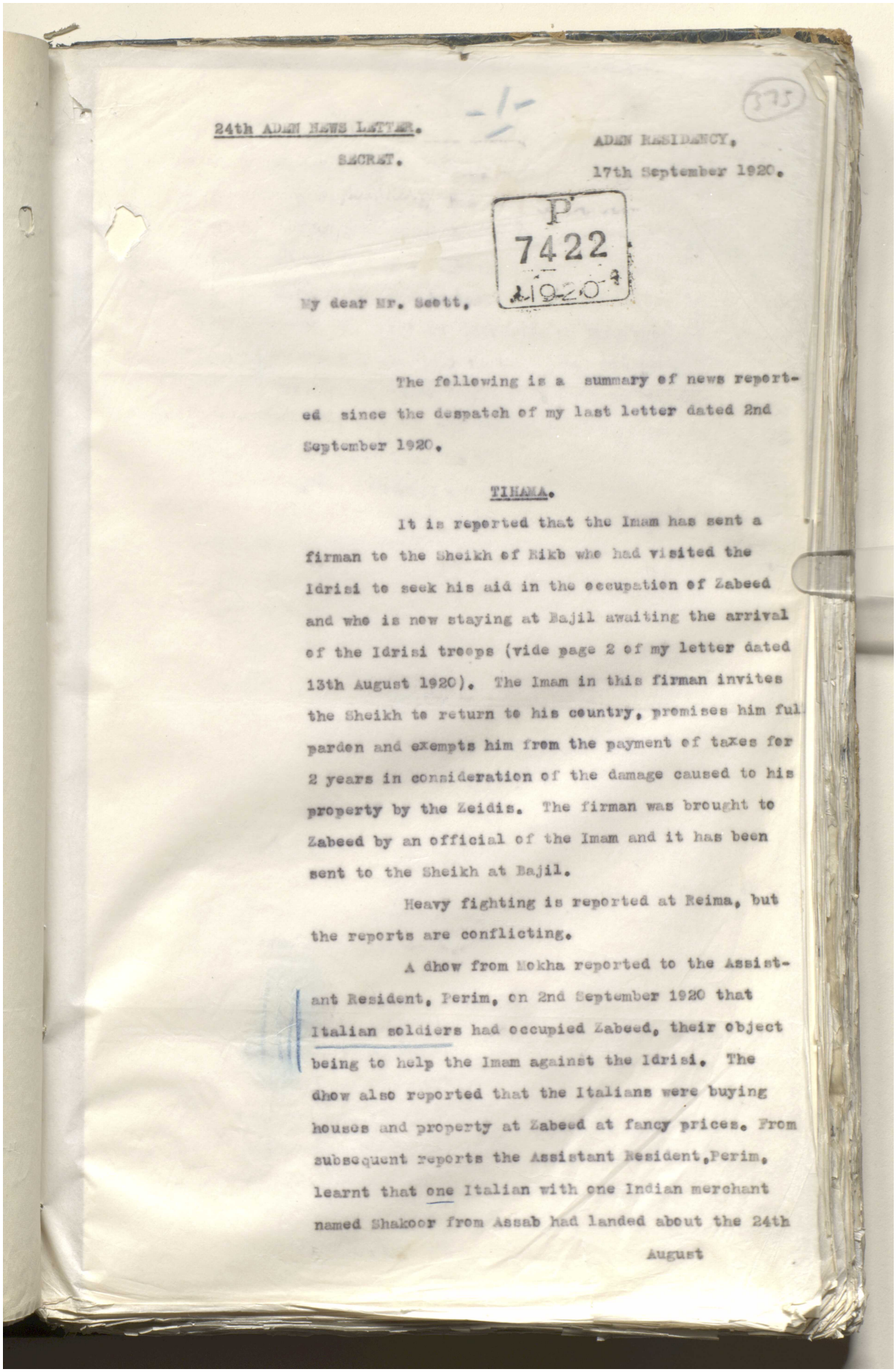

24th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
17th September 1920.

P
7422
1920

My dear Mr. Scott,

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 2nd September 1920.

TIHAMA.

It is reported that the Imam has sent a firman to the Sheikh of Nikb who had visited the Idrisi to seek his aid in the occupation of Zabeed and who is now staying at Bajil awaiting the arrival of the Idrisi troops (vide page 2 of my letter dated 13th August 1920). The Imam in this firman invites the Sheikh to return to his country, promises him full pardon and exempts him from the payment of taxes for 2 years in consideration of the damage caused to his property by the Zeidis. The firman was brought to Zabeed by an official of the Imam and it has been sent to the Sheikh at Bajil.

Heavy fighting is reported at Reima, but the reports are conflicting.

A dhow from Mokha reported to the Assistant Resident, Perim, on 2nd September 1920 that Italian soldiers had occupied Zabeed, their object being to help the Imam against the Idrisi. The dhow also reported that the Italians were buying houses and property at Zabeed at fancy prices. From subsequent reports the Assistant Resident, Perim, learnt that one Italian with one Indian merchant named Shakoor from Assab had landed about the 24th August

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August 1920 and were cordially welcomed by the Zeidis. The Political Officer, Hodeida, to whom I telegraphed for confirmation, has sent in two letters he has received from Ahmed Fetini, the Sheikh of Taif. According to the latter 3 Italians arrived at Khokha in an Italian ship on the 2nd September 1920 with a large quantity of goods and money and proceeded to Hais with the intention of sending the money to the Imam. The Political Officer, Hodeida, says that there is no news of any force having arrived, but that the statement in regard to the landing of the 3 Italians has been corroborated by Sheikh Omar Mizjaji, a Hodeida merchant, who brought the information before the arrival of the letters from Sheikh Ahmed Fetini. Omer Mizjaji said that according to his messenger from Zabeed, the Italians arrived in a dhow from Assab and not in a ship.

The motives of the Italians are said to be :-

(a) To help the Imam against the Idrisi and thereby to establish their influence in the Yemen.

(b) To establish an Italian port at Khokha for trading purposes, for which purpose they are endeavouring to come to an agreement with the Imam.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, has despatched a special messenger to Hais to verify the statements.

I have also received information of the intention of the French from Jibuti to establish themselves at Mocha for trade purposes. This news lacks confirmation.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin writes, in his diary dated 7th September 1920, that while discussing the events in Asir with the Idrisi he asked him about the aims and objects of the Akhwan forces in Asir and of the deputation that arrived at Sabia. The Idrisi replied that Asir affairs became specially complicated after the events in Muhail (vide News letter dated 30th July 1920) due to the treachery of Hasan bin Aidh on receipt of pecuniary assistance

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(377)

from the Sharif of Mecca and the promise of the grant to him of the port of Kunfida as a reward for his revolt. The Idrisi kept Ibn Saud's forces informed of these events and they made a sudden march on Abha, which they captured. Having been ordered by Ibn Saud to consult the Idrisi in all their movements in these parts, a deputation of the Akhwan came to consult him regarding their future actions. The Akhwan themselves wished to march on Sada and Sana or proceed on Kunfida, but the Idrisi advised them to direct their energies towards the north (i.e. Hedjaz). They agreed to his proposal and have proceeded north. They have already captured Abdullah ibn Zafar, one of the two chief Sheikh of Beni Shihr and realised from him £100/- which according to his own statement he had received from the Sharif of Mecca. The Sheikh has been warned that if it is proved that he received more than that sum, he will lose his head.

Captain Fazluddin says that speaking about the political importance of the Akhwan movement as a whole, the Idrisi remarked. "I am afraid the Akhwan movement fearfully lacks that cohesion, organisation and tact which alone can ensure the stability of such a movement. It is true, Ibn Saud has, of late, caused certain nomad tribes of central Arabia to settle in villages and groups of villages and allotted to them land for cultivation, which fact has materially increased his strength and importance, but inasmuchas they neither organize the country they take, nor control it by taking hostages and other precautions, nor they administer it on proper lines, their movement is not likely to last long. I am saying this from my own 11 years of experience in dealing with kabials (tribes). Their forces consist merely of promiscuous jumble of different tribes with no cohesion in them except a somewhat vague and fanatical notion of Reformation of Religion ill understood by the

rank

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rank and file and their aims are no more than a forcible imposition of their strict and puritanical doctrines in a most untactful, uncompromising and rude manner without the least idea of a proper Government or administration. Their simple ideas of unity of God and equality of mankind do appeal to popular fancy, and they carry everything before them in a fit of fired fancy by sheer force of numbers, but their bigotry, fanaticism and narrowmindedness in treating those who differ from them even in such small matters as smoking or the chewing of tobacco, as Kafirs, leaves in the minds of the people nothing but hatred and repulsion against them. Although, the people of Abha have met with merely their deserts on being thus treated by Ibn Saud's men, but in reality, the prohibition of the burial of the dead bodies of those killed in the town during the massacre which followed their entry into it was simply inhuman. I knew the fact, but have not discussed this point with the deputation, as I knew that according to their beliefs, they (the dead) were apostates and the body of an apostate is not respected."

Captain Fazluddin further says that on being asked whether he will assist Ibn Saud in his invasion of Mecca, the Idrisi replied "We are not allowed to fight in the sacred precincts of Kaaba, nor does Ibn Saud intend to fight in Mecca. All that he will do is to besiege Mecca after taking Taif and cut off its communications. I shall avoid practical assistance as far as possible and in fact he does not stand in need of my assistance. As regards Kunfida, I am still patiently awaiting the decision of the British Governme

It appears from the further details received of the fighting in Abha, that although the Akhwans did not suffer many casualties in the open fighting outside Abha, they lost more than 1000 men at the hands of

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of snipers concealed in selected spots on the outskirts of the town. On their entry, the Akhwans carried out a three days plunder and general massacre ~~and plunder~~ of young and old. In the course of this the chief sufferers were the strangers, nearly all of whom were ex-Turkish officials and their families, who had none with whom to take refuge in the surrounding country. The total amount of loot collected by the Akhwans from Abha was 35,000 dollars, out of which 1/5th went to the Akhwans Bait-el-Mal. The balance was distributed amongst the Akhwan troops. The Idrisi troops did not share the booty.

Nearly all the Turkish arms and ammunition in Abha were distributed by Hasan ibn Aidh amongst the Kabials before his flight from the town, and the remnant was taken over by the Akhwan Bait-el-Mal. After the surrender of Hasan Aidh and Mahomed Abdul Rehman and their party to the Akhwans, they were brought to Abha and made to dig out the parts of 5 guns which they had concealed underground. Of these guns three small ones have been taken north by the Akhwans. The remainder, which are big guns, being still at Abha.

The Akhwan Commander prohibited the burial of the dead bodies of the people of Abha, killed in the town and left them exposed, until an epidemic broke out amongst the Akhwan troops, hundreds of whom are said to have fallen a prey to this scourge.

On their departure for the north the Akhwans left behind a detachment of 150 men to await the return of the deputation which went to meet the Idrisi at Sabia.

The total sum of money received by Hasan Aidh from King Hussein on different occasions since the Turkish evacuation of Asir amounted to £11,000. The King also promised him Kunfida in the event of his successful revolt against the Idrisi.

The Idrisi has received a present of two horses from Ibn Saud and has sent him in return several bags of rice, flour

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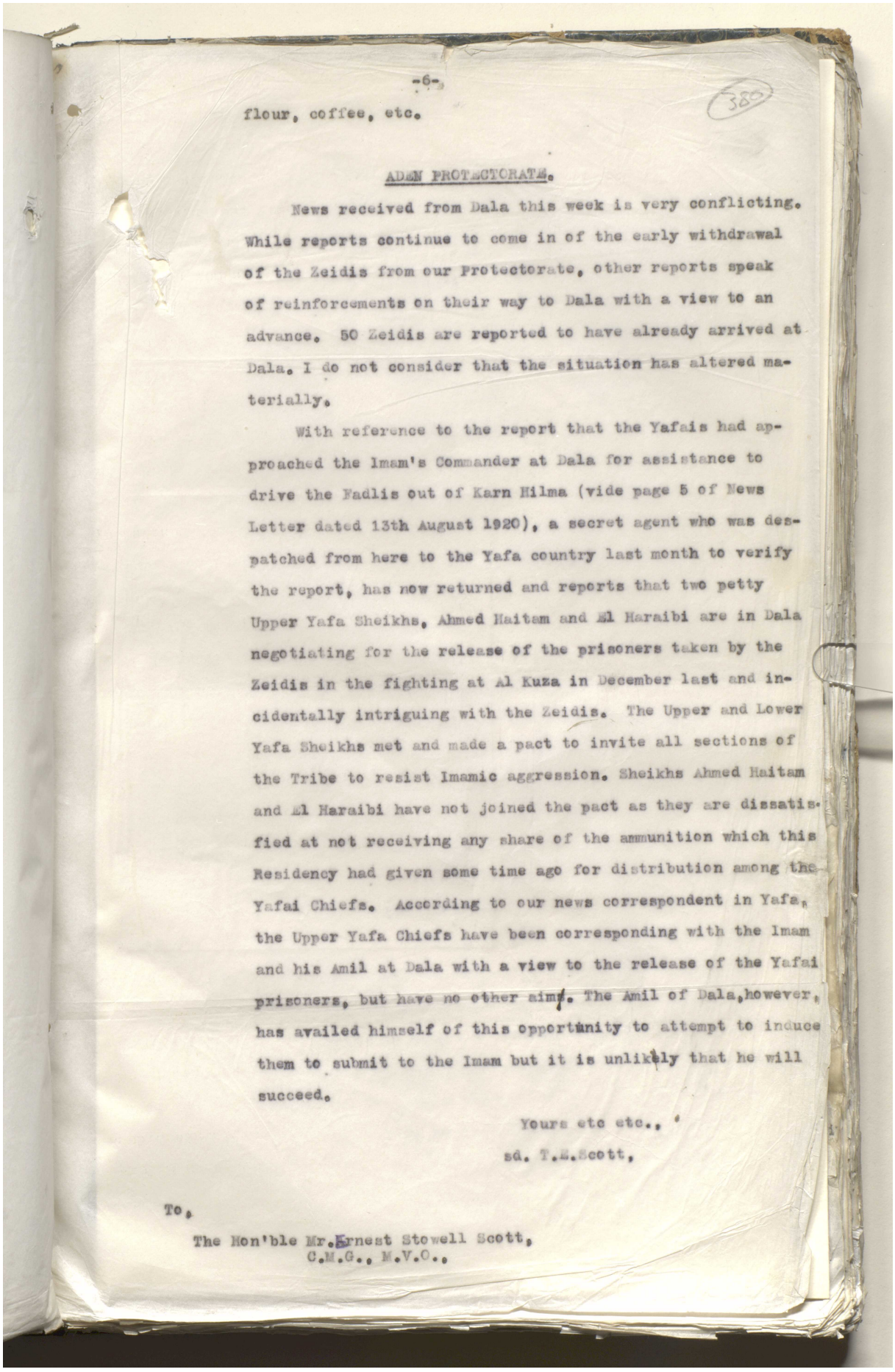

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flour, coffee, etc.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

News received from Dala this week is very conflicting. While reports continue to come in of the early withdrawal of the Zeidis from our Protectorate, other reports speak of reinforcements on their way to Dala with a view to an advance. 50 Zeidis are reported to have already arrived at Dala. I do not consider that the situation has altered materially.

With reference to the report that the Yafais had approached the Imam's Commander at Dala for assistance to drive the Fadlis out of Karn Hilma (vide page 5 of News Letter dated 13th August 1920), a secret agent who was despatched from here to the Yafa country last month to verify the report, has now returned and reports that two petty Upper Yafa Sheikhs, Ahmed Haitam and Al Haraibi are in Dala negotiating for the release of the prisoners taken by the Zeidis in the fighting at Al Kuza in December last and incidentally intriguing with the Zeidis. The Upper and Lower Yafa Sheikhs met and made a pact to invite all sections of the Tribe to resist Imamic aggression. Sheikhs Ahmed Haitam and Al Haraibi have not joined the pact as they are dissatisfied at not receiving any share of the ammunition which this Residency had given some time ago for distribution among the Yafai Chiefs. According to our news correspondent in Yafa, the Upper Yafa Chiefs have been corresponding with the Imam and his Amil at Dala with a view to the release of the Yafai prisoners, but have no other aims. The Amil of Dala, however, has availed himself of this opportunity to attempt to induce them to submit to the Imam but it is unlikely that he will succeed.

Yours etc etc.,

sd. T.E.Scott,

To,

The Hon'ble Mr. Ernest Stowell Scott,
C.M.G., M.V.O.,

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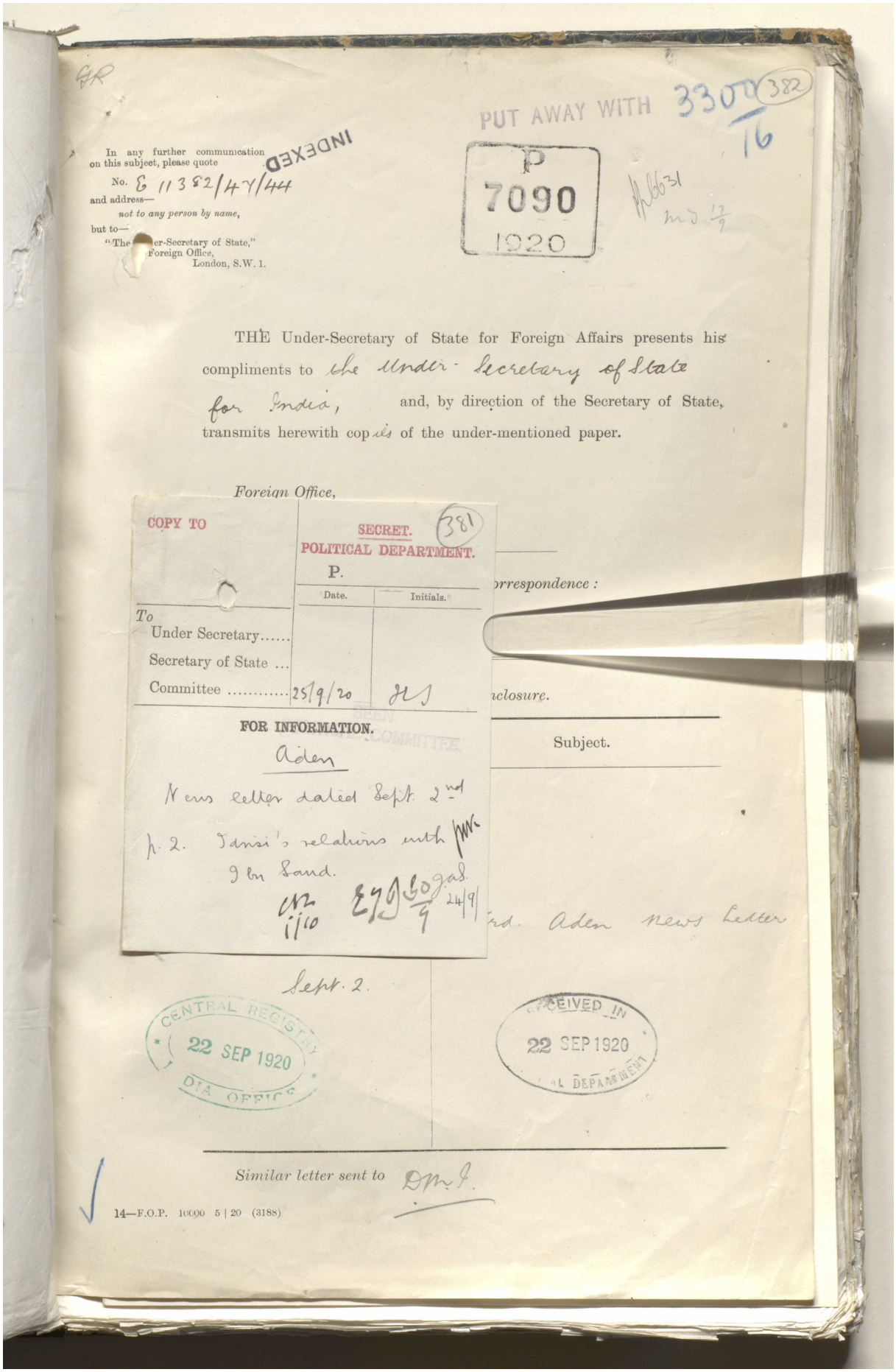

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Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

P 7090 1920

P.6631 m.d. 17/9

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

COPY TO

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....		
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	25/9/20	JRJ

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden
News letter dated Sept. 2nd
p. 2. Idrisi's relations with Imam
& Ibn Saud.
M 1110 E 7961 Gogas 24/9

381

...rrespondence :

...nclosure.

Subject.

...rd. Aden news letter

Sept. 2.

CENTRAL REGISTRY 22 SEP 1920 INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED IN 22 SEP 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Similar letter sent to I.O.

14—F.O.P. 10000 5 | 20 (3188)

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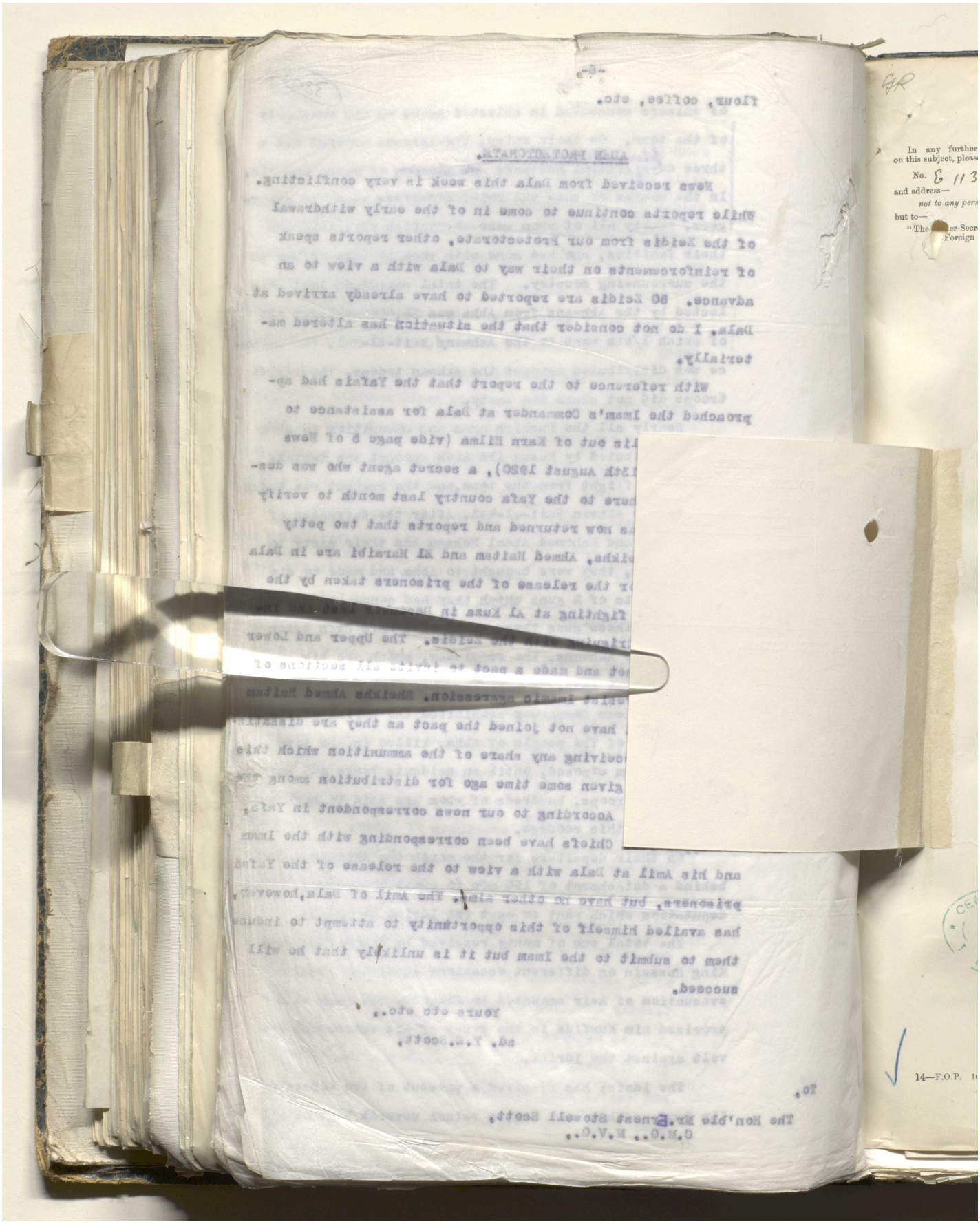

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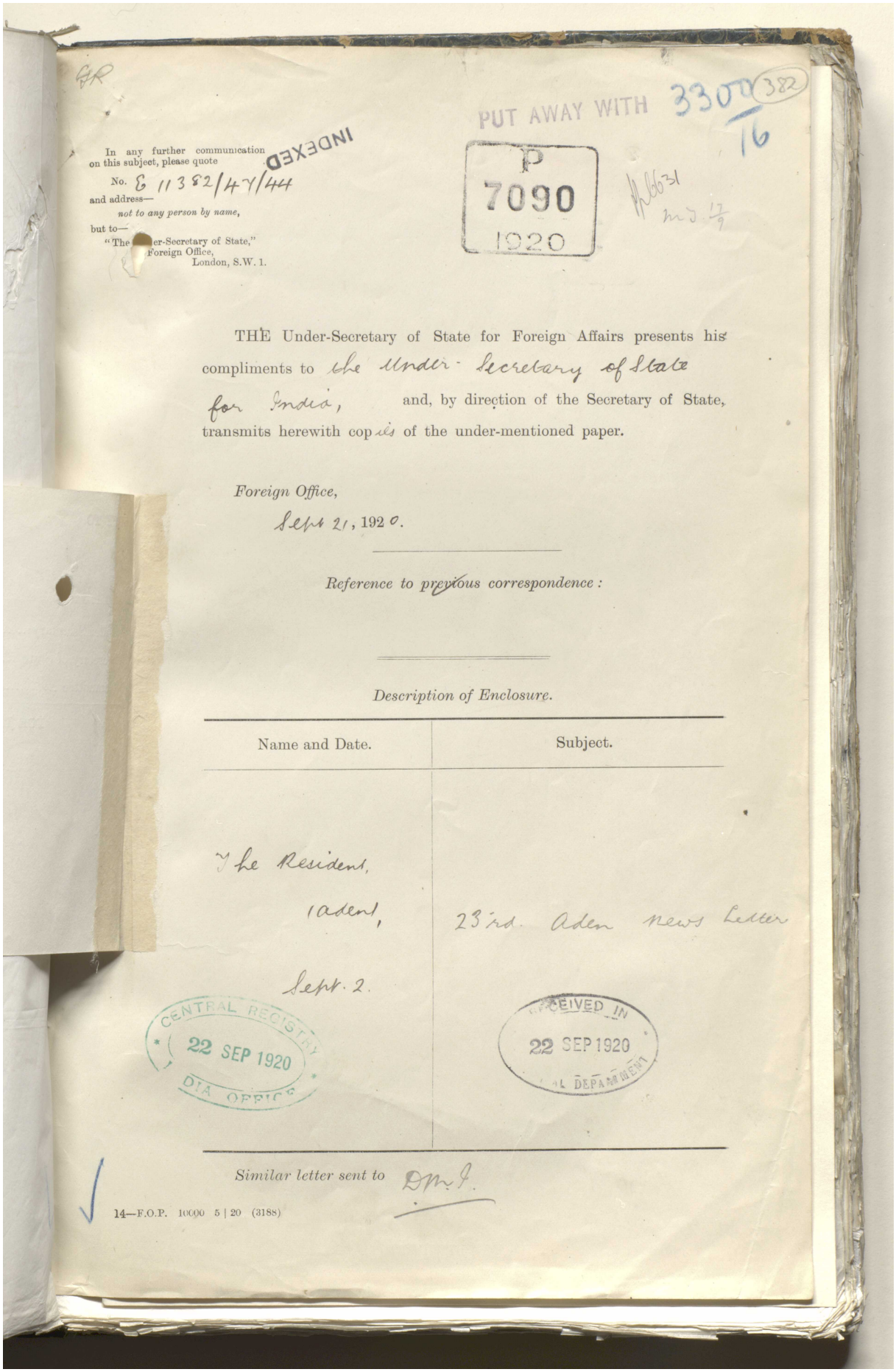

GR

INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 11382/47/44
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

PUT AWAY WITH 3300 (382) 16

P 7090 1920

Pl 6631 m.d. 17/9

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Sept 21, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
The Resident, Aden, Sept. 2.	23rd. Aden News Letter

CENTRAL REGISTRY 22 SEP 1920 DIA OFFICE

RECEIVED IN 22 SEP 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Similar letter sent to D.M.I.

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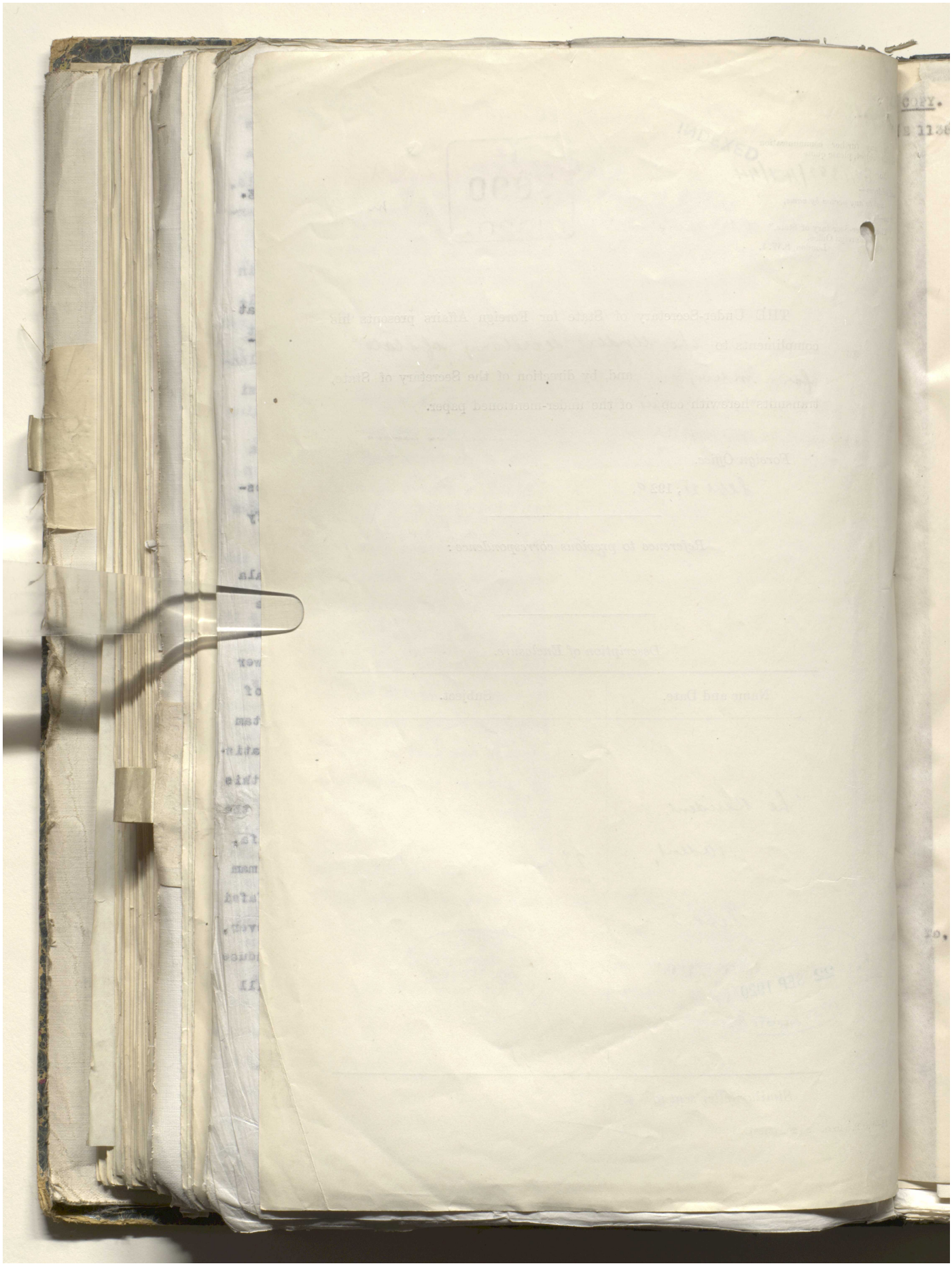

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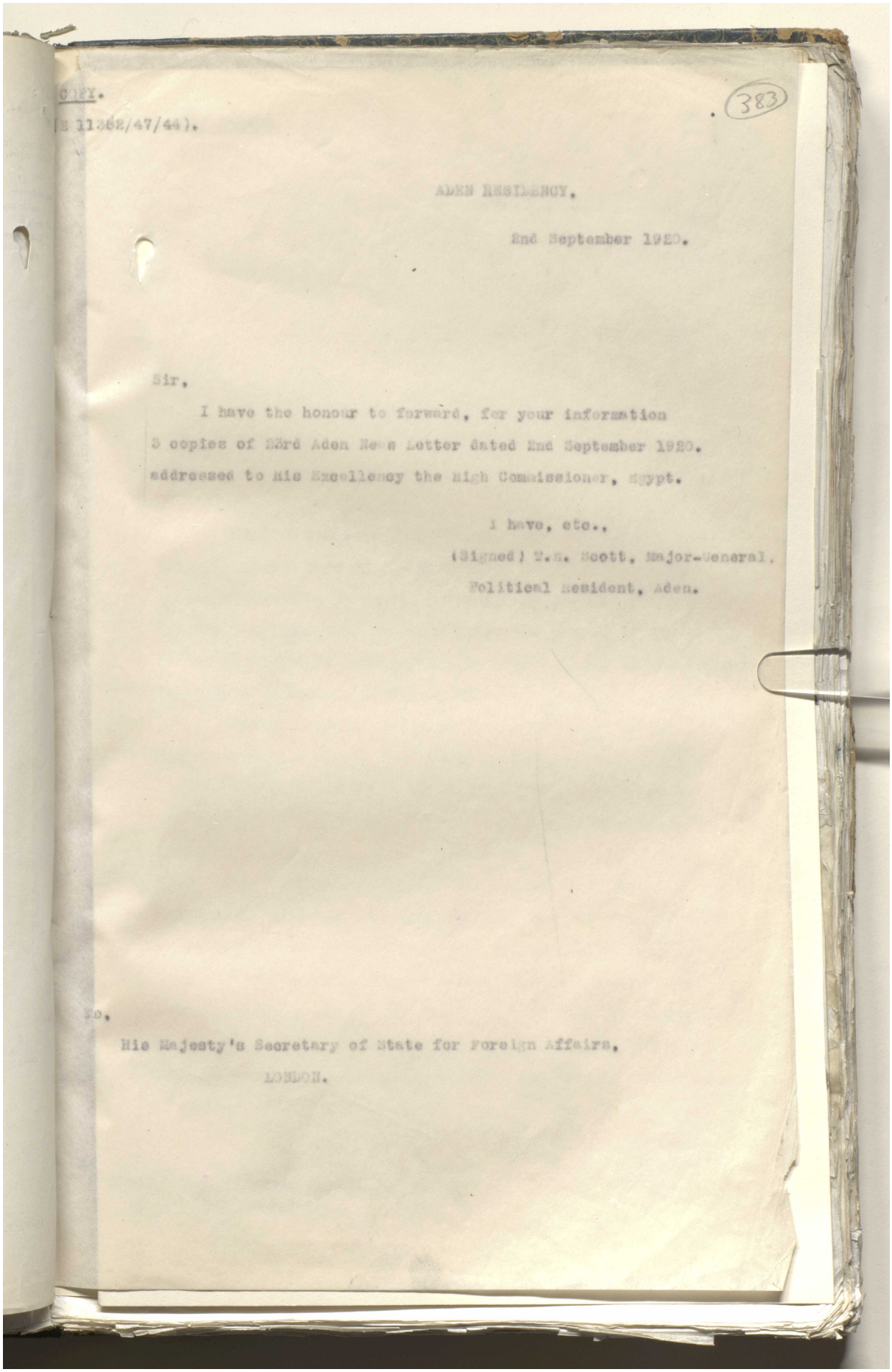

COPY.
(P 11362/47/44).

383

ADEN RESIDENCY,

2nd September 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for your information 3 copies of 283rd Aden News Letter dated 2nd September 1920, addressed to His Excellency the High Commissioner, Egypt.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) T.H. Scott, Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

No.

His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
LONDON.

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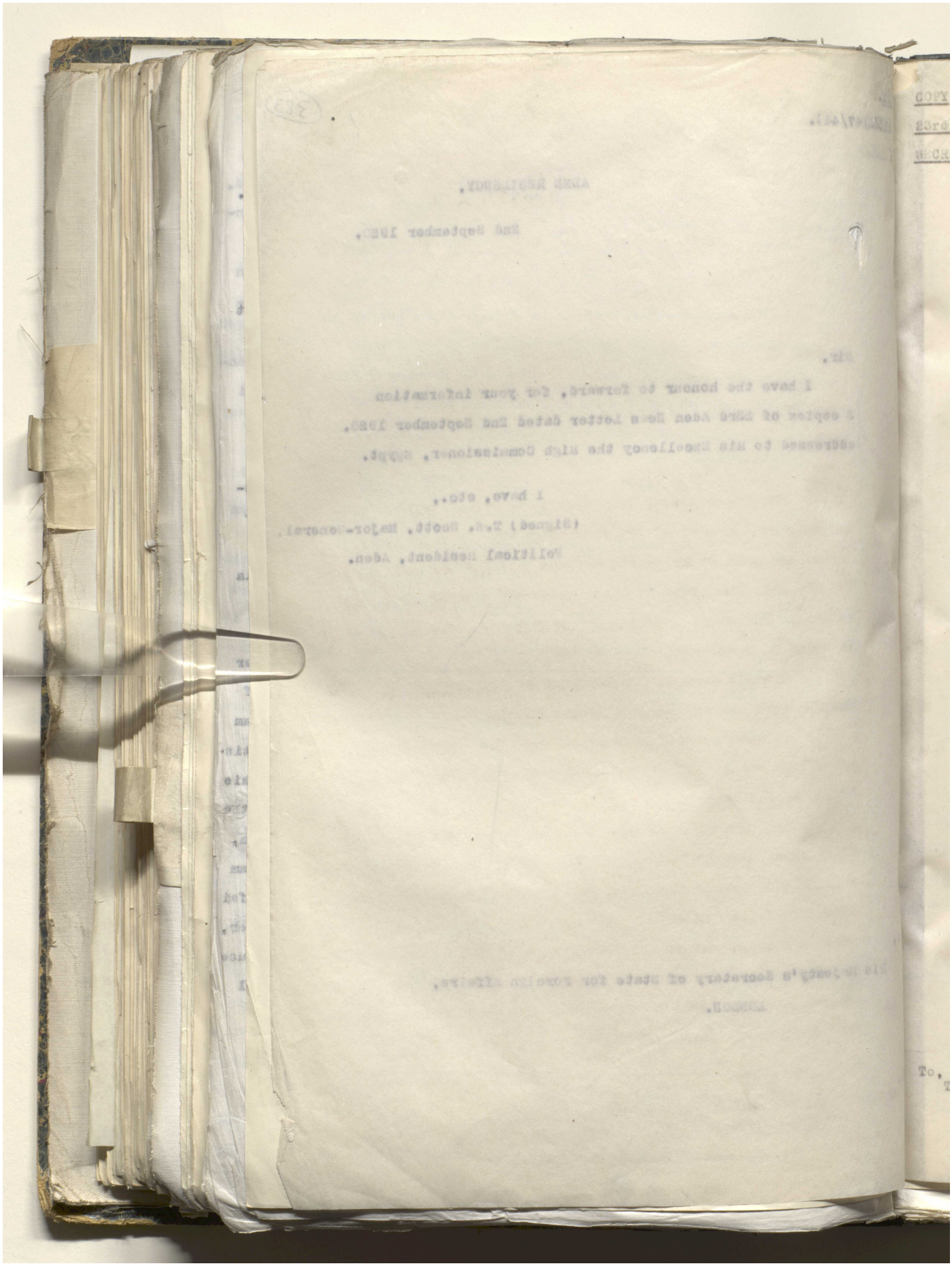

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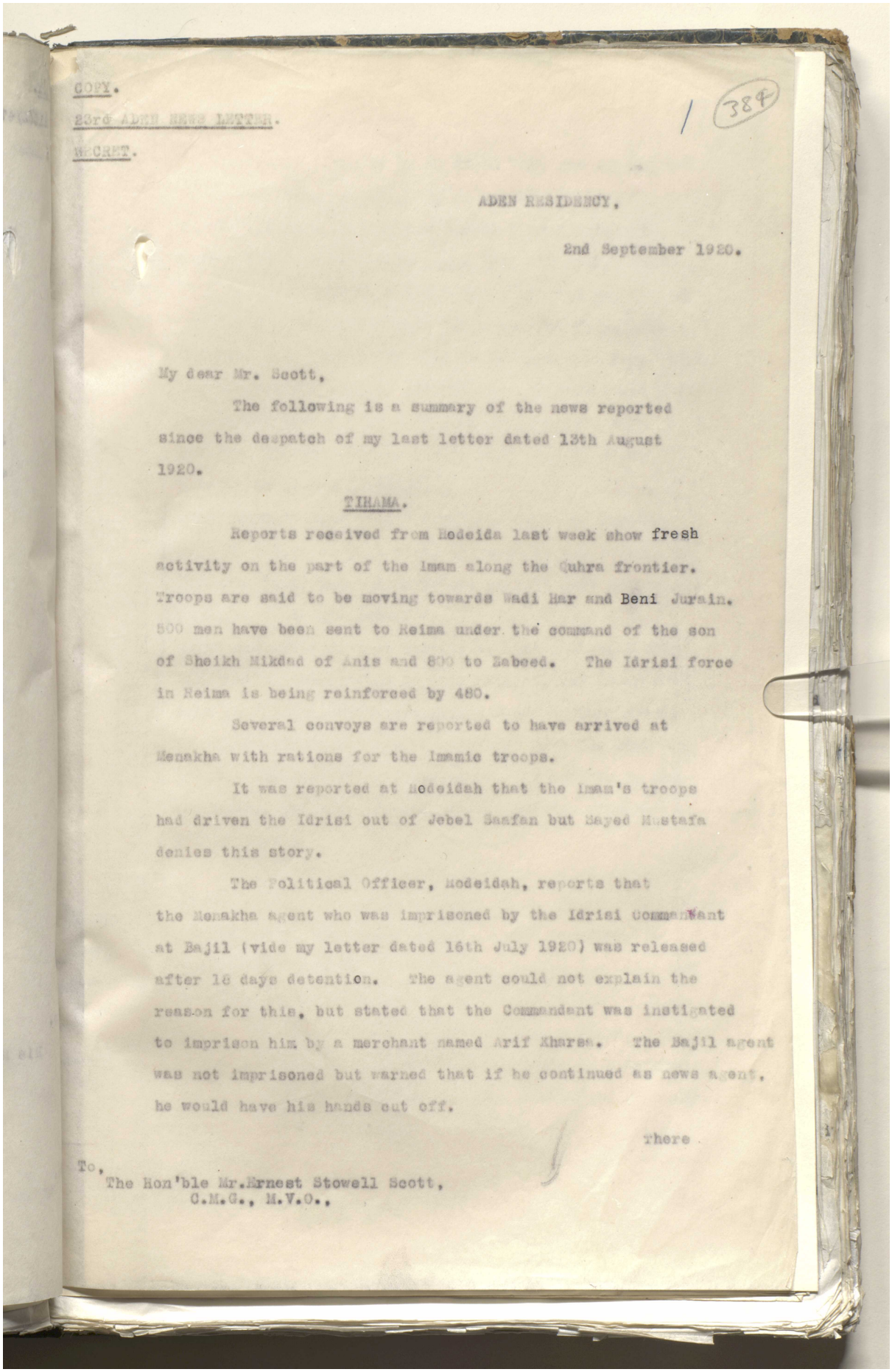

COPY.

23rd ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

/ 384

ADEN RESIDENCY,

2nd September 1920.

My dear Mr. Scott,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 13th August 1920.

TIHAMA.

Reports received from Hodeida last week show fresh activity on the part of the Imam along the Quhra frontier. Troops are said to be moving towards Wadi Har and Beni Jurain. 800 men have been sent to Reima under the command of the son of Sheikh Mikdad of Anis and 800 to Zabeed. The Idrisi force in Reima is being reinforced by 480.

Several convoys are reported to have arrived at Menakha with rations for the Immamic troops.

It was reported at Hodeidah that the Imam's troops had driven the Idrisi out of Jebel Saafan but Sayed Mustafa denies this story.

The Political Officer, Hodeidah, reports that the Menakha agent who was imprisoned by the Idrisi Commandant at Bajil (vide my letter dated 16th July 1920) was released after 18 days detention. The agent could not explain the reason for this, but stated that the Commandant was instigated to imprison him by a merchant named Arif Kharas. The Bajil agent was not imprisoned but warned that if he continued as news agent, he would have his hands cut off.

There

To,
The Hon'ble Mr. Ernest Stowell Scott,
C.M.G., M.V.O.,

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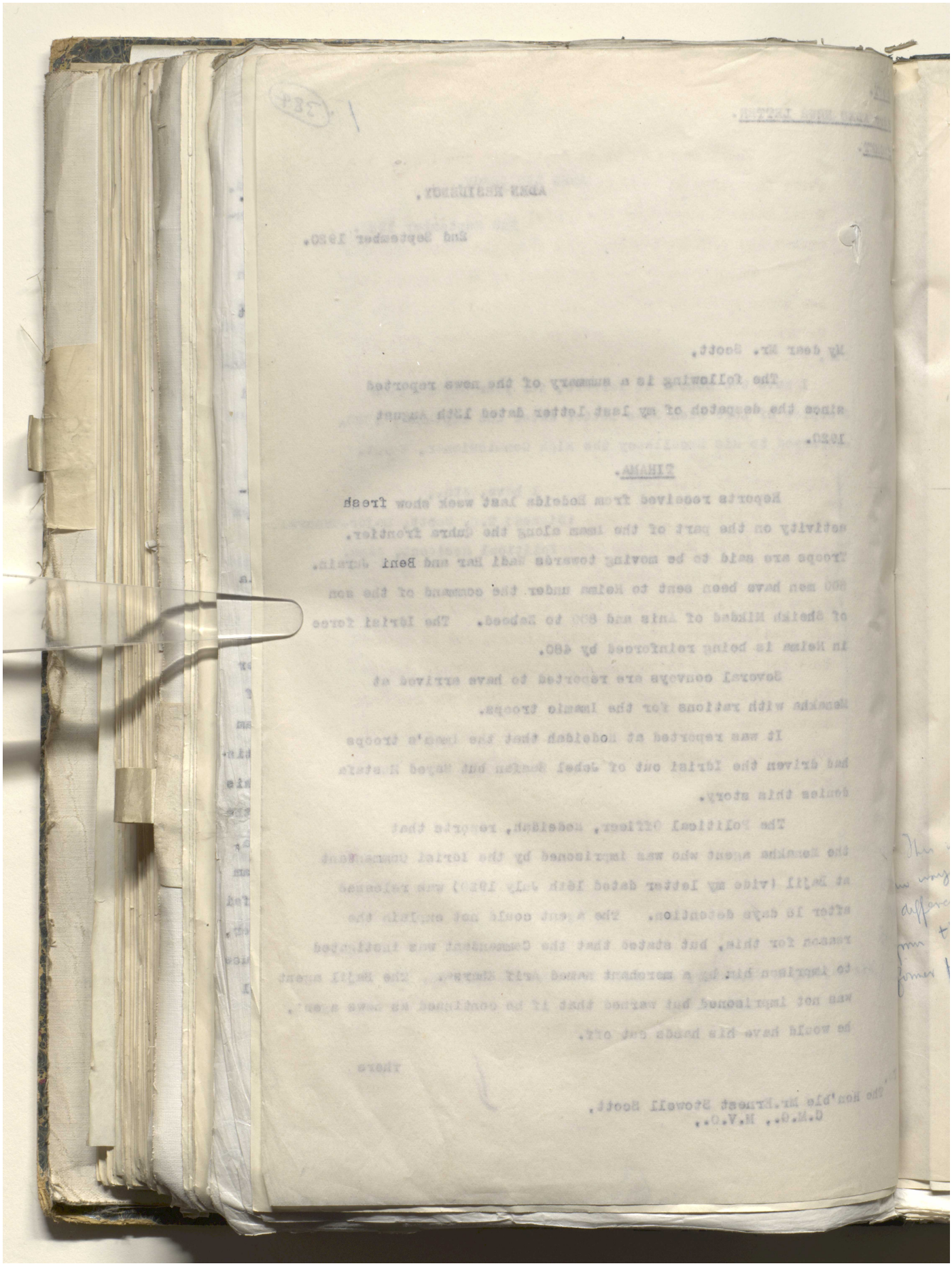

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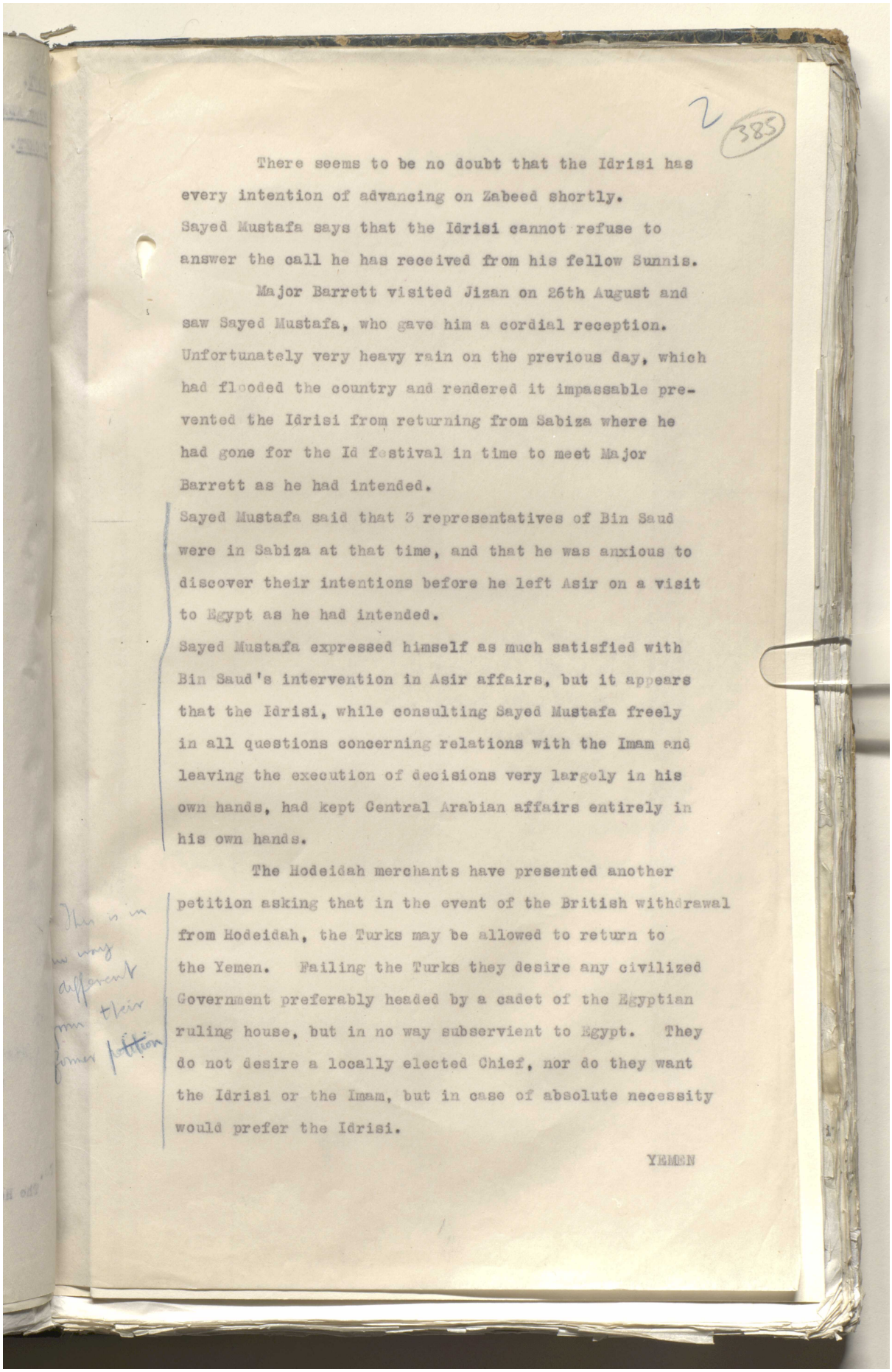

2 385

There seems to be no doubt that the Idrisi has every intention of advancing on Zabeed shortly. Sayed Mustafa says that the Idrisi cannot refuse to answer the call he has received from his fellow Sunnis.

Major Barrett visited Jizan on 26th August and saw Sayed Mustafa, who gave him a cordial reception. Unfortunately very heavy rain on the previous day, which had flooded the country and rendered it impassable prevented the Idrisi from returning from Sabiza where he had gone for the Id festival in time to meet Major Barrett as he had intended.

Sayed Mustafa said that 3 representatives of Bin Saud were in Sabiza at that time, and that he was anxious to discover their intentions before he left Asir on a visit to Egypt as he had intended.

Sayed Mustafa expressed himself as much satisfied with Bin Saud's intervention in Asir affairs, but it appears that the Idrisi, while consulting Sayed Mustafa freely in all questions concerning relations with the Imam and leaving the execution of decisions very largely in his own hands, had kept Central Arabian affairs entirely in his own hands.

The Hodeidah merchants have presented another petition asking that in the event of the British withdrawal from Hodeidah, the Turks may be allowed to return to the Yemen. Failing the Turks they desire any civilized Government preferably headed by a cadet of the Egyptian ruling house, but in no way subservient to Egypt. They do not desire a locally elected Chief, nor do they want the Idrisi or the Imam, but in case of absolute necessity would prefer the Idrisi.

This is in no way different from their former petition

YEMEN

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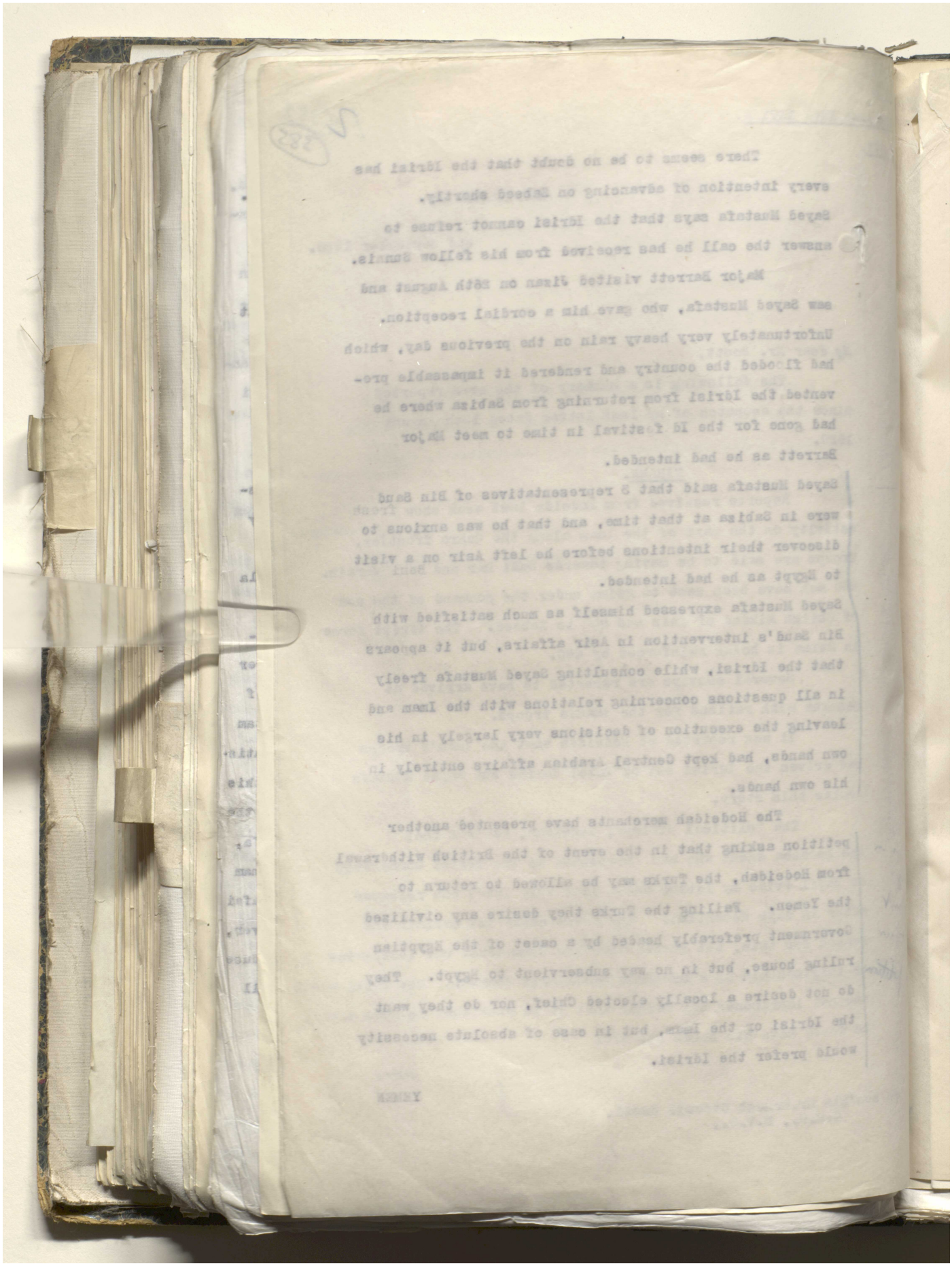

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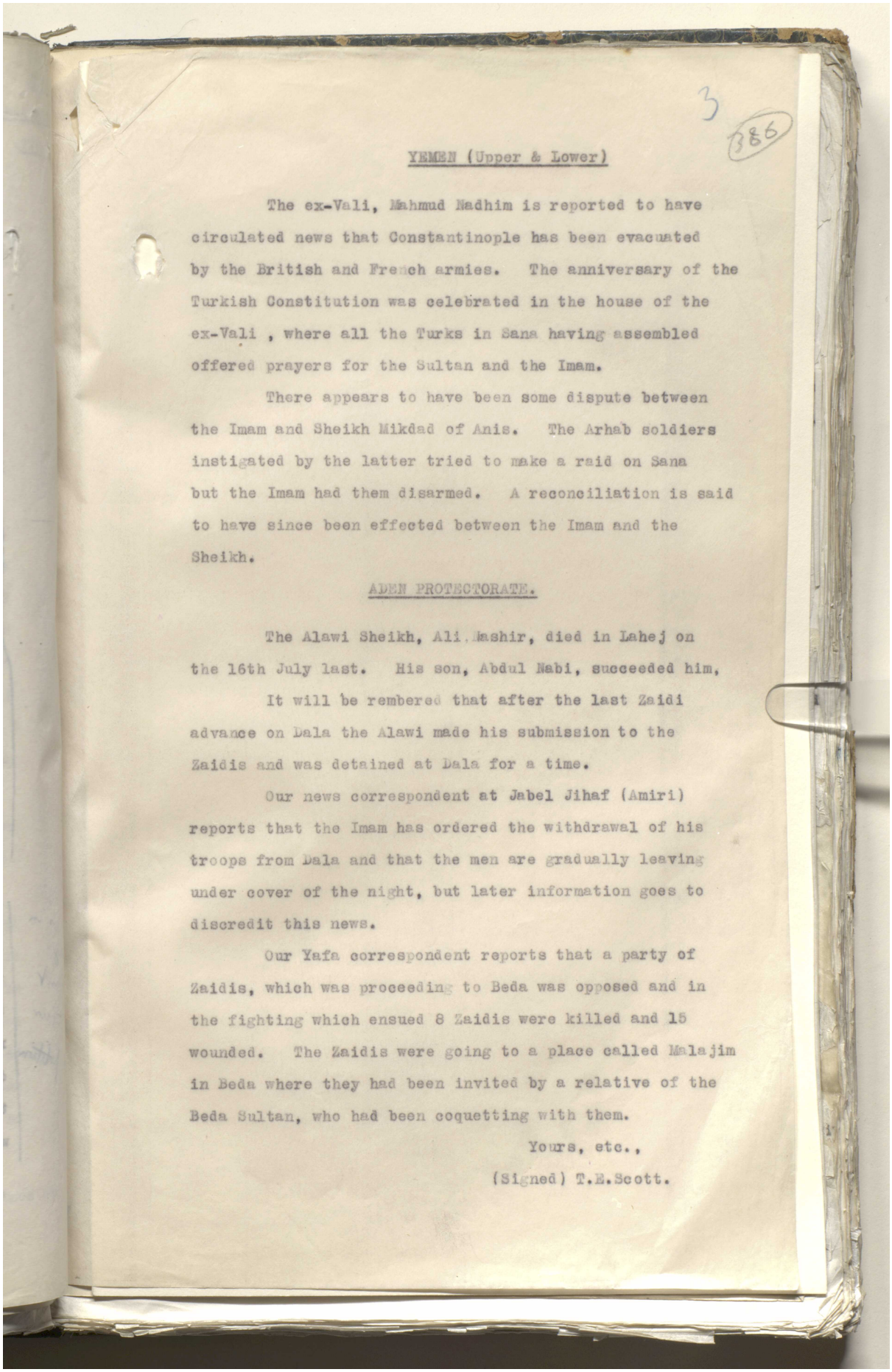

3
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YEMEN (Upper & Lower)

The ex-Vali, Mahmud Nadhim is reported to have circulated news that Constantinople has been evacuated by the British and French armies. The anniversary of the Turkish Constitution was celebrated in the house of the ex-Vali , where all the Turks in Sana having assembled offered prayers for the Sultan and the Imam.

There appears to have been some dispute between the Imam and Sheikh Mikdad of Anis. The Arhab soldiers instigated by the latter tried to make a raid on Sana but the Imam had them disarmed. A reconciliation is said to have since been effected between the Imam and the Sheikh.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Alawi Sheikh, Ali Nashir, died in Lahej on the 16th July last. His son, Abdul Nabi, succeeded him.

It will be rembered that after the last Zaidi advance on Dala the Alawi made his submission to the Zaidis and was detained at Dala for a time.

Our news correspondent at Jabel Jihaf (Amiri) reports that the Imam has ordered the withdrawal of his troops from Dala and that the men are gradually leaving under cover of the night, but later information goes to discredit this news.

Our Yafa correspondent reports that a party of Zaidis, which was proceeding to Beda was opposed and in the fighting which ensued 8 Zaidis were killed and 15 wounded. The Zaidis were going to a place called Malajim in Beda where they had been invited by a relative of the Beda Sultan, who had been coquetting with them.

Yours, etc.,
(Signed) T.E.Scott.

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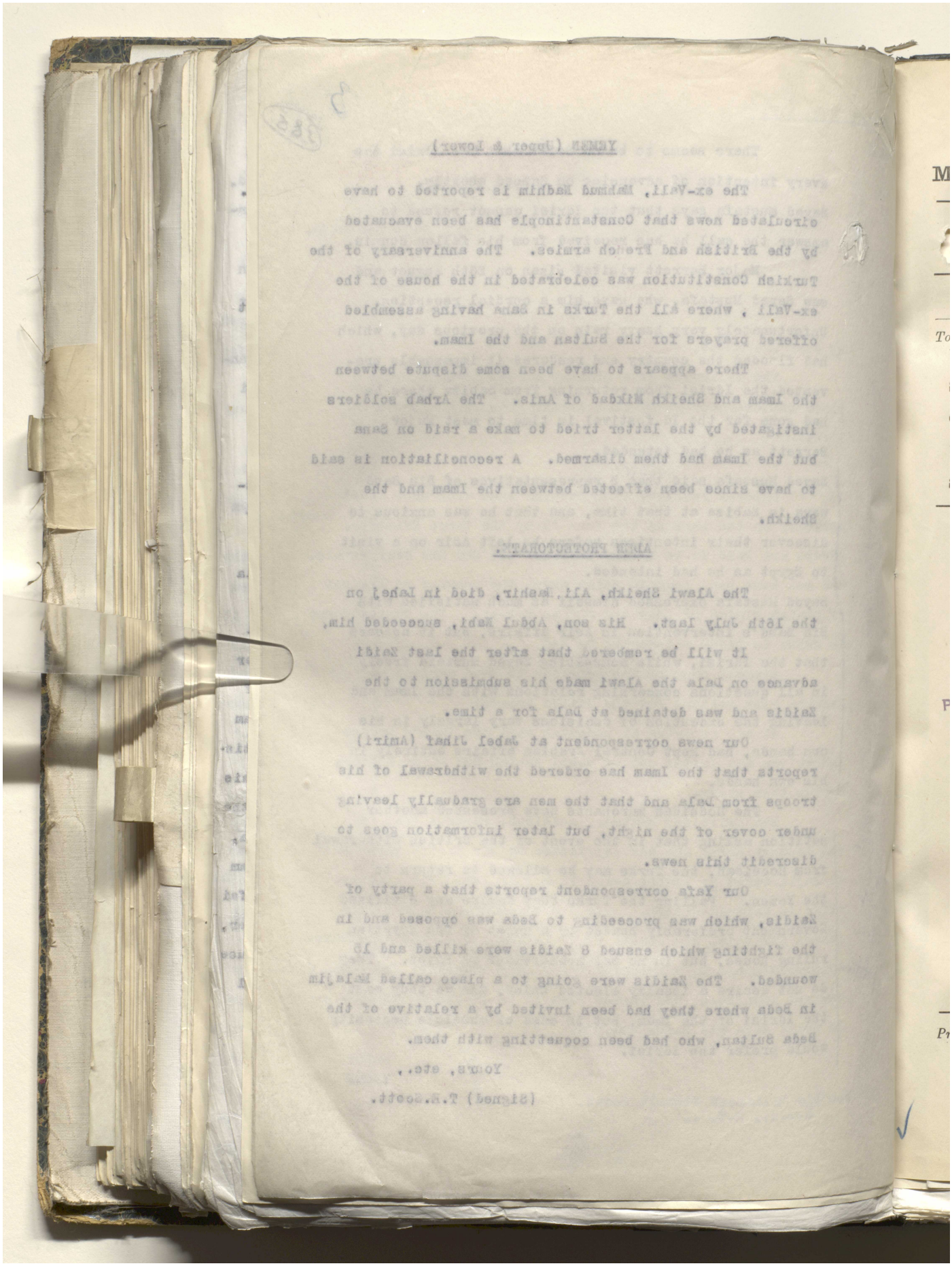

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Minute Paper.

Register No. 6631

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SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated
Rec. 19 .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..			Aden
Secretary of State.			News Letter No 22 for the
Committee.....	8/9/20	HS	fortnight ending 13th August
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to ~~I.G.I.~~ (Mesopotamia ~~Bagdad~~ ". (These letters go to Iraq, I think?)

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

FOR INFORMATION.

p. 1. Turkish nationalist propaganda in Yemen.

p. 3 Details regarding the capture of Ebha by the Asbwan forces.

p. 4 No 3 of the conditions offered to Hasan bin Aidh is noteworthy.

#: p. 5. The description of the fighting methods and politico-religious aims of the Asbwan forces is ~~interesting~~.

The contents of this despatch will, it is to be feared, lend to harden the heart of the F.O. against Ibn Saud.

#: This is interesting H.S. 8/9/20

Previous Papers :—

10 1717 I 1351 2000 9/19

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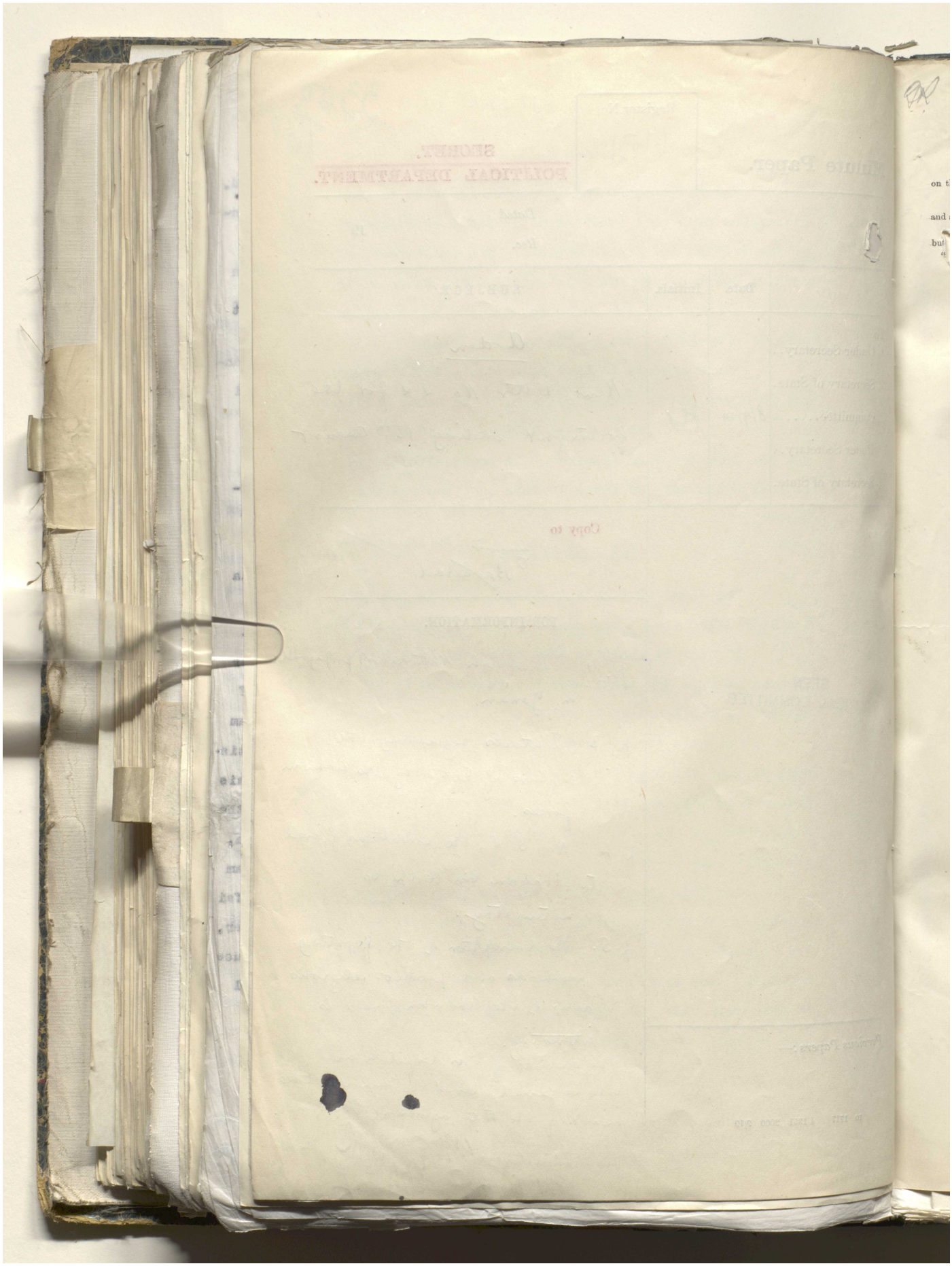

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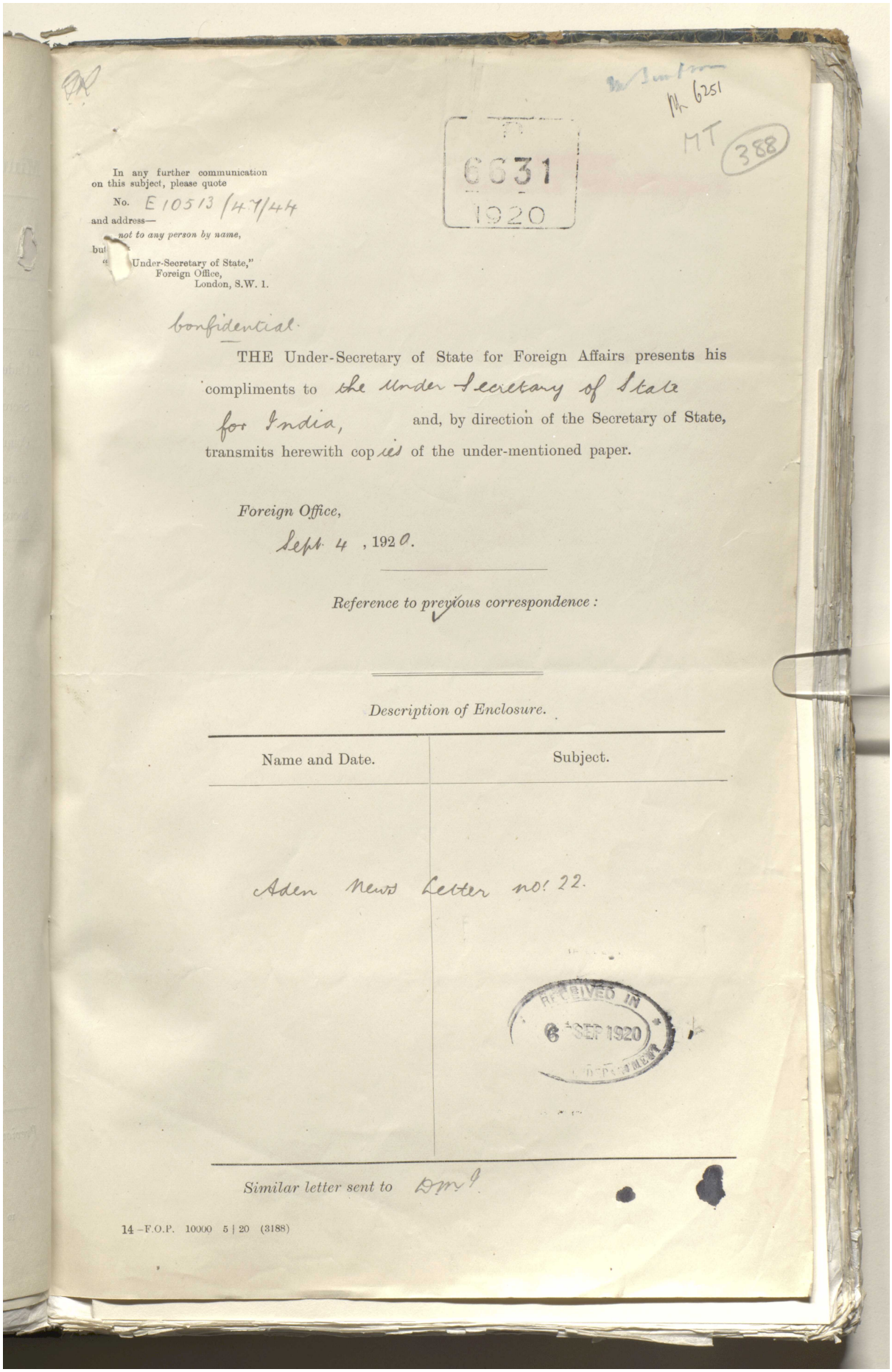

6631
1920

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 10513/47/44
and address—
not to any person by name,
but
"Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

Confidential.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Sept 4, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Aden News Letter no: 22.	

RECEIVED IN
6 SEP 1920
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to Dom!

14—F.O.P. 10000 5 | 20 (3188)

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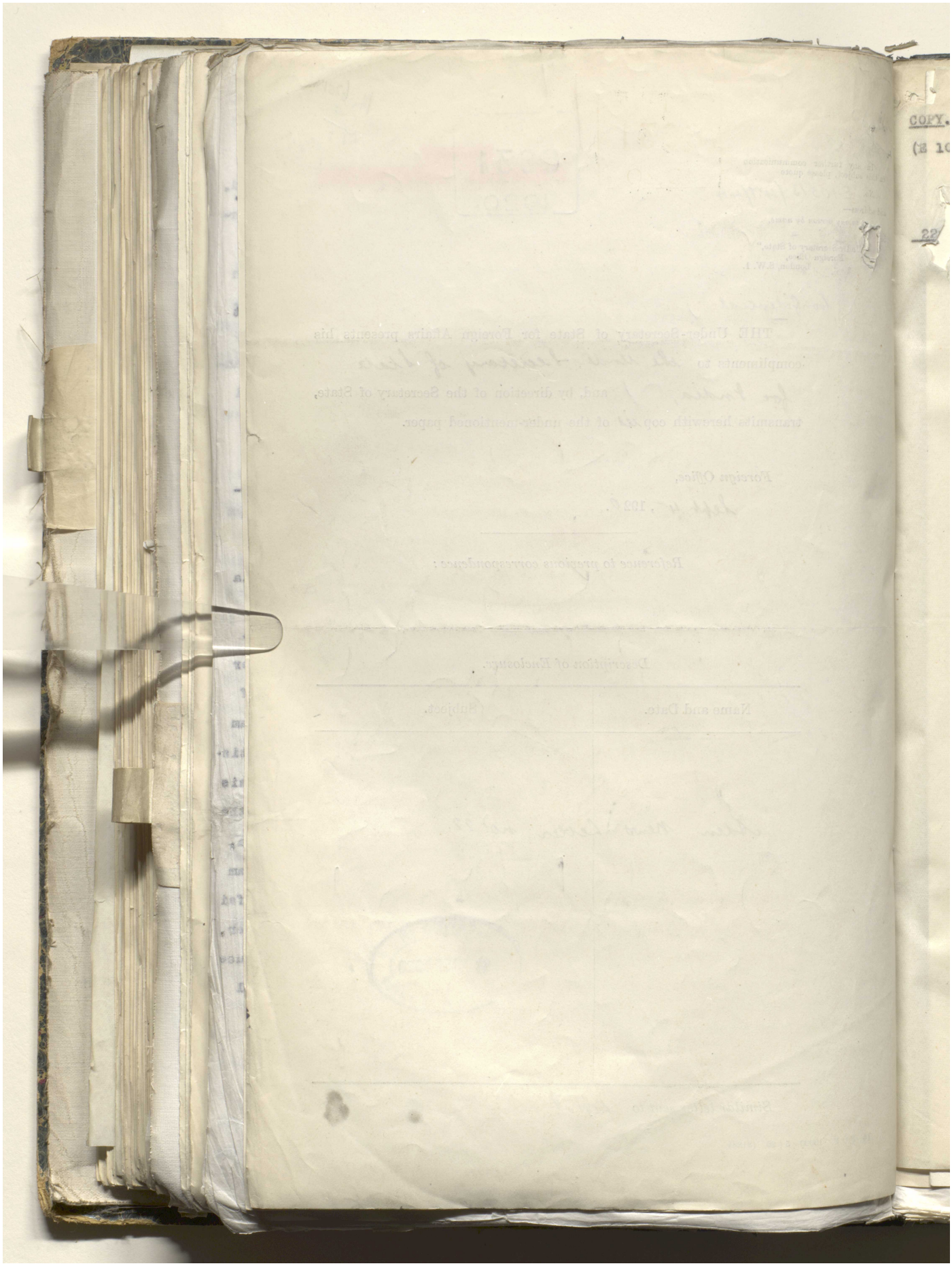

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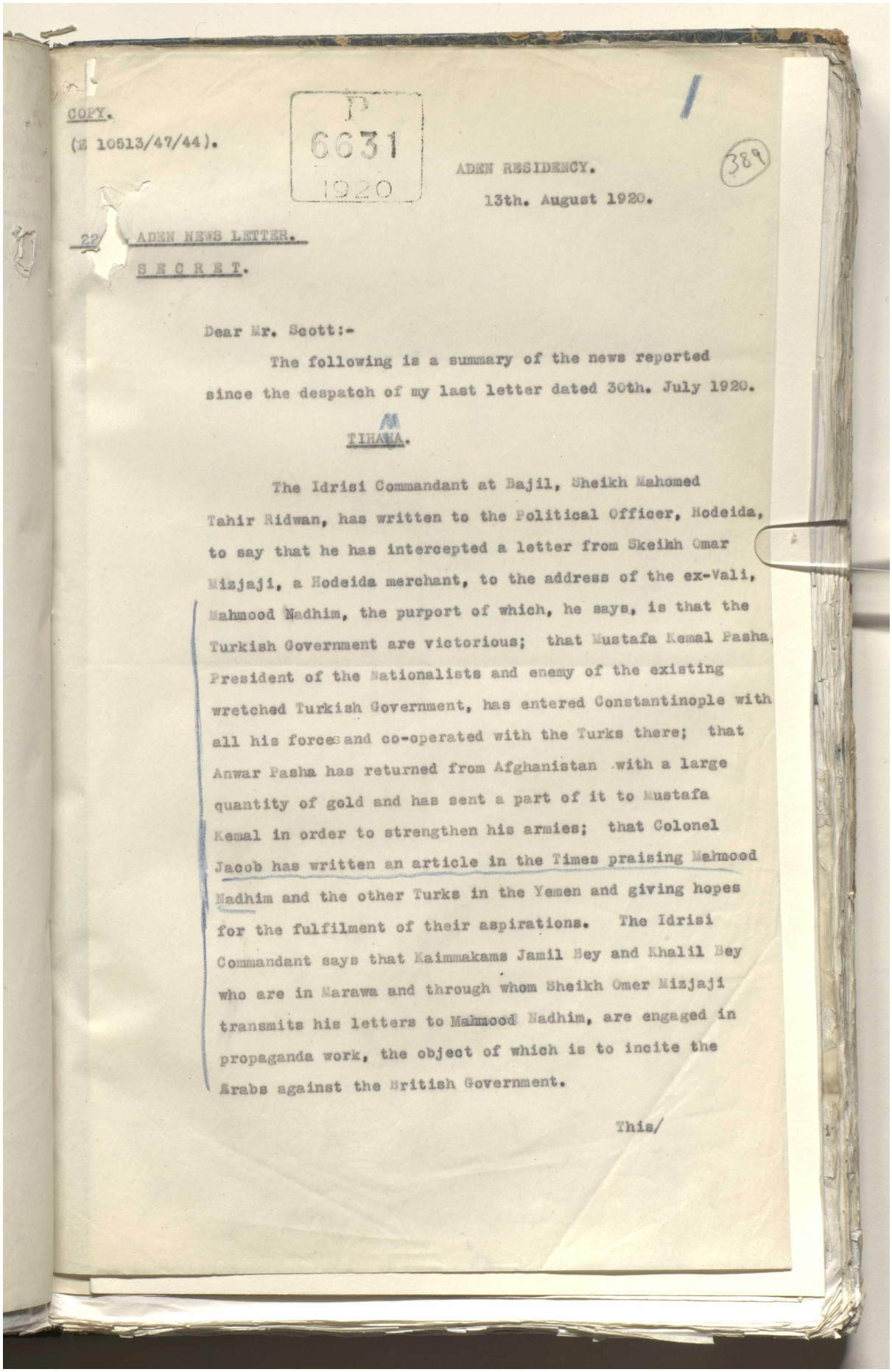

COPY.

(E 10513/47/44).

P 6631 1920

389

ADEN RESIDENCY.

13th. August 1920.

22 ADEN NEWS LETTER.

S E C R E T.

Dear Mr. Scott:-

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 30th. July 1920.

TIHAMA.

The Idrisi Commandant at Bajil, Sheikh Mahomed Tahir Ridwan, has written to the Political Officer, Hodeida, to say that he has intercepted a letter from Skeikh Omar Mizjaji, a Hodeida merchant, to the address of the ex-Vali, Mahmood Nadhim, the purport of which, he says, is that the Turkish Government are victorious; that Mustafa Kemal Pasha, President of the Nationalists and enemy of the existing wretched Turkish Government, has entered Constantinople with all his forces and co-operated with the Turks there; that Anwar Pasha has returned from Afghanistan with a large quantity of gold and has sent a part of it to Mustafa Kemal in order to strengthen his armies; that Colonel Jacob has written an article in the Times praising Mahmood Nadhim and the other Turks in the Yemen and giving hopes for the fulfilment of their aspirations. The Idrisi Commandant says that Kaimmakams Jamil Bey and Khalil Bey who are in Marawa and through whom Sheikh Omer Mizjaji transmits his letters to Mahmood Nadhim, are engaged in propaganda work, the object of which is to incite the Arabs against the British Government.

This/

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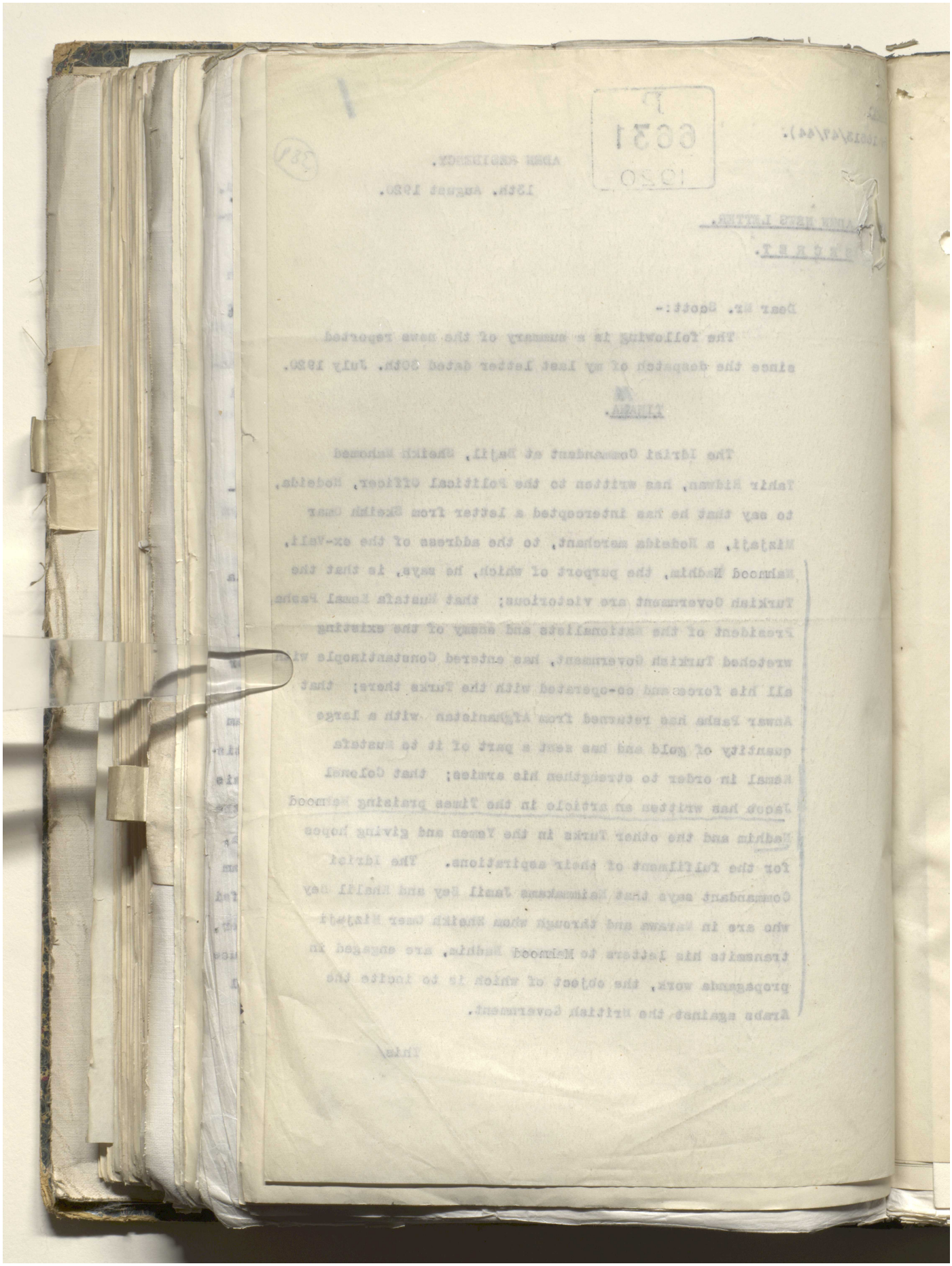

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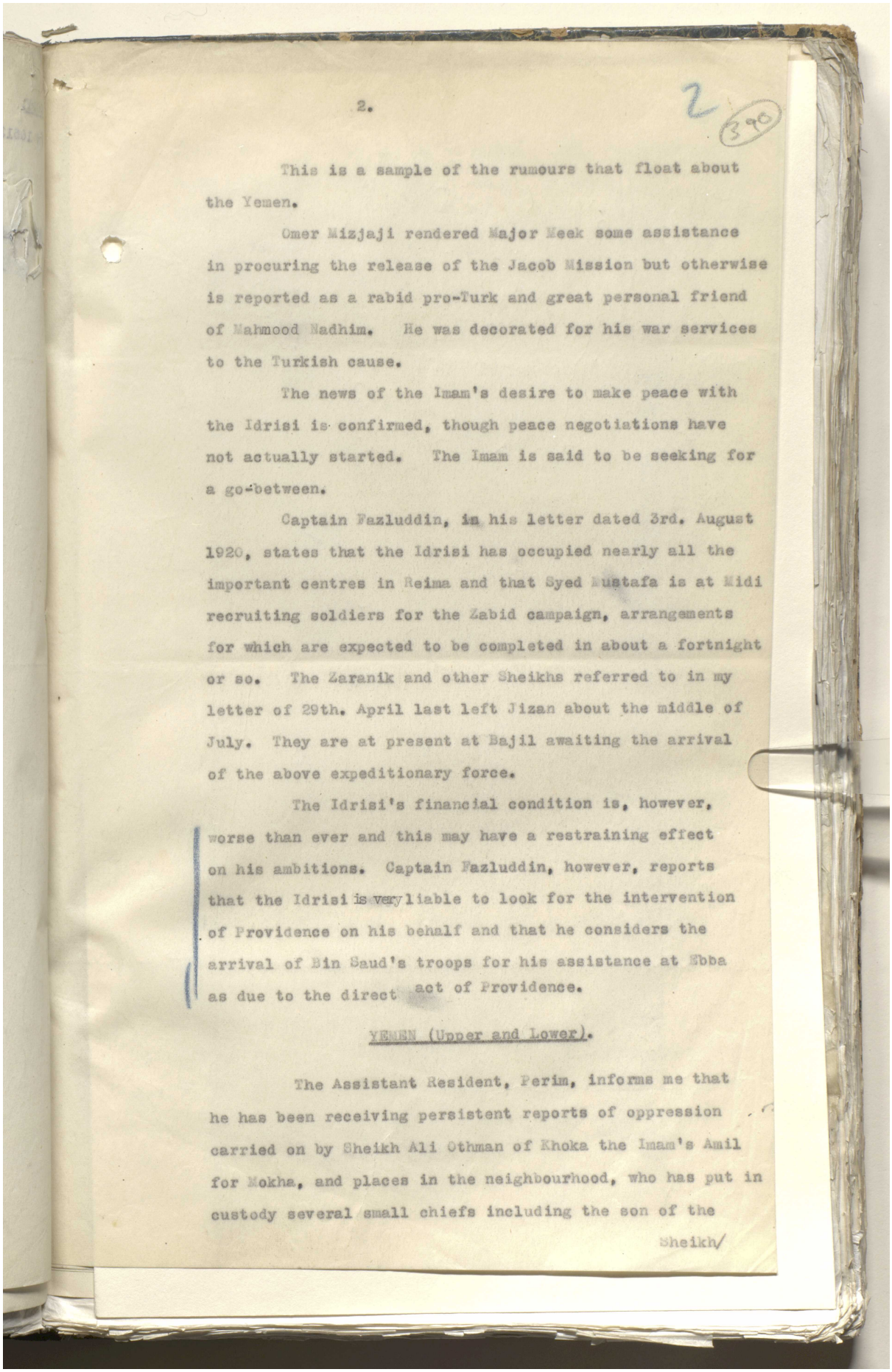

2 (390)

This is a sample of the rumours that float about the Yemen.

Omer Mizjaji rendered Major Meek some assistance in procuring the release of the Jacob Mission but otherwise is reported as a rabid pro-Turk and great personal friend of Mahmood Nadhim. He was decorated for his war services to the Turkish cause.

The news of the Imam's desire to make peace with the Idrisi is confirmed, though peace negotiations have not actually started. The Imam is said to be seeking for a go-between.

Captain Fazluddin, in his letter dated 3rd. August 1920, states that the Idrisi has occupied nearly all the important centres in Reima and that Syed Mustafa is at Midi recruiting soldiers for the Zabid campaign, arrangements for which are expected to be completed in about a fortnight or so. The Zaranik and other Sheikhs referred to in my letter of 29th. April last left Jizan about the middle of July. They are at present at Bajil awaiting the arrival of the above expeditionary force.

The Idrisi's financial condition is, however, worse than ever and this may have a restraining effect on his ambitions. Captain Fazluddin, however, reports that the Idrisi is very liable to look for the intervention of Providence on his behalf and that he considers the arrival of Bin Saud's troops for his assistance at Ebba as due to the direct act of Providence.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

The Assistant Resident, Perim, informs me that he has been receiving persistent reports of oppression carried on by Sheikh Ali Othman of Khoka the Imam's Amil for Mokha, and places in the neighbourhood, who has put in custody several small chiefs including the son of the

Sheikh/

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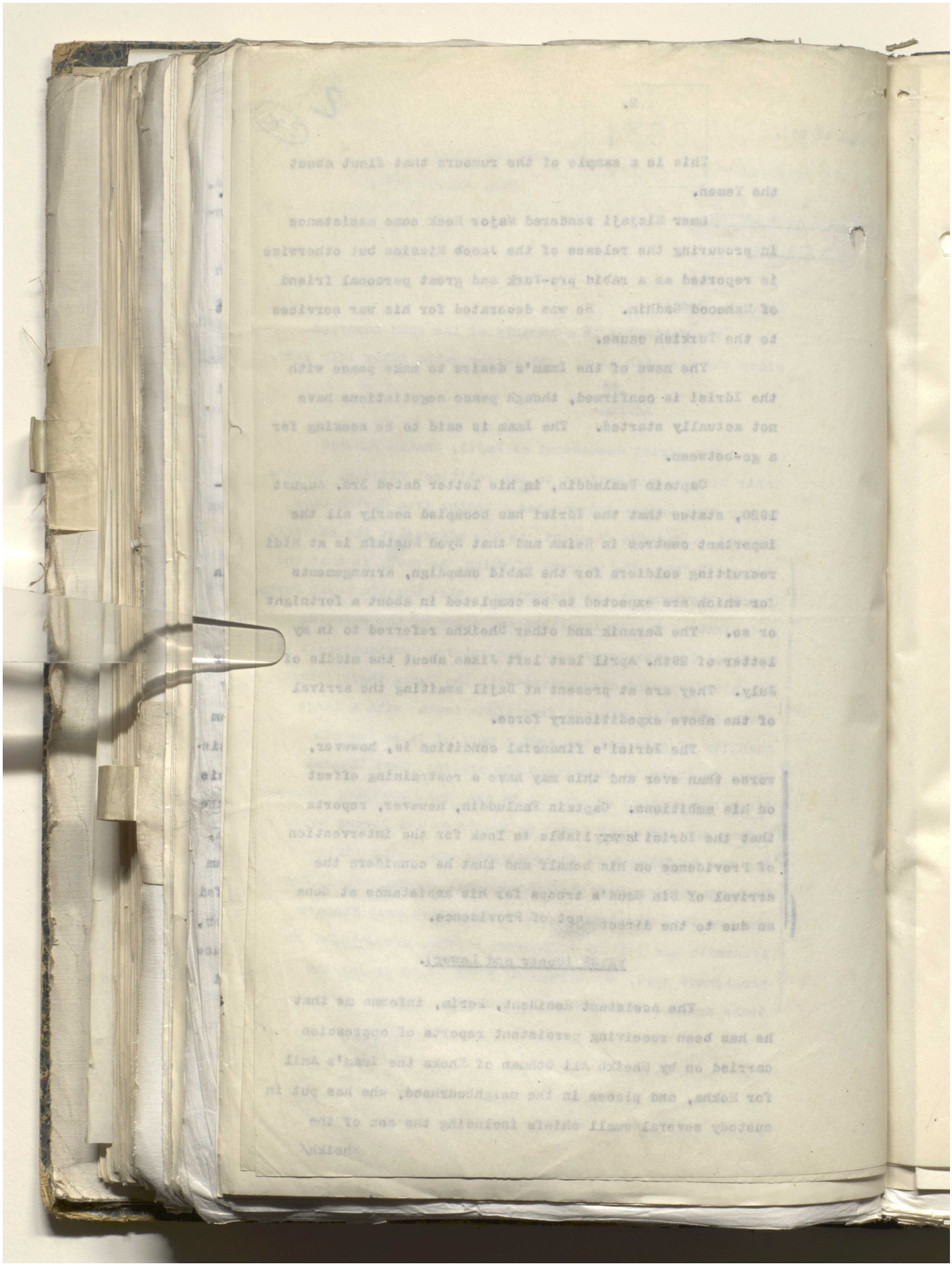

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Sheikh of Moza. The Assistant Resident says that Sheikh Nasir of Sheikh Said who was summoned by Sheikh Ali Othman to pay tribute, refused to do so and informed the latter that he should come and take it, as he himself will never willingly send it and will resist to the best of his ability. The Assistant Resident says that there is general dissatisfaction everywhere against the Imam.

Fighting is reported to have taken place between the Imam's men and the Mashwali, a sub-tribe outside the Subehi border of our Protectorate.

Reports continue to come in of the nervousness caused at Sana in consequence of Bin Saud's movements. Shafais are said not to have responded to the Imam's call for service. The Kadi of Dala writes that the people are expecting the British Government to make a forward move now that the Zaidis are in a fix.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin in a letter dated 3rd August 1920 confirms the news of the occupation of Abha by Bin Saud. From the details given it appears that after the attack by Hasan bin Aidh on the Muhail garrison reported in my last letter the Idrisi asked Ibn Saud for assistance and received a favourable and ready response. A large force of Akhwans estimated at between 12 and 14 thousands, with about 1500 men from the Kahtan and the Rubia and Rufeida tribes under the leadership of Mohammad ibn ad Dulemi, the chief Sheikh of Kahtans, an old and faithful partisan of the Idrisi, appeared on the confines of Abha on 21st July 1920 and offered the following five conditions to Hasan bin Aidh:-

1. He should resign the Emirate of Asir at once, but should be allowed to remain Sheikh of his own tribe, the Beni Mughaid.

/2. The Turkish

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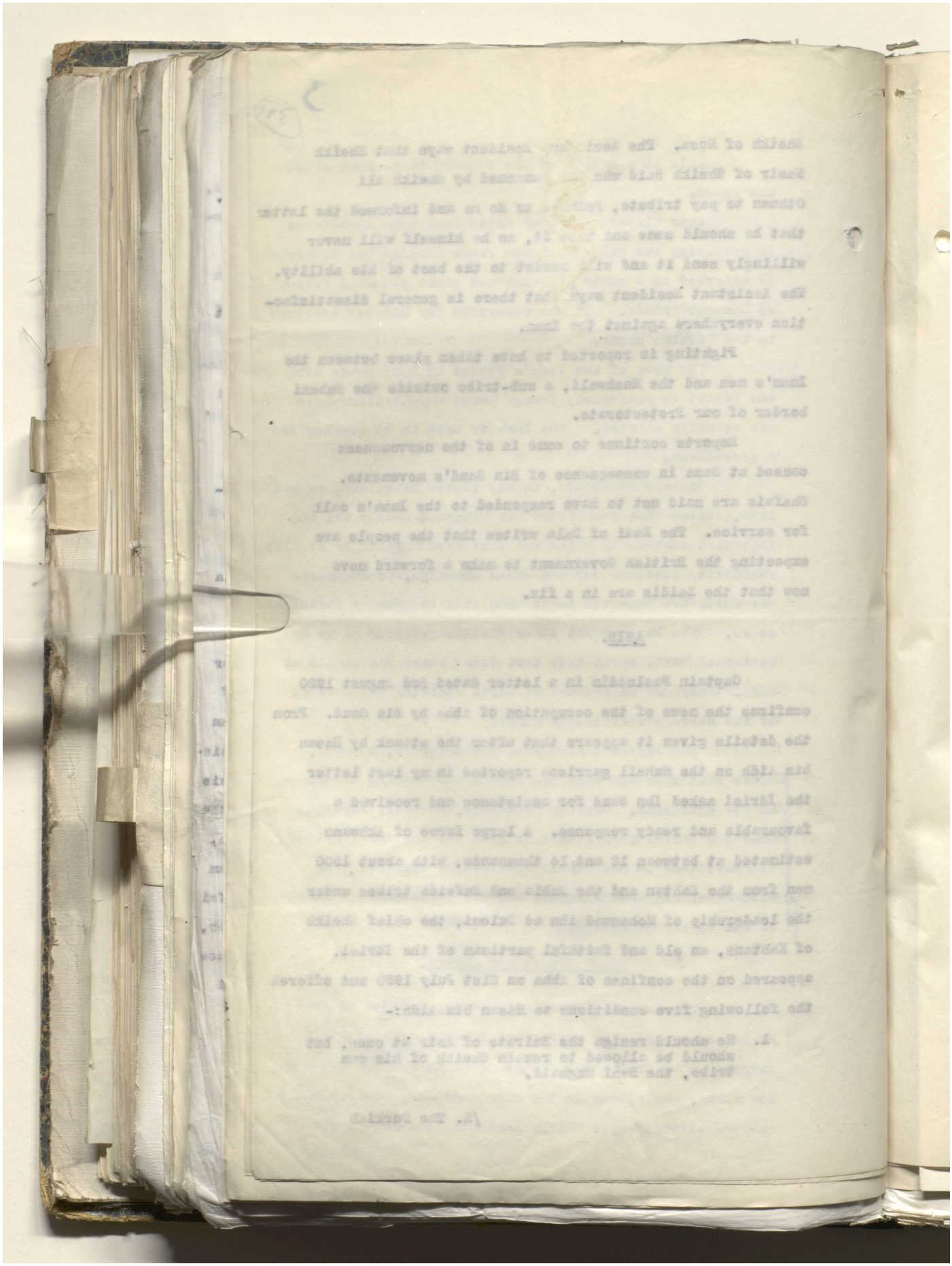

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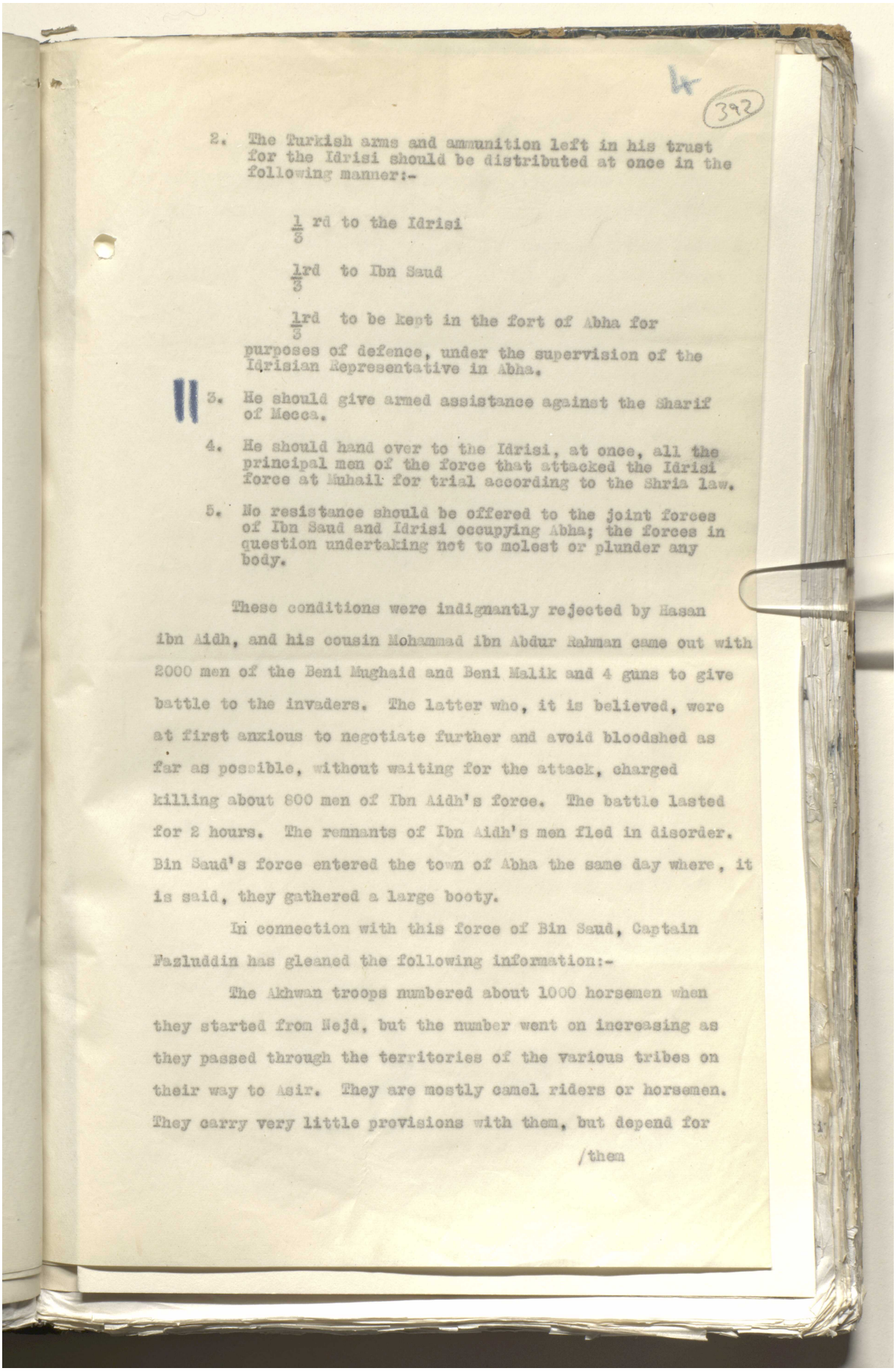

4

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2. The Turkish arms and ammunition left in his trust for the Idrisi should be distributed at once in the following manner:-

$\frac{1}{3}$rd to the Idrisi

$\frac{1}{3}$rd to Ibn Saud

$\frac{1}{3}$rd to be kept in the fort of Abha for purposes of defence, under the supervision of the Idrisian Representative in Abha.

3. He should give armed assistance against the Sharif of Mecca.

4. He should hand over to the Idrisi, at once, all the principal men of the force that attacked the Idrisi force at Muhail for trial according to the Shria law.

5. No resistance should be offered to the joint forces of Ibn Saud and Idrisi occupying Abha; the forces in question undertaking not to molest or plunder any body.

These conditions were indignantly rejected by Hasan ibn Aidh, and his cousin Mohammad ibn Abdur Rahman came out with 2000 men of the Beni Mughaid and Beni Malik and 4 guns to give battle to the invaders. The latter who, it is believed, were at first anxious to negotiate further and avoid bloodshed as far as possible, without waiting for the attack, charged killing about 800 men of Ibn Aidh's force. The battle lasted for 2 hours. The remnants of Ibn Aidh's men fled in disorder. Bin Saud's force entered the town of Abha the same day where, it is said, they gathered a large booty.

In connection with this force of Bin Saud, Captain Fazluddin has gleaned the following information:-

The Akhwan troops numbered about 1000 horsemen when they started from Nejd, but the number went on increasing as they passed through the territories of the various tribes on their way to Asir. They are mostly camel riders or horsemen. They carry very little provisions with them, but depend for

/them

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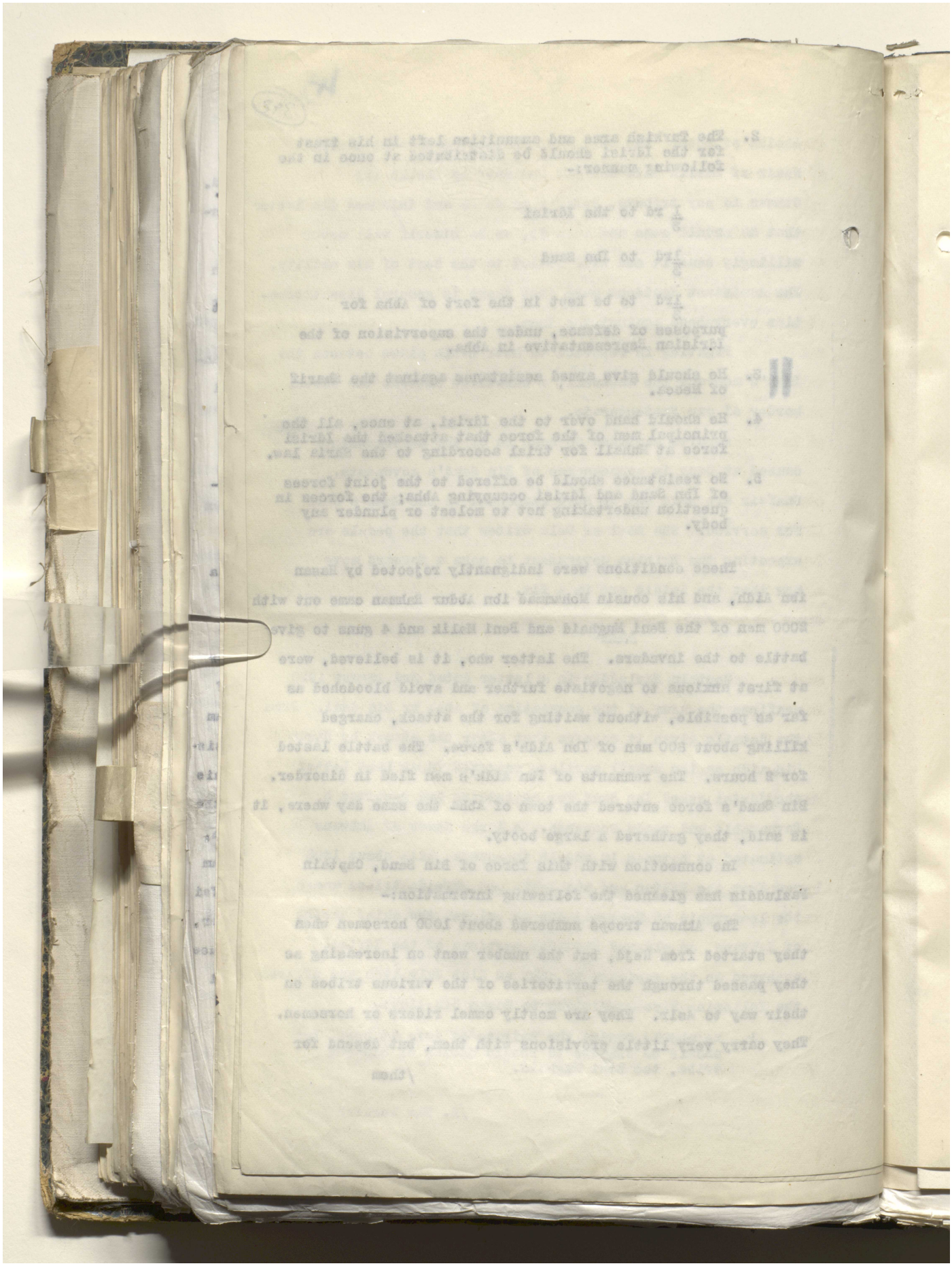

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them partly on the loot of the hostile tribes or the hospitality of friendly ones, through whose country they pass. They are paid no regular salaries, but a share in the booty they gather, the remount getting as much as the man. Their manner of fighting is to charge in a compact body through fire or odds and engage the enemy in a hand to hand fight. They give no quarters while fighting. They refrain from the killing of women, children and old men or the destruction of crops or fruit trees. They faithfully observe their words, treaties or covenants. They observe their religious practices most assiduously on the field of battle or while encamped.

The Commander of the Akhwan troops is Abdul Aziz, a cousin of Bin Saud. He holds command jointly with Qazi Abdullah Rashid. They are still at Abha but it appears that two representatives of theirs with two others from the Rubia and Rufeida and two from the Kahtan Chief visited the Idrisi at Jizan on the 25th July.

Captain Fazluddin says that the Akhwans was uncompromising enemies of the King of the Hadjaz and they do not make a secret of their chief aim which is to wrest the holy Kaaba from the hands of a person whom they describe as a monster of Iniquity and an infidel. It is surmised by Captain Fazluddin that the object of ibn Saud in occupying Nejran and a part of Asir is to throw an effective barrier between the King of the Hedjaz and the Imam, who, he thinks, are in alliance. Moreover by occupying the territories of the Beni Shihr and Sharan, the two most powerful tribes of Asir (after the Kahtans) who are believed to be partisans of King Hussein, he desires to deprive the King altogether of any assistance from Asir.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

In my letter of 16th July last (page 2) I referred to the fighting between the Yafais and the Fadli. I have now received an unconfirmed report that the Yafais have approached

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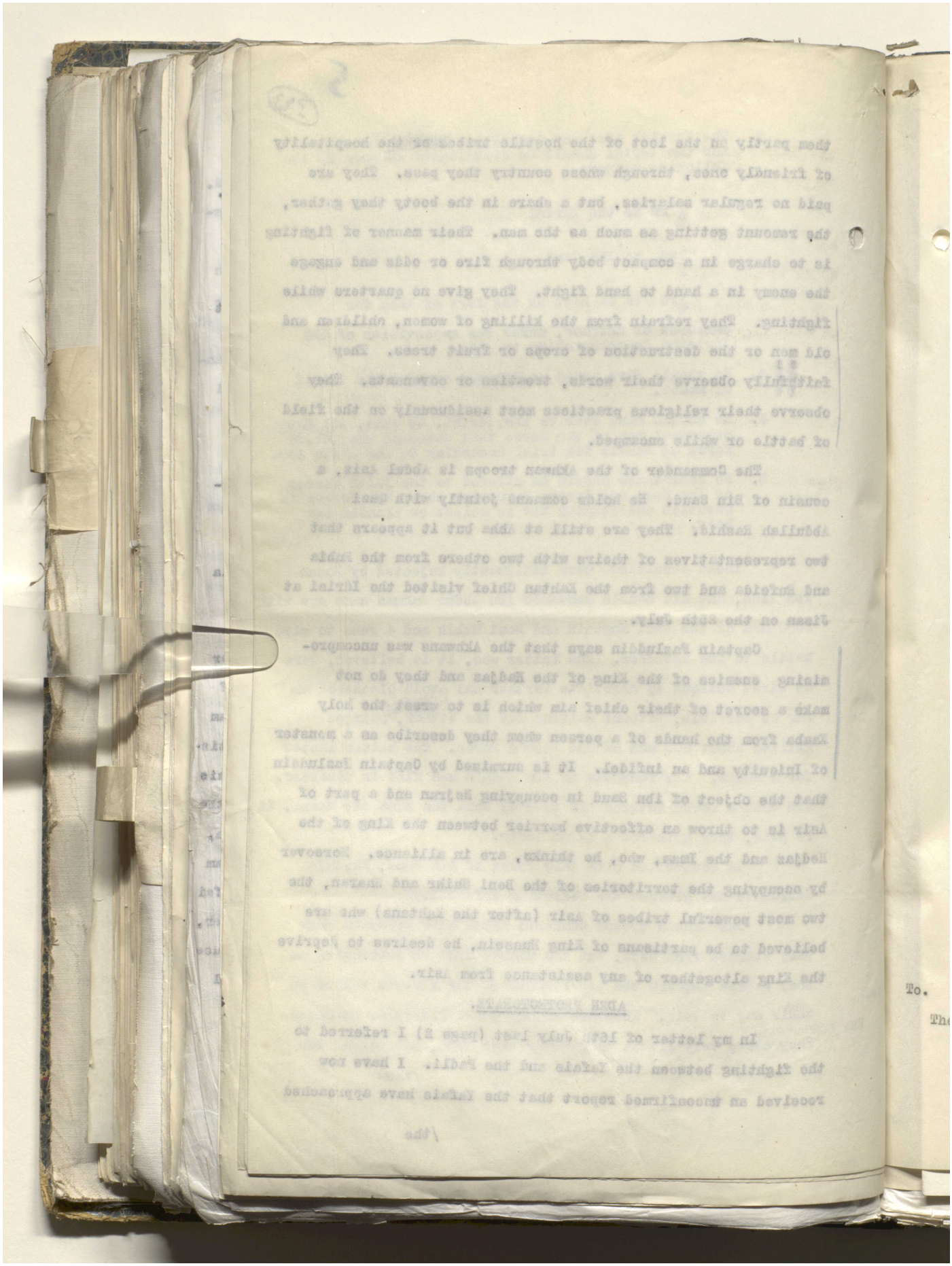

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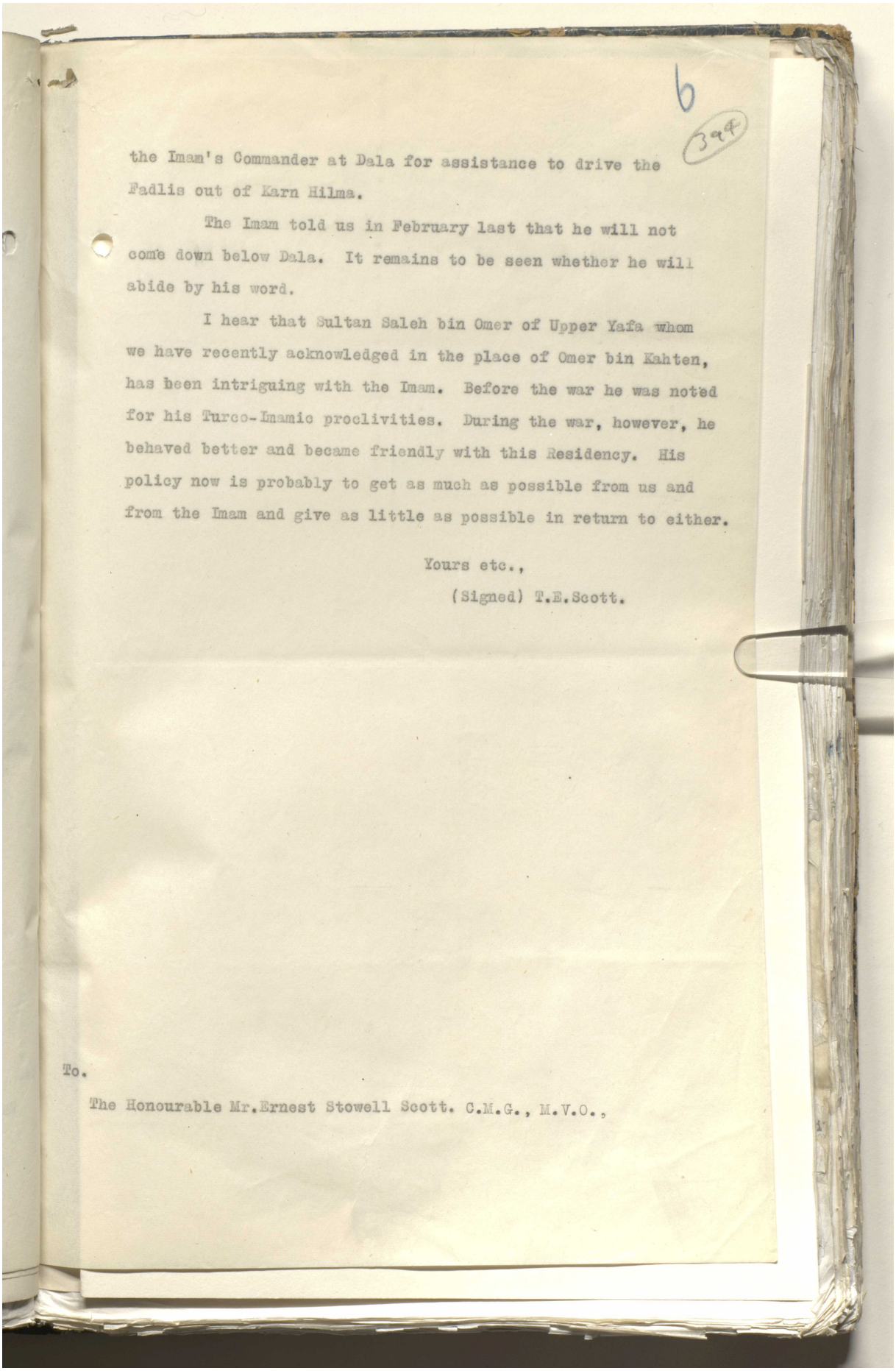

b
394

the Imam's Commander at Dala for assistance to drive the Fadlis out of Karn Hilma.

The Imam told us in February last that he will not come down below Dala. It remains to be seen whether he will abide by his word.

I hear that Sultan Saleh bin Omer of Upper Yafa whom we have recently acknowledged in the place of Omer bin Kahten, has been intriguing with the Imam. Before the war he was noted for his Turco-Imamic proclivities. During the war, however, he behaved better and became friendly with this Residency. His policy now is probably to get as much as possible from us and from the Imam and give as little as possible in return to either.

Yours etc.,
(Signed) T.E.Scott.

To.

The Honourable Mr.Ernest Stowell Scott. C.M.G., M.V.O.,

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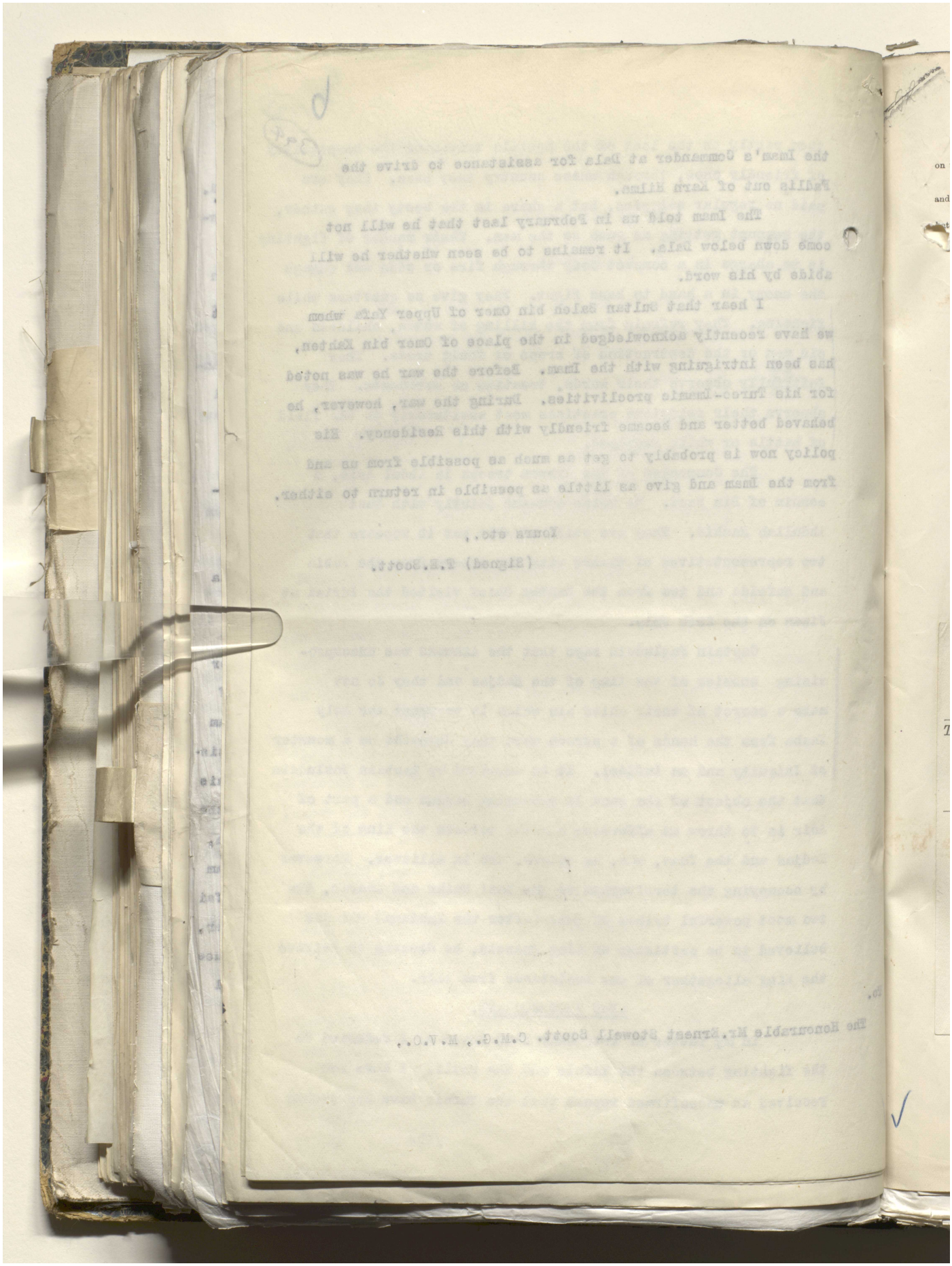

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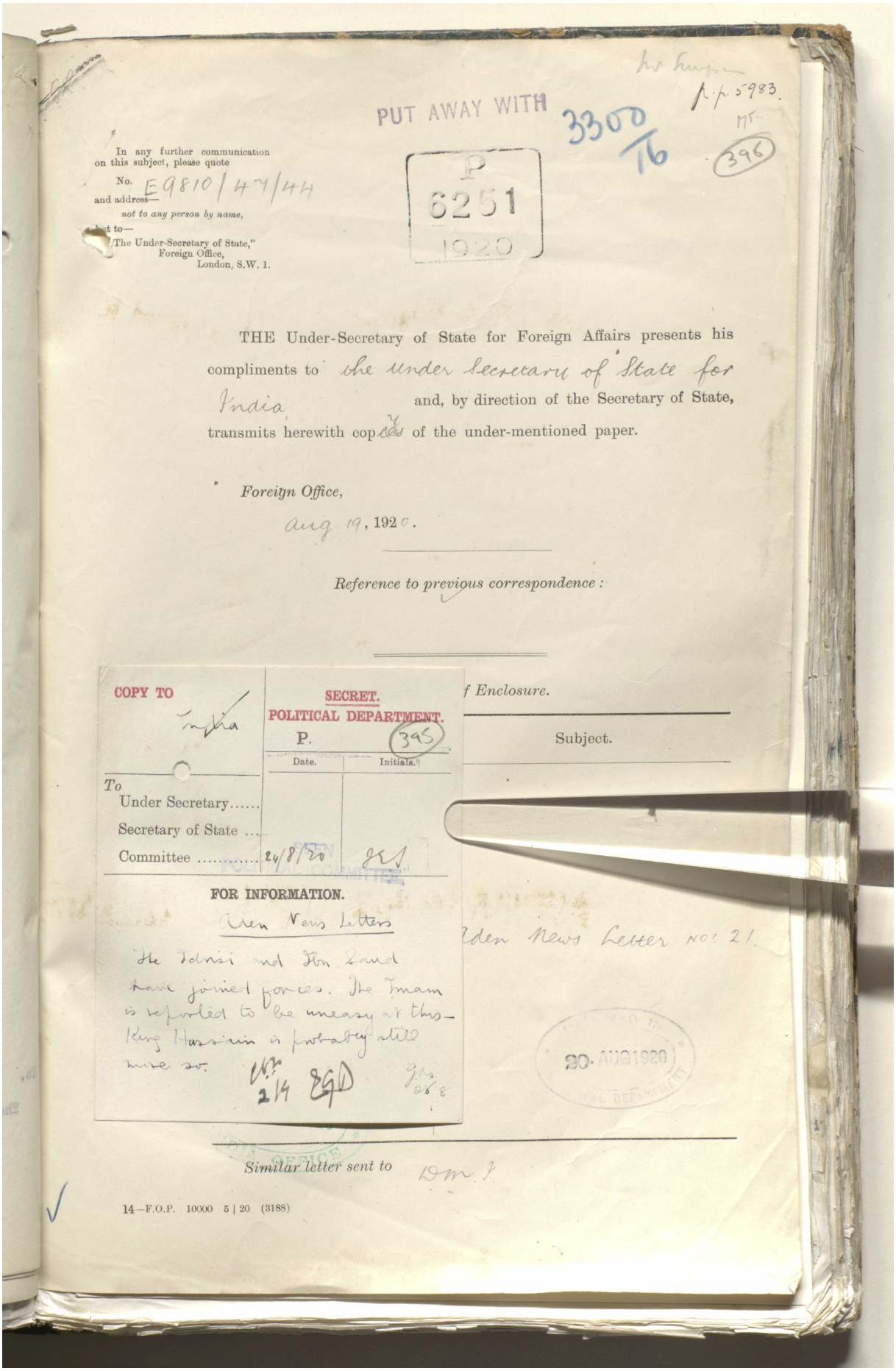

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P 6251 1920

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. E 9810/47/44 and address— not to any person by name, but to— "The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

Aug. 19, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

f Enclosure.

Subject.

COPY TO India

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P. 395

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....		
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	24/8/20	

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden News Letters

The Idrisi and Ibn Saud have joined forces. The Imam is reported to be uneasy at this— King Hussein is probably still more so.

Aden News Letter No. 21.

20 AUG 1920

Similar letter sent to Dom I.

14—F.O.P. 10000 5 | 20 (3188)

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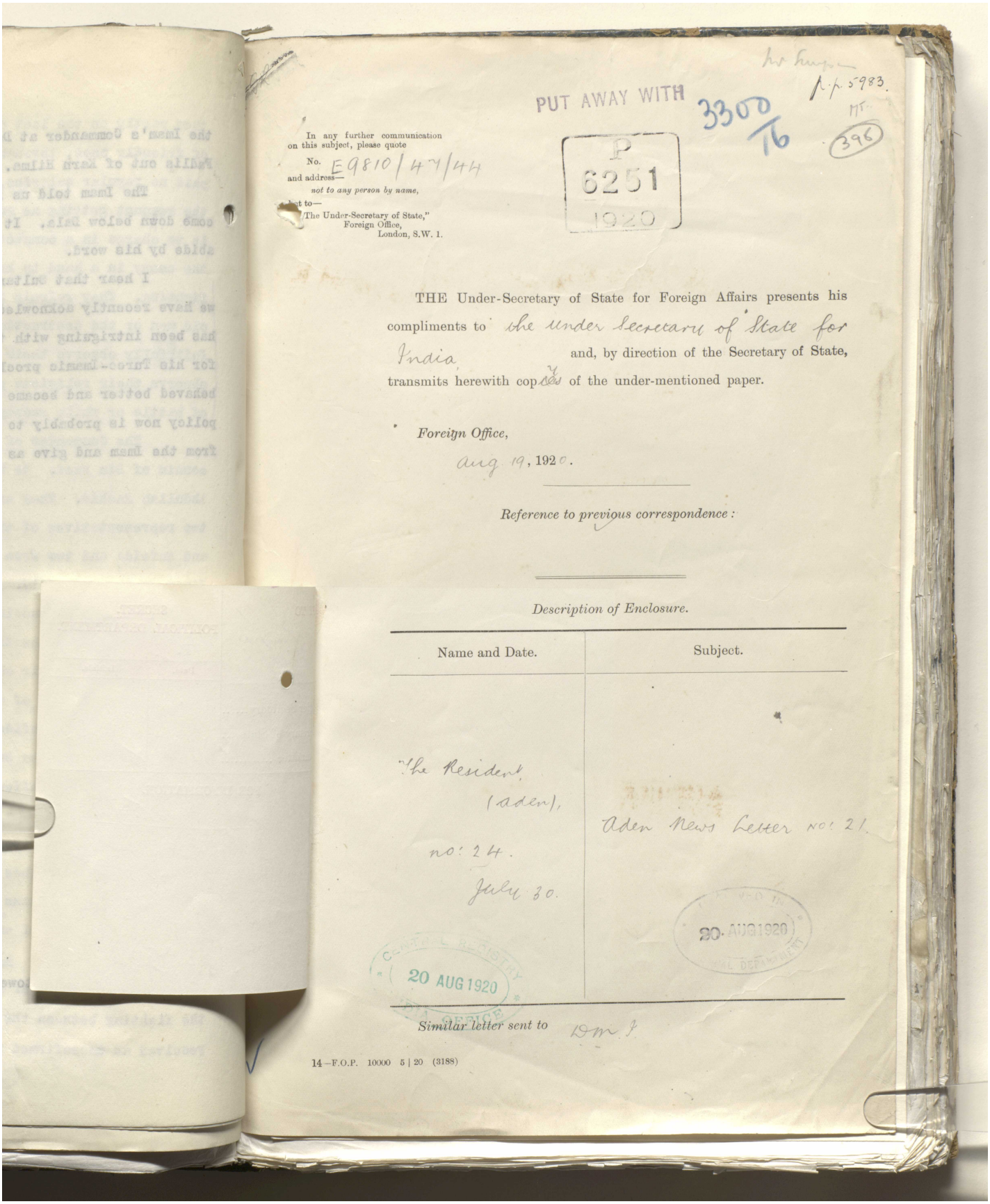

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

Aug 19, 1920.

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Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
The Resident (Aden), no: 24. July 30.	Aden News Letter no: 21.

20 AUG 1920

20 AUG 1920

Similar letter sent to Govt of Bombay

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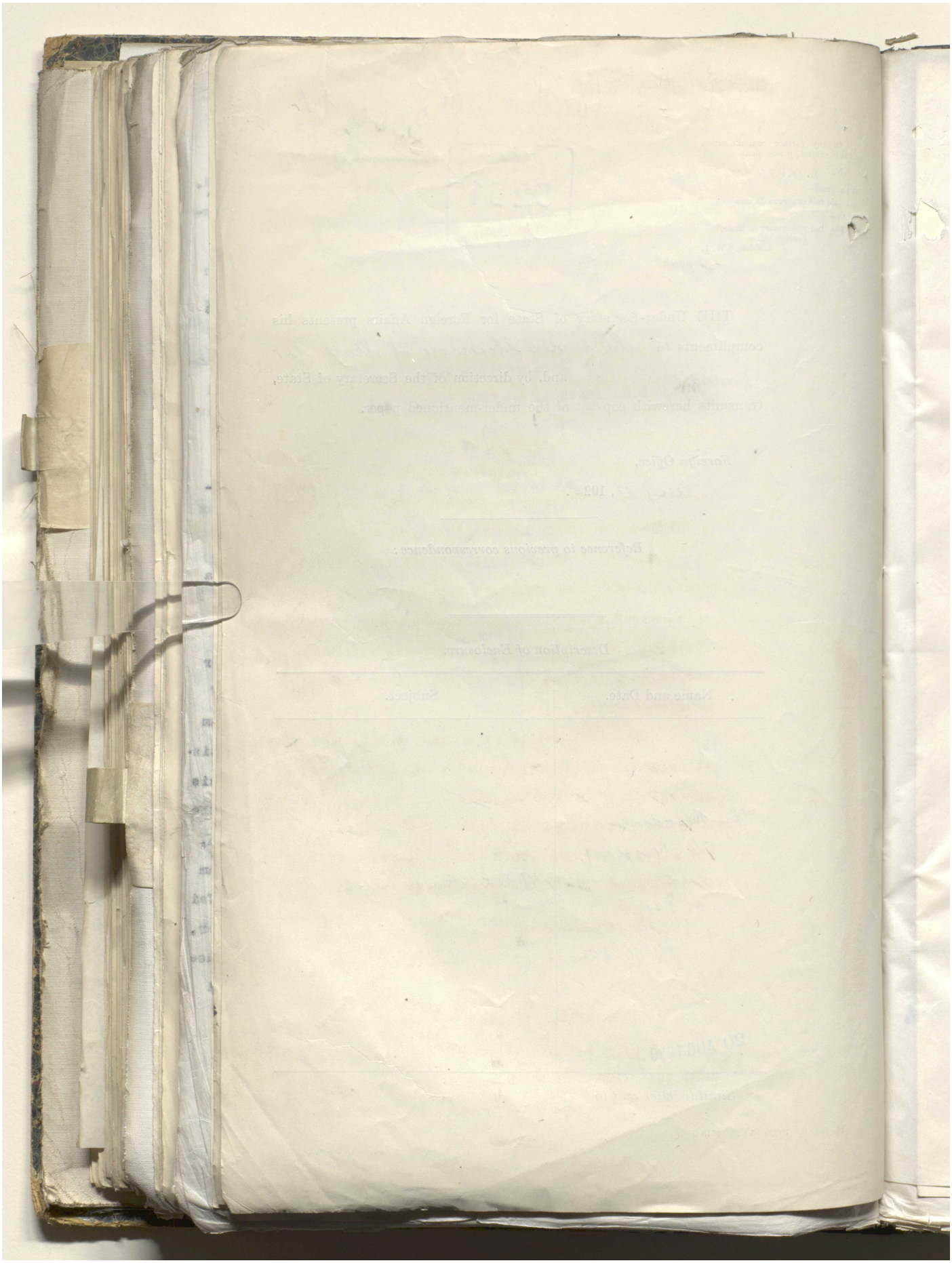

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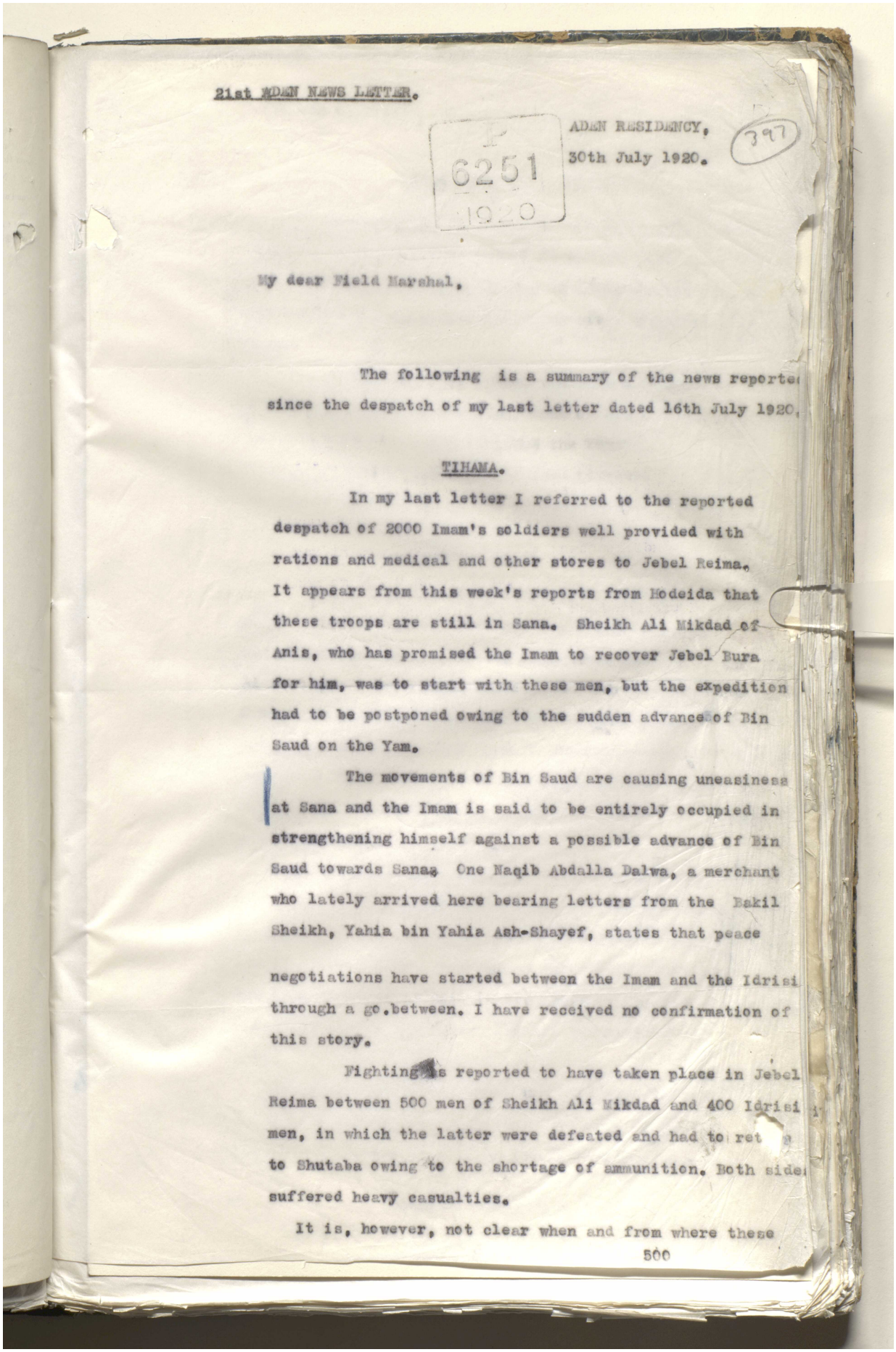

21st ADEN NEWS LETTER.

F
6251
1920

ADEN RESIDENCY,
30th July 1920.

397

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 16th July 1920.

TIHAMA.

In my last letter I referred to the reported despatch of 2000 Imam's soldiers well provided with rations and medical and other stores to Jebel Reima. It appears from this week's reports from Hodeida that these troops are still in Sana. Sheikh Ali Mikdad of Anis, who has promised the Imam to recover Jebel Bura for him, was to start with these men, but the expedition had to be postponed owing to the sudden advance of Bin Saud on the Yam.

The movements of Bin Saud are causing uneasiness at Sana and the Imam is said to be entirely occupied in strengthening himself against a possible advance of Bin Saud towards Sana. One Naqib Abdalla Dalwa, a merchant who lately arrived here bearing letters from the Bakil Sheikh, Yahia bin Yahia Ash-Shayef, states that peace negotiations have started between the Imam and the Idrisi through a go.between. I have received no confirmation of this story.

Fighting is reported to have taken place in Jebel Reima between 500 men of Sheikh Ali Mikdad and 400 Idrisi men, in which the latter were defeated and had to retire to Shutaba owing to the shortage of ammunition. Both sides suffered heavy casualties.

It is, however, not clear when and from where these

500

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500 men of Sheikh Ali Mikdad came.

YEMEN (Upper & Lower).

The Sana agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that the Military School at Sana held examination on the 19th June, in which 13 passed as lieutenants, 1 as engineer and 3 as gunners. They were given diplomas by the Imam.

According to this agent, the Imam appears to have refused permission to the Commandant of his Artillery, Mahmood Bey and some other Turks to leave the Yemen.

The agent says that the Imam reviewed his troops and distributed fruits on the Id day at Jebel Naqam.

ASIR.

In my last letter I referred to the Idrisi's optimistic view as regards Abha affairs. It appears from Captain Fazluddin's subsequent letter dated 18th July 1920, that Ibn Aidh attacked the Idrisi force of 100 men at Muhail and killed 2 ex-Turkish officers who were in the Idrisi pay, 2 Somalis and 20 Arabs and the rest fled to Shaibain. Captain Fazluddin says that this incident has so exasperated the Idrisi that he appears to be collecting a force sufficient to advance and punish Ibn Aidh.

Captain Fazluddin thinks that such a step on the part of the Idrisi would be hazardous at the present moment while he is still engaged in the Tihama and disastrous so far as Asir itself is concerned, inasmuch as the strong confederation of the Beni Mughaids is well in the hands of Ibn Aidh at present unless of course the Idrisi obtains the assistance of Bin Saud.

to be obtained

Reports received from different sources go to show that Bin Saud's forces (all horsemen) have been progressing into the Kahtan country as well as the Highlands of Yemen.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Zaidis are reported to have occupied Dabiani which is

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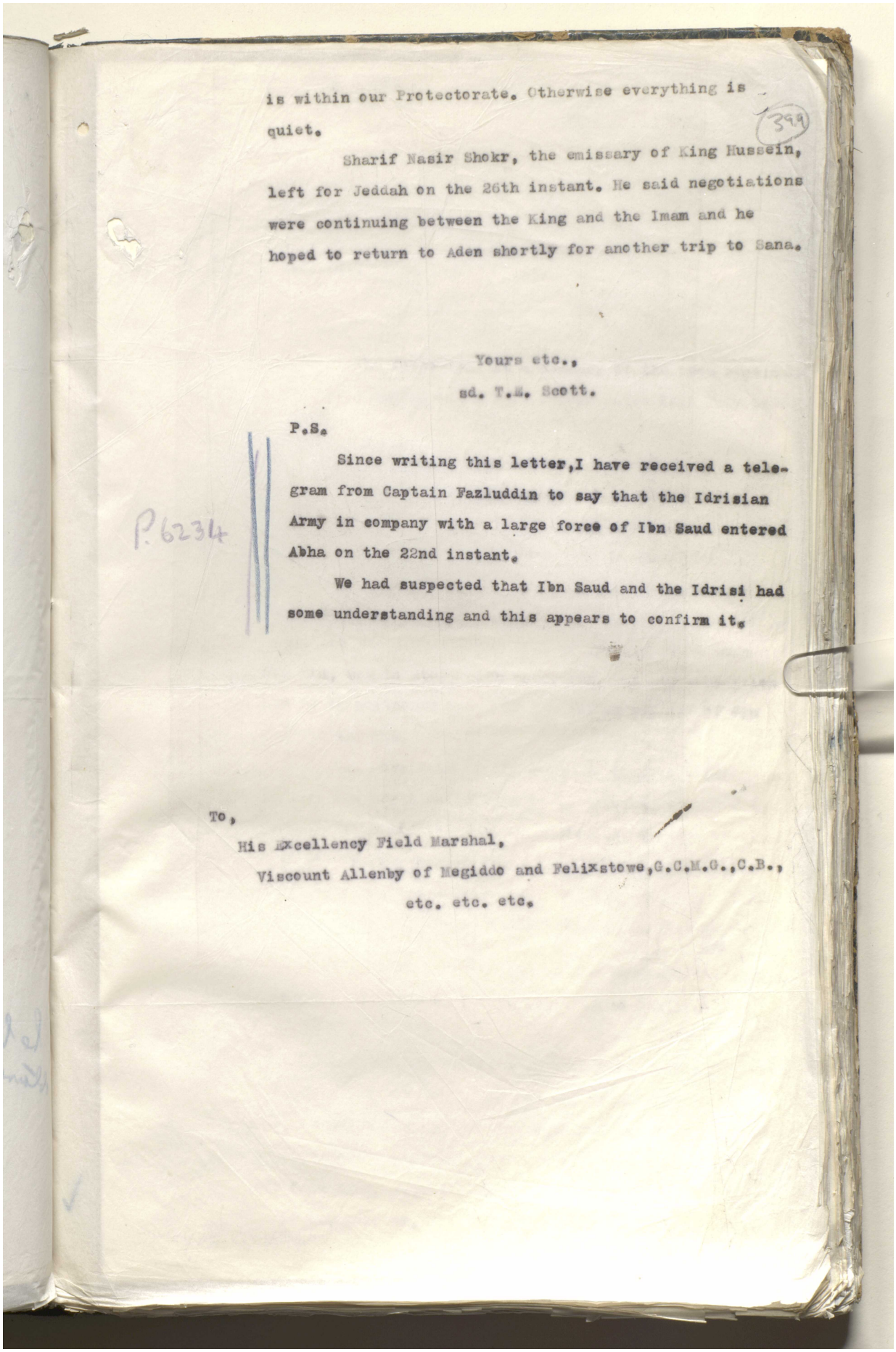

is within our Protectorate. Otherwise everything is quiet.

399

Sharif Nasir Shokr, the emissary of King Hussein, left for Jeddah on the 26th instant. He said negotiations were continuing between the King and the Imam and he hoped to return to Aden shortly for another trip to Sana.

Yours etc.,
sd. T.E. Scott.

P.S.

Since writing this letter, I have received a telegram from Captain Fazluddin to say that the Idrisian Army in company with a large force of Ibn Saud entered Abha on the 22nd instant.

We had suspected that Ibn Saud and the Idrisi had some understanding and this appears to confirm it.

P.6234

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B.,
etc. etc. etc.

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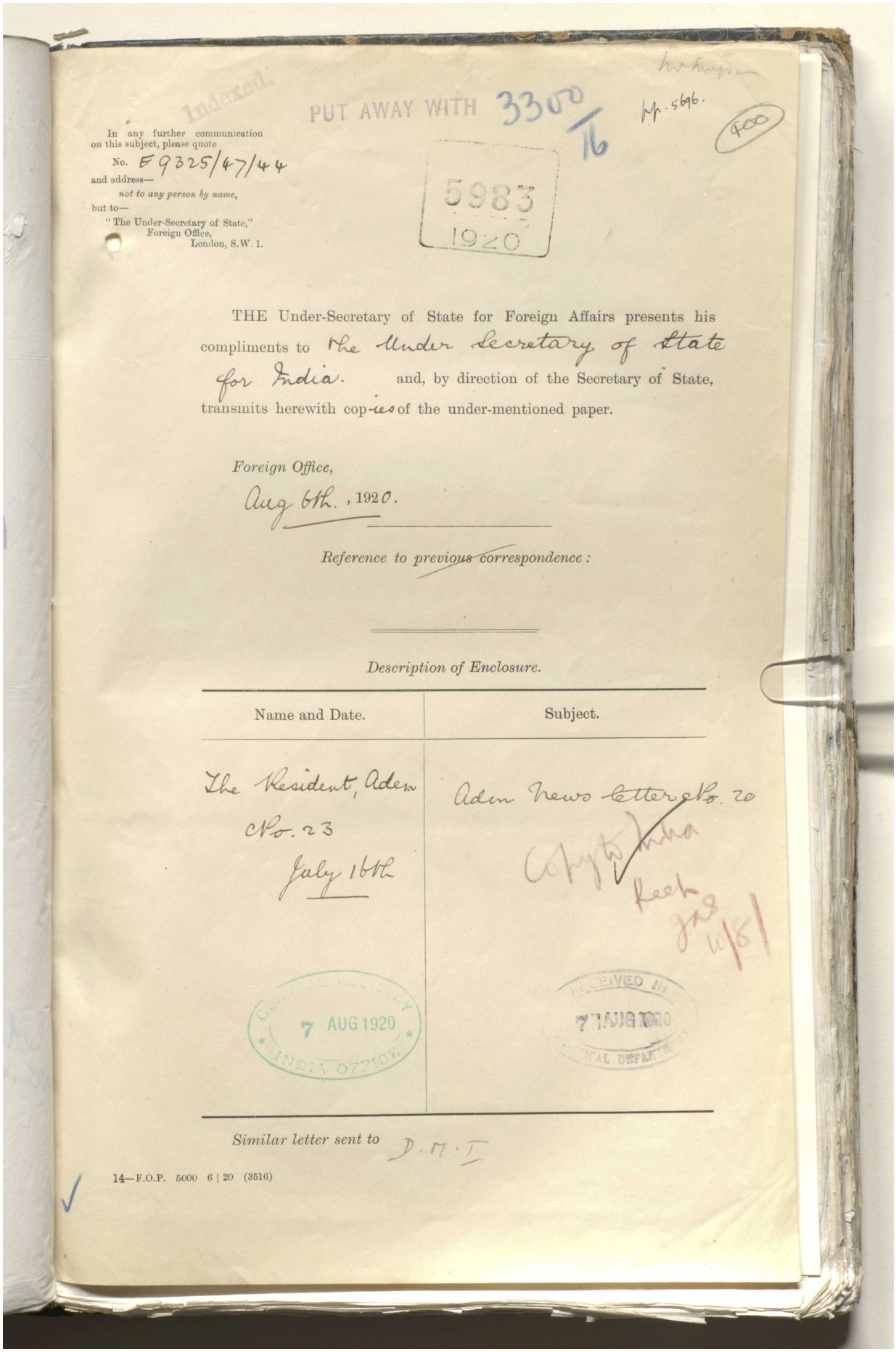

Indexed.

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Mp. 5696.

400

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and address—
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"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

5983
1920

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under Secretary of State for India. and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Aug 6th., 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
The Resident, Aden No. 23 July 16th	Aden News Letter No. 20

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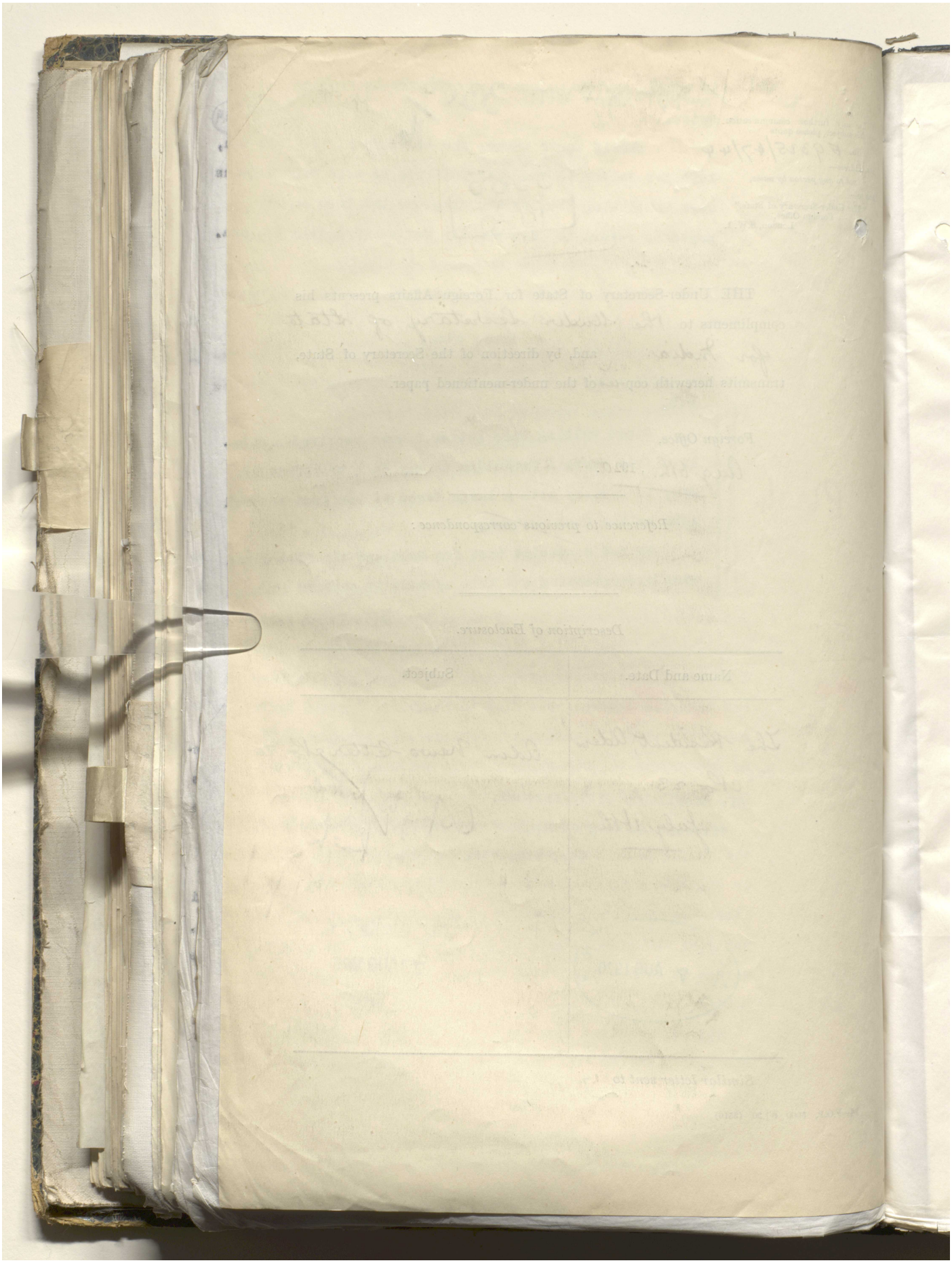

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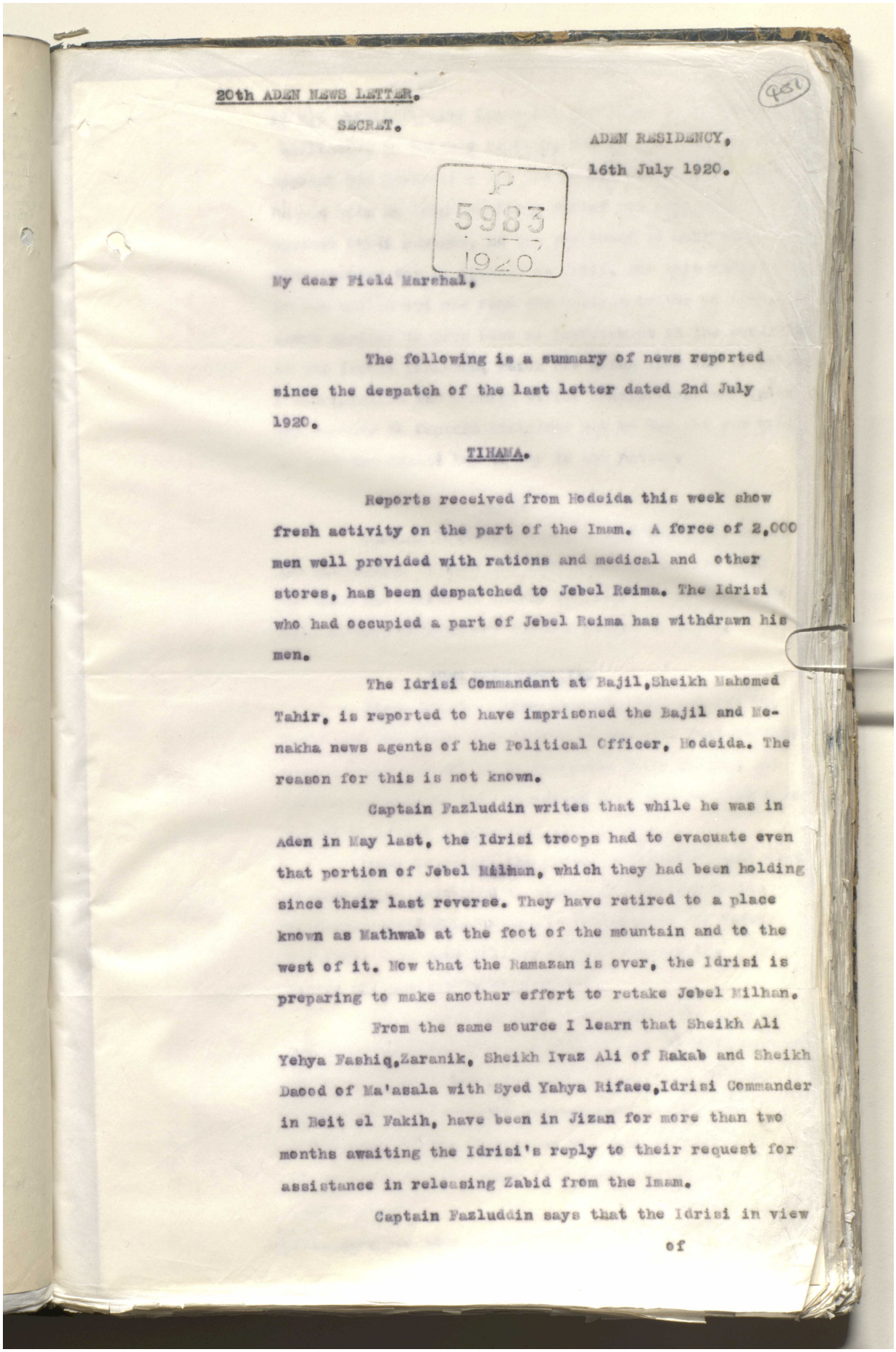

20th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
16th July 1920.

P 5983 1920

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of the last letter dated 2nd July 1920.

TIHAMA.

Reports received from Hodeida this week show fresh activity on the part of the Imam. A force of 2,000 men well provided with rations and medical and other stores, has been despatched to Jebel Reima. The Idrisi who had occupied a part of Jebel Reima has withdrawn his men.

The Idrisi Commandant at Bajil, Sheikh Mahomed Tahir, is reported to have imprisoned the Bajil and Menakha news agents of the Political Officer, Hodeida. The reason for this is not known.

Captain Fazluddin writes that while he was in Aden in May last, the Idrisi troops had to evacuate even that portion of Jebel Milhan, which they had been holding since their last reverse. They have retired to a place known as Mathwab at the foot of the mountain and to the west of it. Now that the Ramazan is over, the Idrisi is preparing to make another effort to retake Jebel Milhan.

From the same source I learn that Sheikh Ali Yehya Fashiq, Zaranik, Sheikh Ivaz Ali of Rakab and Sheikh Daood of Ma'asala with Syed Yahya Rifaee, Idrisi Commander in Beit el Fakih, have been in Jizan for more than two months awaiting the Idrisi's reply to their request for assistance in releasing Zabid from the Imam.

Captain Fazluddin says that the Idrisi in view

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of his unsatisfactory financial condition is naturally hesitating to proceed further, but in order not to disappoint the deputation and the people of Zabid to whom he had been so long promising relief and assistance against Zaidi ravages, he has commenced to make some preparations for an advance on Zabid. For this purpose he has called out men from the various tribes of Asir. There appears to have been no improvement in the condition of the Idrisi finances, which are going from bad to worse. I communicated the Foreign Office instructions regarding the subsidy to Captain Fazluddin but he has not yet told me what the Idrisi has to say in the matter.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin reports that negotiations are proceeding between the Idrisi and Hassan ibn Aidh and that the Idrisi is fairly confident of settling the Abha affairs without any further resort to force.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

There exists a long standing feud between the Fadli and the Lower Yafa tribes in the Aden Protectorate over a water channel which irrigates their fields. All endeavours made by this Residency from time to time have failed to effect a permanent settlement.

Last Saturday, the Yafais attacked a Fadli post at Karn Hilma and tried to occupy it, but the Fadlis having received reinforcements overpowered the Yafais and drove them away killing 25 and wounding 15. The losses are apparently exaggerated.

It is reported that on receiving the news of the fighting between the Al Mihrabi and Al Obaid referred to in the last letter, 250 Zaidis came from Dala and destroyed the Al Mihrabi village and having beheaded the corpses of the Sheikh and his son, carried away their heads to Dala where they were exposed at a prominent place.

This news has been brought to me from various sources

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(403)

but is denied by Sharif Nasir bin Shokr, King Hussein's representative, who has just returned from Sana.

Rumours regarding the Zaidi intention to invade the Haushabi country continue. An informant, who visited An Nadira last month, reported that the Sheikh of the place had collected 800 men for that purpose. No fresh troops have so far arrived at Dala or Mavia nor is extraordinary activity on the part of the Zaidis reported.

Sharif Nasir bin Shokr, the emissary of King Hussein, returned to Aden from Sana on the 10th instant. He came escorted by 70 men who returned after accompanying him as far as Nobat Dakim. He again exerted my First Assistant to refer the dispute between the Imam and ourselves to arbitration. He was very reticent about the result of his mission to Sana, merely stating that correspondence is still in progress.

He confirms the news heard from other sources that Ibn Saud has made a determined attack on the Yam tribe and has captured the Dai.

Yours etc.,
sd. T. A. Scott.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G.,C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.

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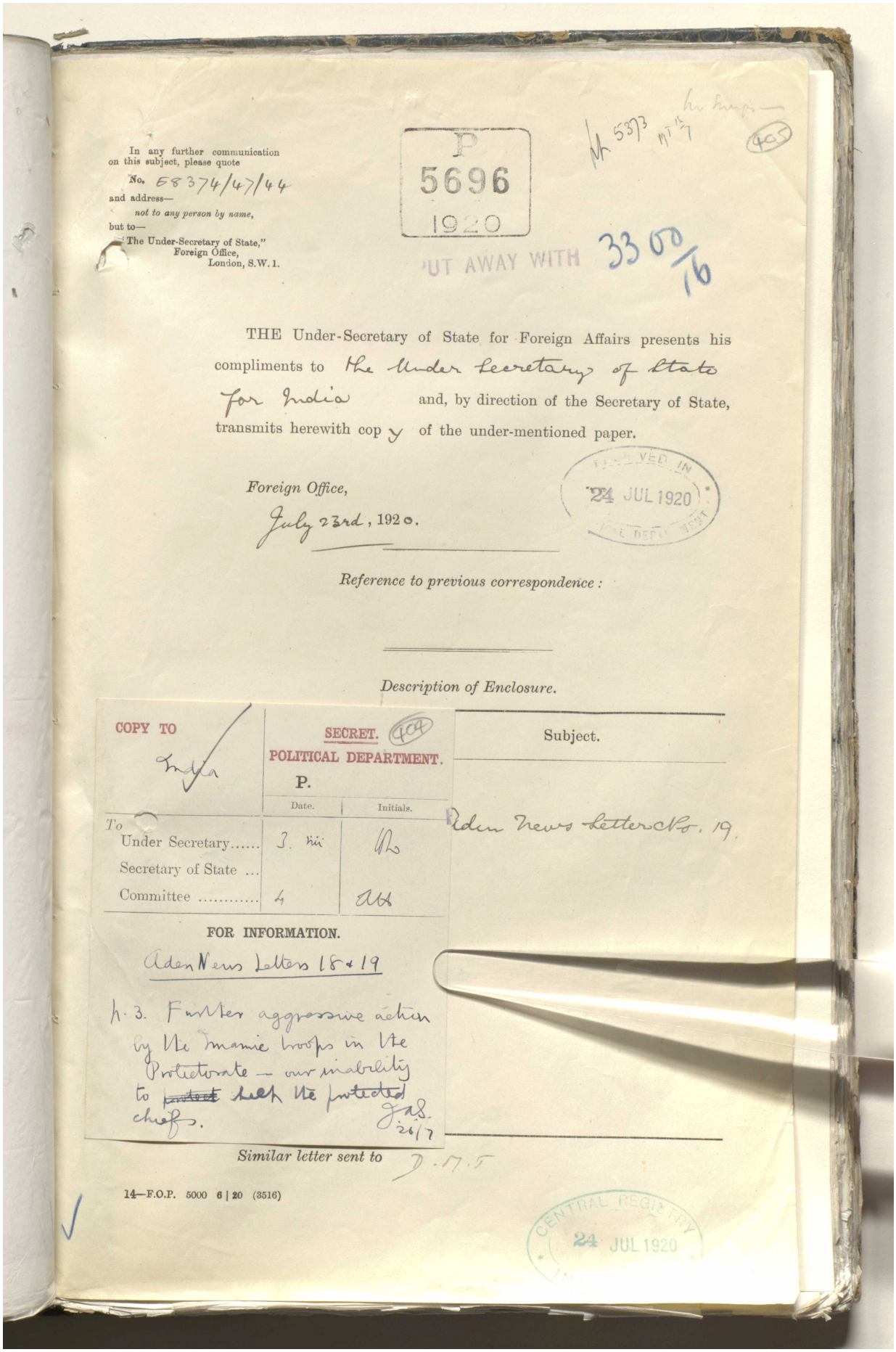

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"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

P 5696 1920

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RECEIVED IN 24 JUL 1920 INDIA DEPARTMENT

Foreign Office,
July 23rd, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

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Under Secretary.....	3. VII	
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	4	

Subject.

Aden News Letters No. 19.

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden News Letters 18 & 19

p. 3. Further aggressive action by the Imamic troops in the Protectorate — our inability to ~~protect~~ help the protected chiefs.

J.A.S. 24/7

Similar letter sent to J.17.5

14—F.O.P. 5000 6 | 20 (3516)

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P
5696
1920

MA 5373 MT 7

(405)

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RECEIVED IN
24 JUL 1920
INDIA DEPT.

Foreign Office,
July 23rd, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Resident (Aden). No. 22. July 2nd	Aden News-letter No. 19.

Similar letter sent to I.O. 17.5

14—F.O.P. 5000 6 | 20 (3516)

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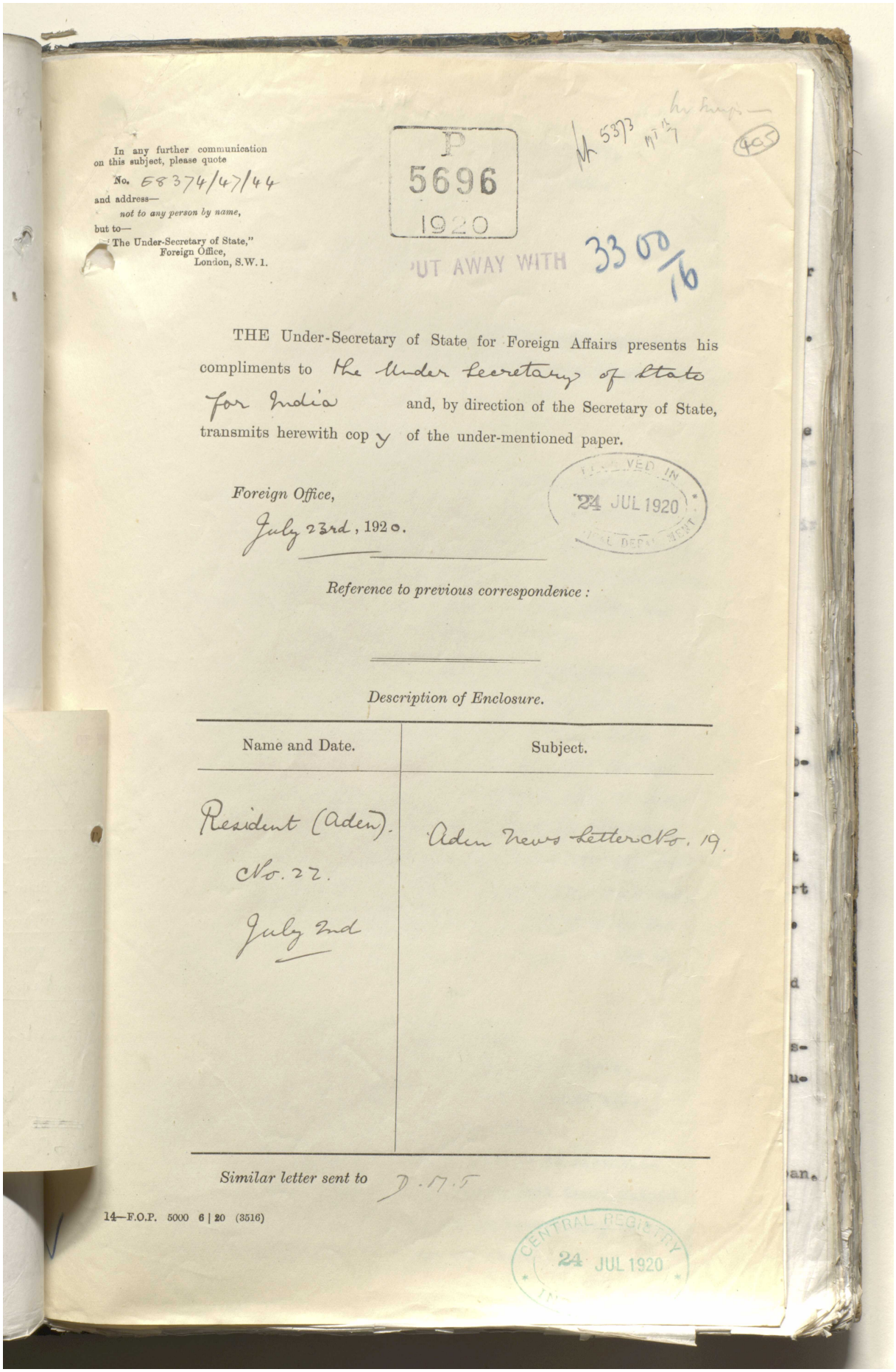

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Foreign Office,
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Name and Date.	Subject.
Resident (Aden). No. 22. July 2nd	Aden News-Letter No. 19.

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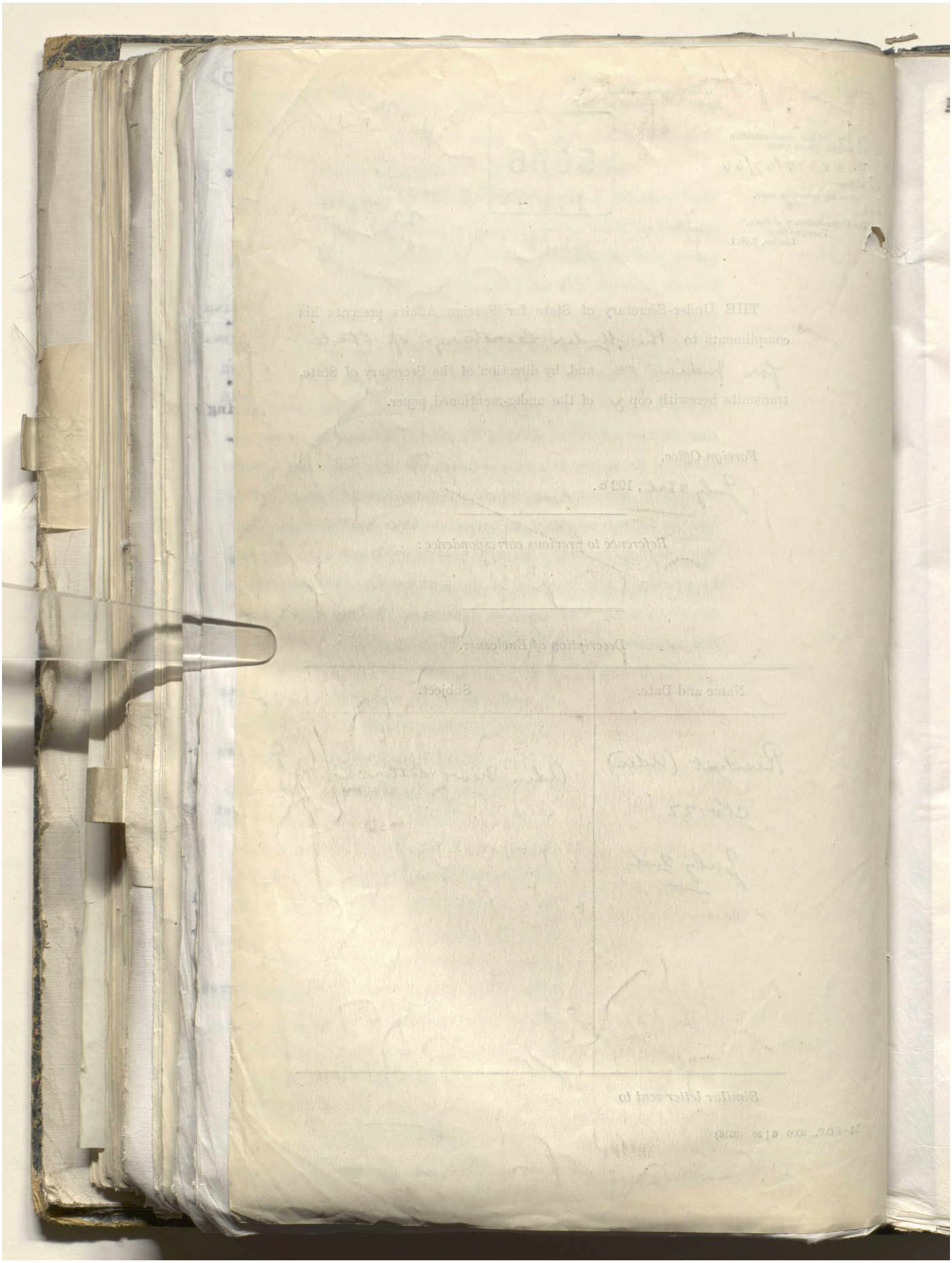

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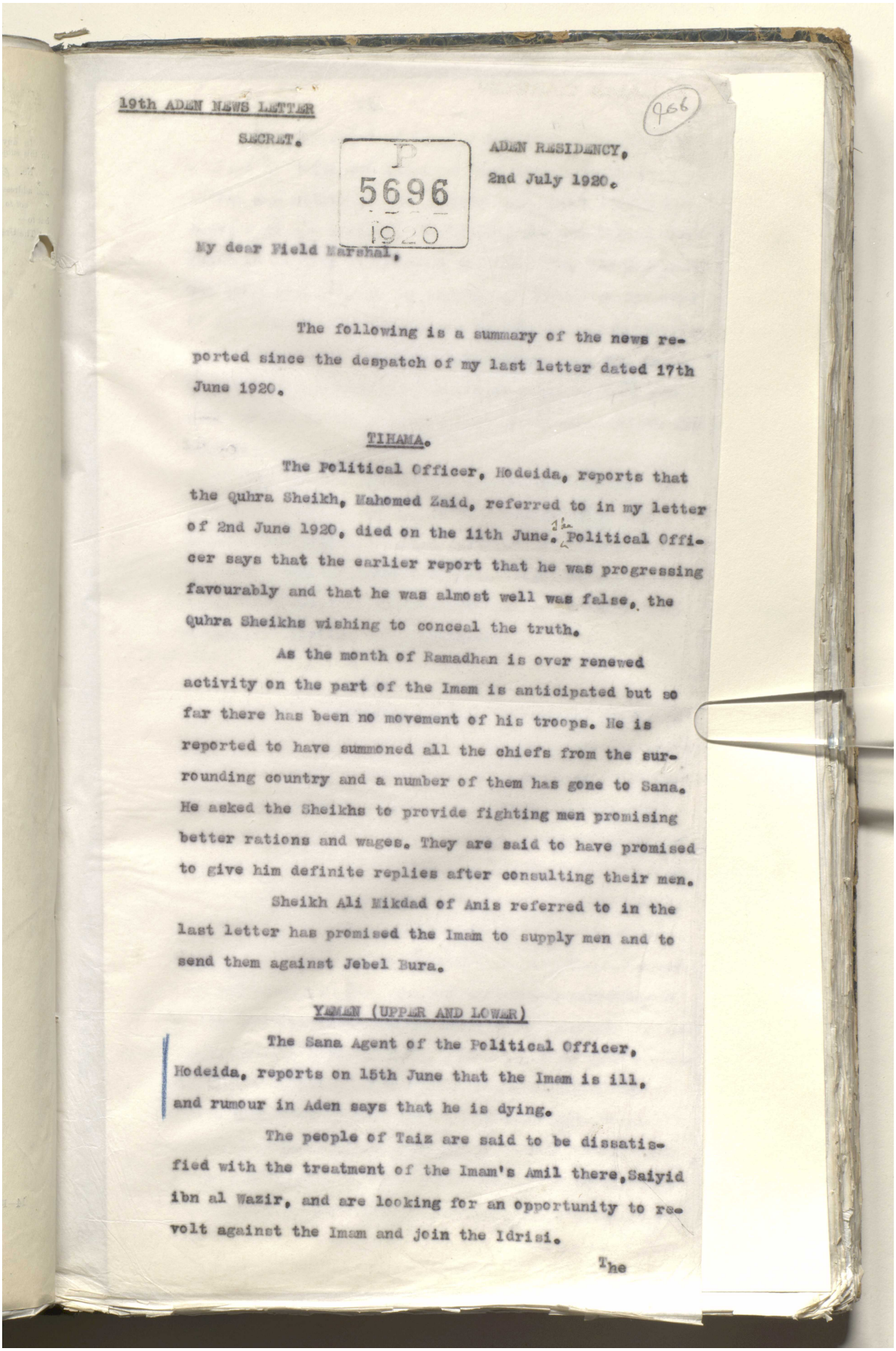

19th ADEN NEWS LETTER

(406)

SECRET.

P 5696 1920

ADEN RESIDENCY,
2nd July 1920.

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 17th June 1920.

TIHAMA.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that the Quhra Sheikh, Mahomed Zaid, referred to in my letter of 2nd June 1920, died on the 11th June. The Political Officer says that the earlier report that he was progressing favourably and that he was almost well was false, the Quhra Sheikhs wishing to conceal the truth.

As the month of Ramadhan is over renewed activity on the part of the Imam is anticipated but so far there has been no movement of his troops. He is reported to have summoned all the chiefs from the surrounding country and a number of them has gone to Sana. He asked the Sheikhs to provide fighting men promising better rations and wages. They are said to have promised to give him definite replies after consulting their men.

Sheikh Ali Mikdad of Anis referred to in the last letter has promised the Imam to supply men and to send them against Jebel Bura.

YEMEN (UPPER AND LOWER)

The Sana Agent of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports on 15th June that the Imam is ill, and rumour in Aden says that he is dying.

The people of Taiz are said to be dissatisfied with the treatment of the Imam's Amil there, Saiyid ibn al Wazir, and are looking for an opportunity to revolt against the Imam and join the Idrisi.

The

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The Commander of H.M.S."CLEMATIS" recently paid a visit to Mokha and gathered that Sheikh Abdullah Effendi was acting as the Imam's Amil there during the absence of his brother, Ali Othman, who was inland engaged in beating up recruits for the Imam. The Commander was told that Sheikhs who refuse to respond to advances of Ali Othman were sent by him to the Imam as prisoners.

Later news regarding Taiz states that the Arabs in Saber have been making continual raids on Taiz and that Sheikhs in the neighbourhood are rising against the Zaidis.

The trouble appears to have originated in the refusal of one of the Sheikhs of Jebel Saber to pay tribute demanded from him. A force of 300 Zaidis which was despatched to punish the Sheikh was repulsed with heavy loss. Negotiations are now said to be proceeding between the parties for a settlement.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin, I.M.S., writes that eversince the expulsion of Sharif Hamood from Abha after the bombing of his house in December last (vide Captain Fazluddin's diary dated 18th December 1919),Salim Bey, the Idrissian Commander on that side had been trying to get into the town by negotiations. He lately occupied a fort called Murtaza and another place called Thara(or Sara), two strategically important points on the borders of Abha, and wrote to Hasan Aidh to let him enter Abha and take possession of the arms and ammunition surrendered by the Turks and kept in his custody for ultimate transmission to the Idrisi. Hasan Aidh replied to this communication by a surprise attack by night on Salim Bey's forces with a large force and compelled him to retire from Murtaza as well as Sara and to fall back on Shaiban. Hasan Aidh is said to have sustained a loss of 300 men while Salim Bey lost 37 of his men. A large number of

Asirian

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Asirian soldiers recruited by Salim Bey from Abha and its environments are said to have deserted in a body to Hasan Aidh during the latter's attack on Martuza and Saea. Abha is now in a state of siege from the west and south, while it is open from the north and east. No fighting has since taken place.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Zaidis attacked the Al Mihrabi section of the Amiri on the borders of the Haushabi and killed the Sheikh and his son. In the fighting the Imam's Commander, Al Obaidi, and another Zaidi were also killed. The Haushabi Sultan anticipates that the Zaidis will now come down upon him and asks for the despatch of our troops to Musemir I have advised him, in case he is attacked, to resist as long as possible and then to retire behind our camp at Nobat Dakim.

Al Obaidi is the man who headed the party that came to Lahej last April with a letter from the Imam's Amil at Dala to the Resident.

Yours etc.,
sd. C.D. Field.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B.,
etc. etc. etc.

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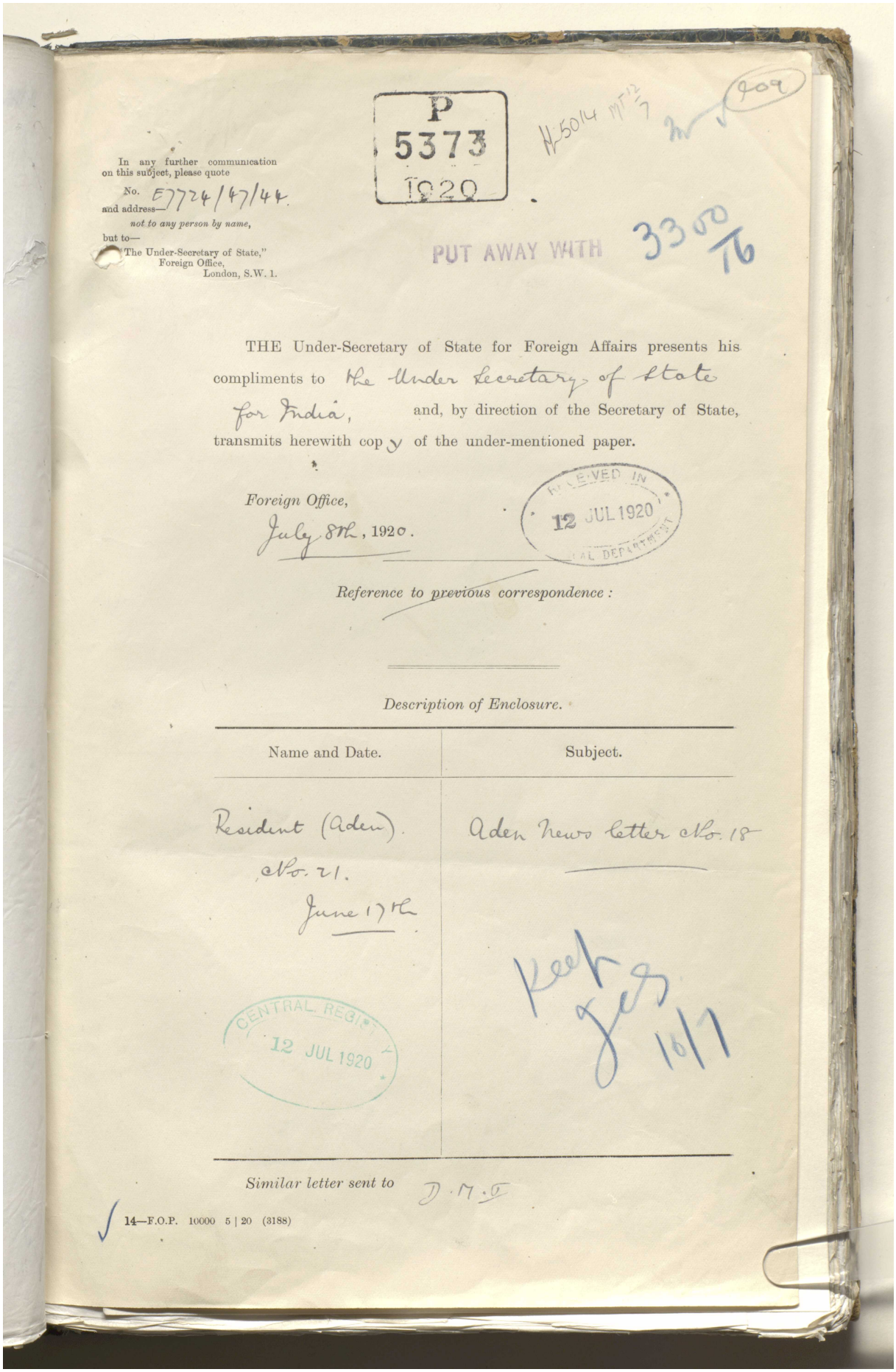

P
5373
1920

H 5014 MT 12/7

409

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Foreign Office,
July 8th, 1920.

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12 JUL 1920
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Resident (Aden). No. 21. June 17th	Aden News Letter No. 18

CENTRAL REGISTRY
12 JUL 1920

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16/7

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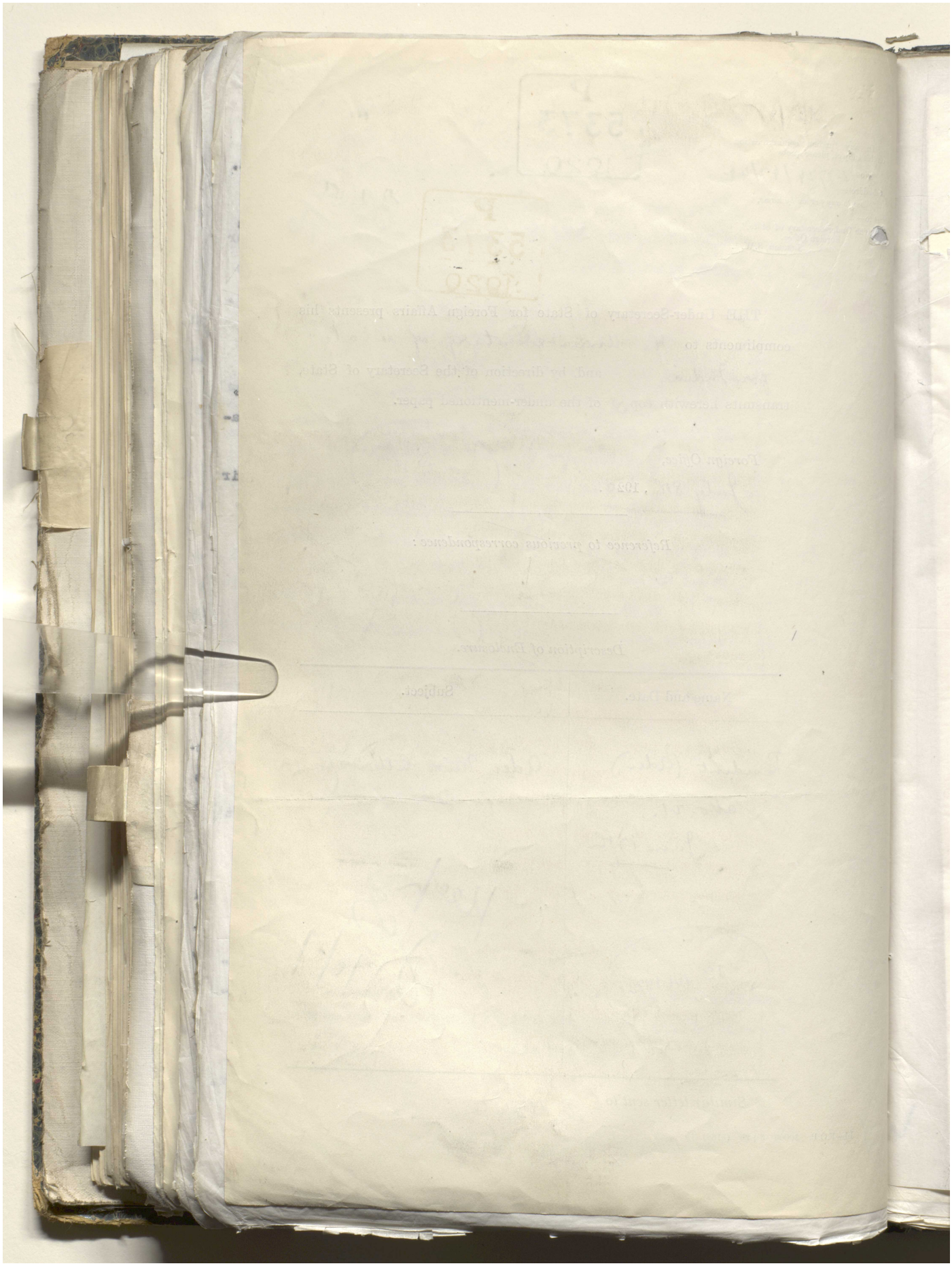

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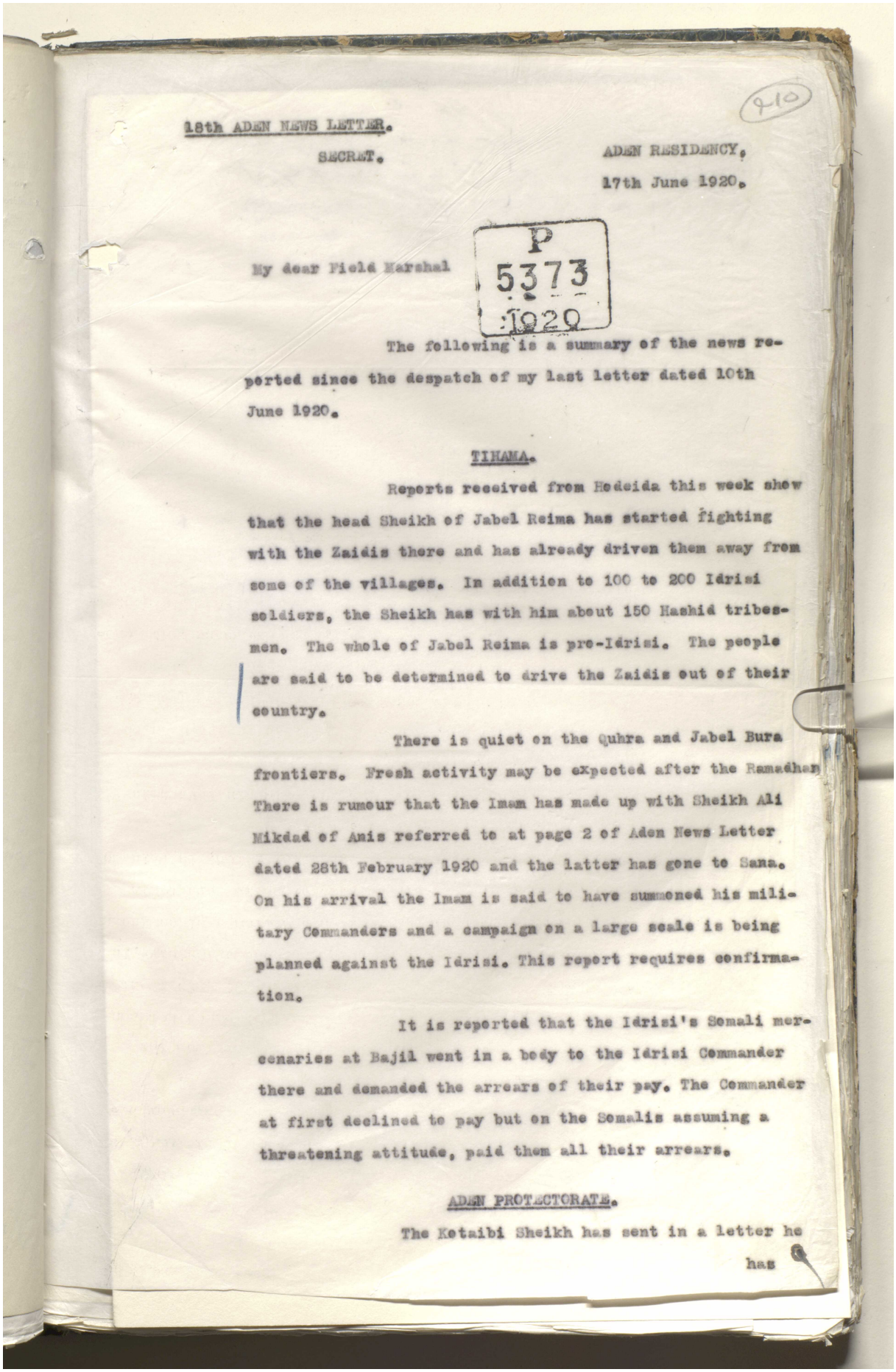

410

18th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
17th June 1920.

P
5373
1920

My dear Field Marshal

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 10th June 1920.

TIHAMA.

Reports received from Hodeida this week show that the head Sheikh of Jabel Reima has started fighting with the Zaidis there and has already driven them away from some of the villages. In addition to 100 to 200 Idrisi soldiers, the Sheikh has with him about 150 Hashid tribesmen. The whole of Jabel Reima is pro-Idrisi. The people are said to be determined to drive the Zaidis out of their country.

There is quiet on the Quhra and Jabel Bura frontiers. Fresh activity may be expected after the Ramadhan. There is rumour that the Imam has made up with Sheikh Ali Mikdad of Anis referred to at page 2 of Aden News Letter dated 28th February 1920 and the latter has gone to Sana. On his arrival the Imam is said to have summoned his military Commanders and a campaign on a large scale is being planned against the Idrisi. This report requires confirmation.

It is reported that the Idrisi's Somali mercenaries at Bajil went in a body to the Idrisi Commander there and demanded the arrears of their pay. The Commander at first declined to pay but on the Somalis assuming a threatening attitude, paid them all their arrears.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Ketaibi Sheikh has sent in a letter he has

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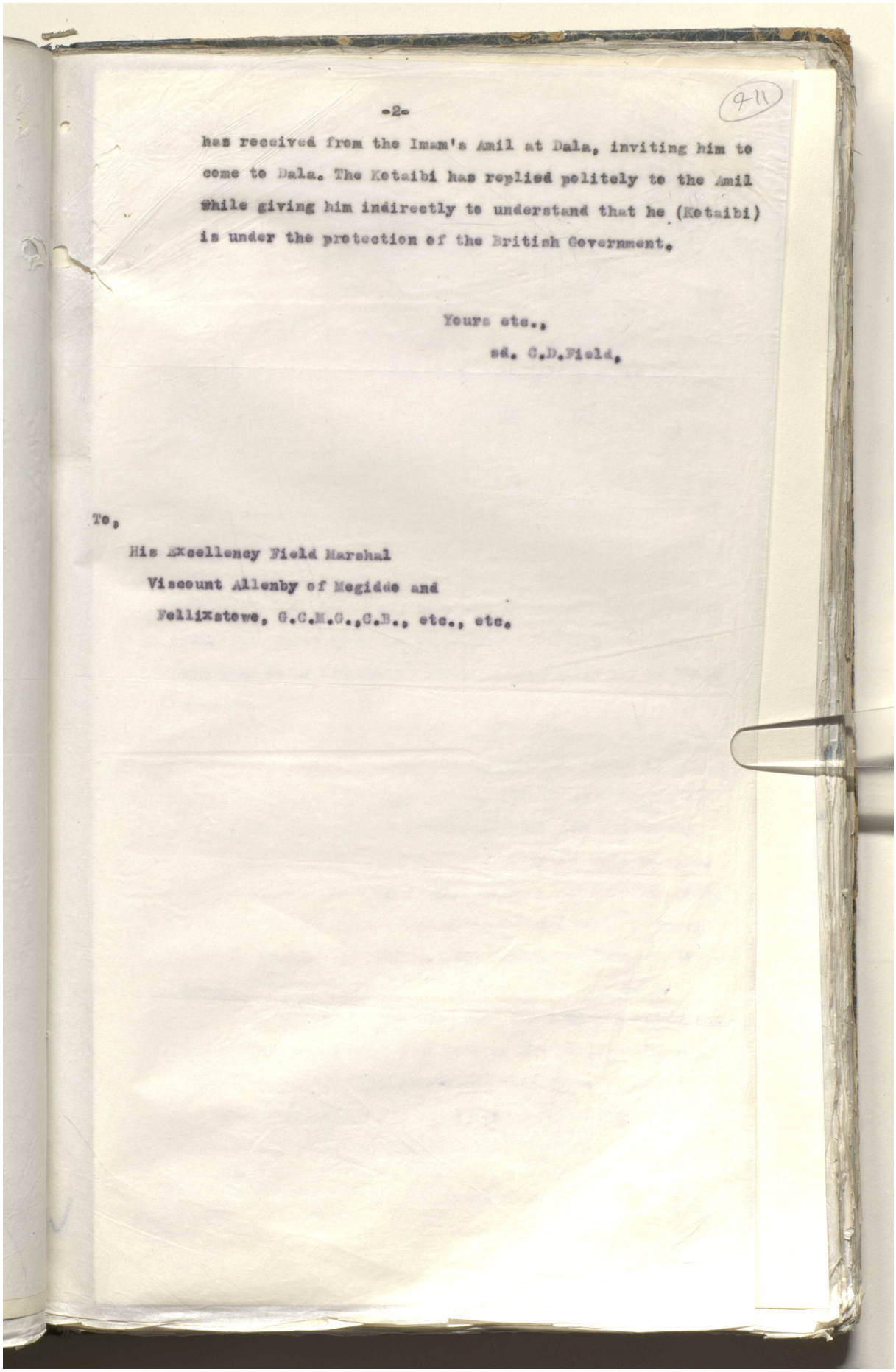

411

has received from the Imam's Amil at Dala, inviting him to come to Dala. The Kotaibi has replied politely to the Amil while giving him indirectly to understand that he (Kotaibi) is under the protection of the British Government.

Yours etc.,
sd. C.D.Field.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal
Viscount Allenby of Megidde and
Fellixstowe, G.C.M.G.,C.B., etc., etc.

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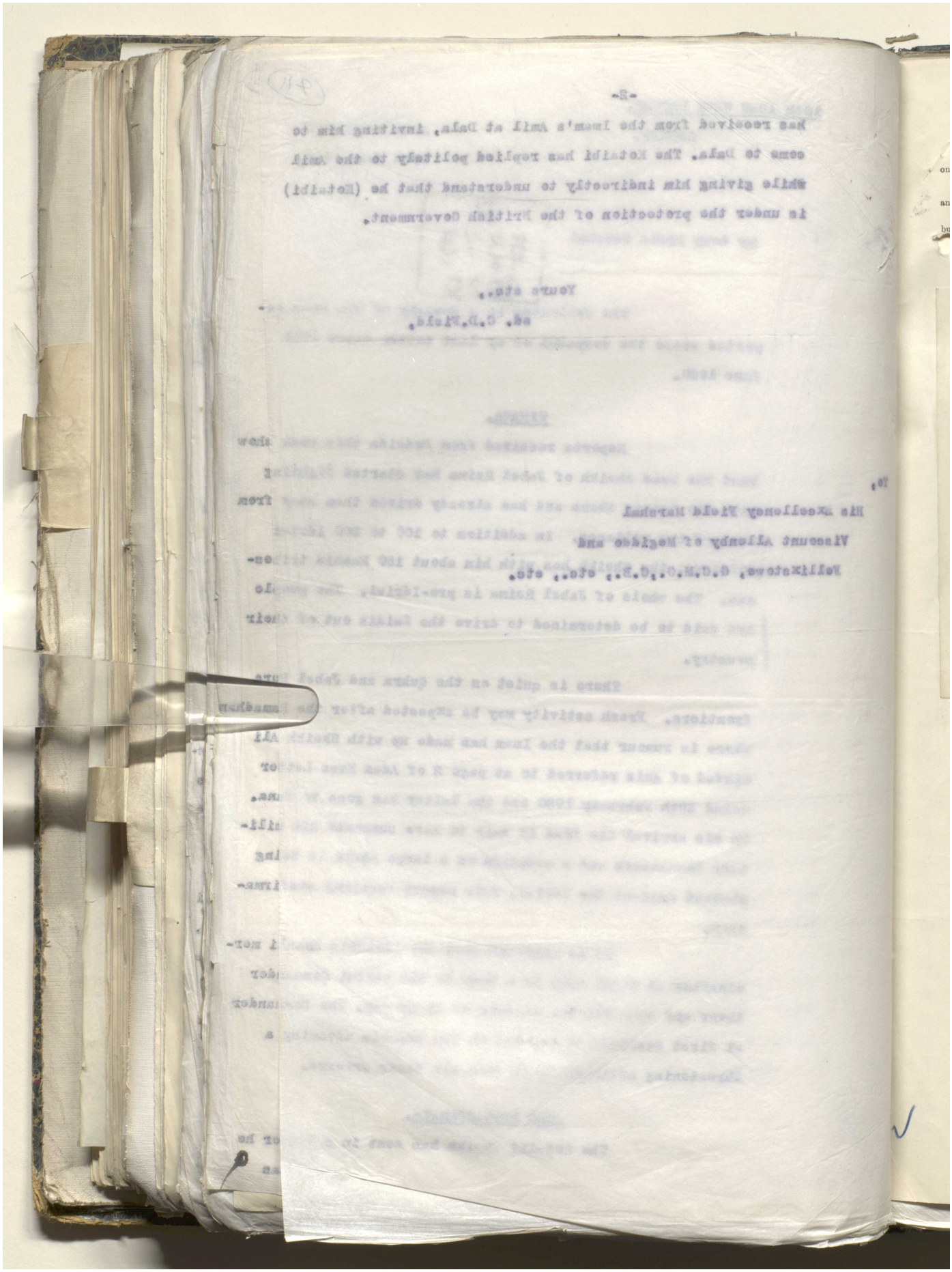

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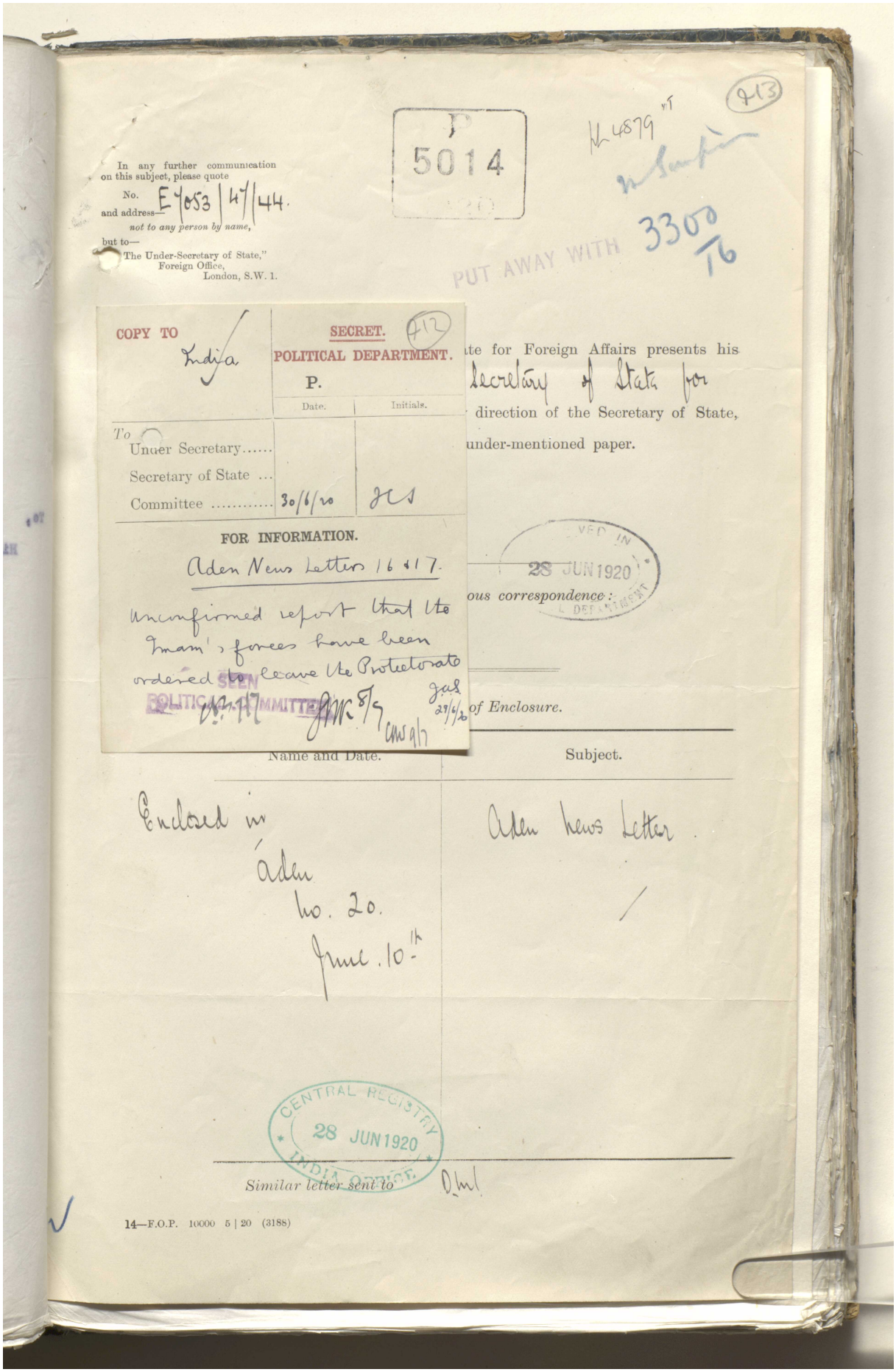

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P 5014

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....		
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	30/6/20	JCS

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden News Letters 16 & 17.

Unconfirmed report that the Imam's forces have been ordered to leave the Protectorate

SEEN POLITICAL COMMITTEE 29/6/20

...te for Foreign Affairs presents his ... Secretary of State for ... direction of the Secretary of State, ... under-mentioned paper.

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...of Enclosure.

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CENTRAL REGISTRY 28 JUN 1920 INDIA OFFICE

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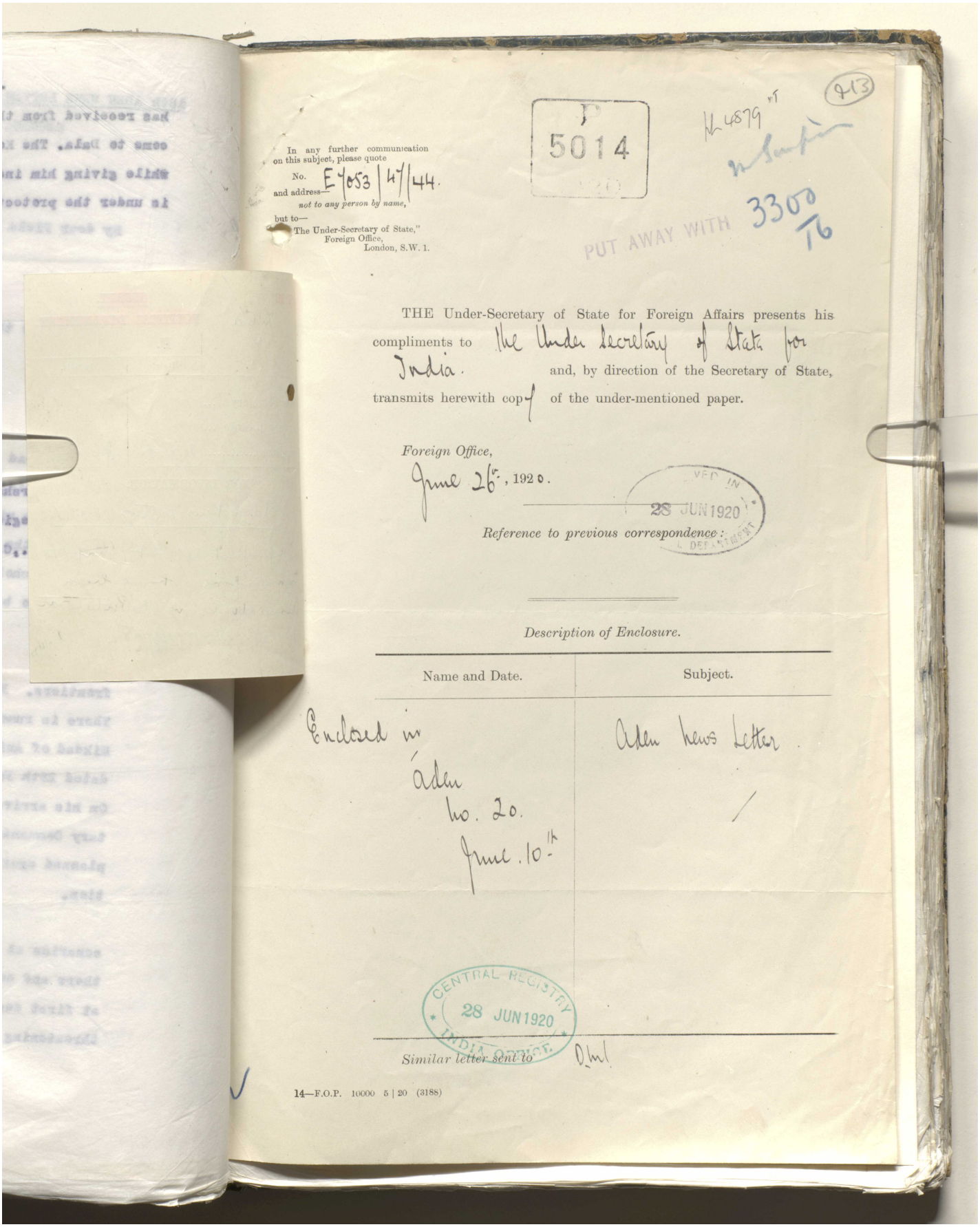

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P 5014 1920

H 4879

413

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Foreign Office,
June 26th, 1920.

RECD IN 28 JUN 1920 L. DEPARTMENT

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Enclosed in Aden No. 20. June. 10th.	Aden News Letter.

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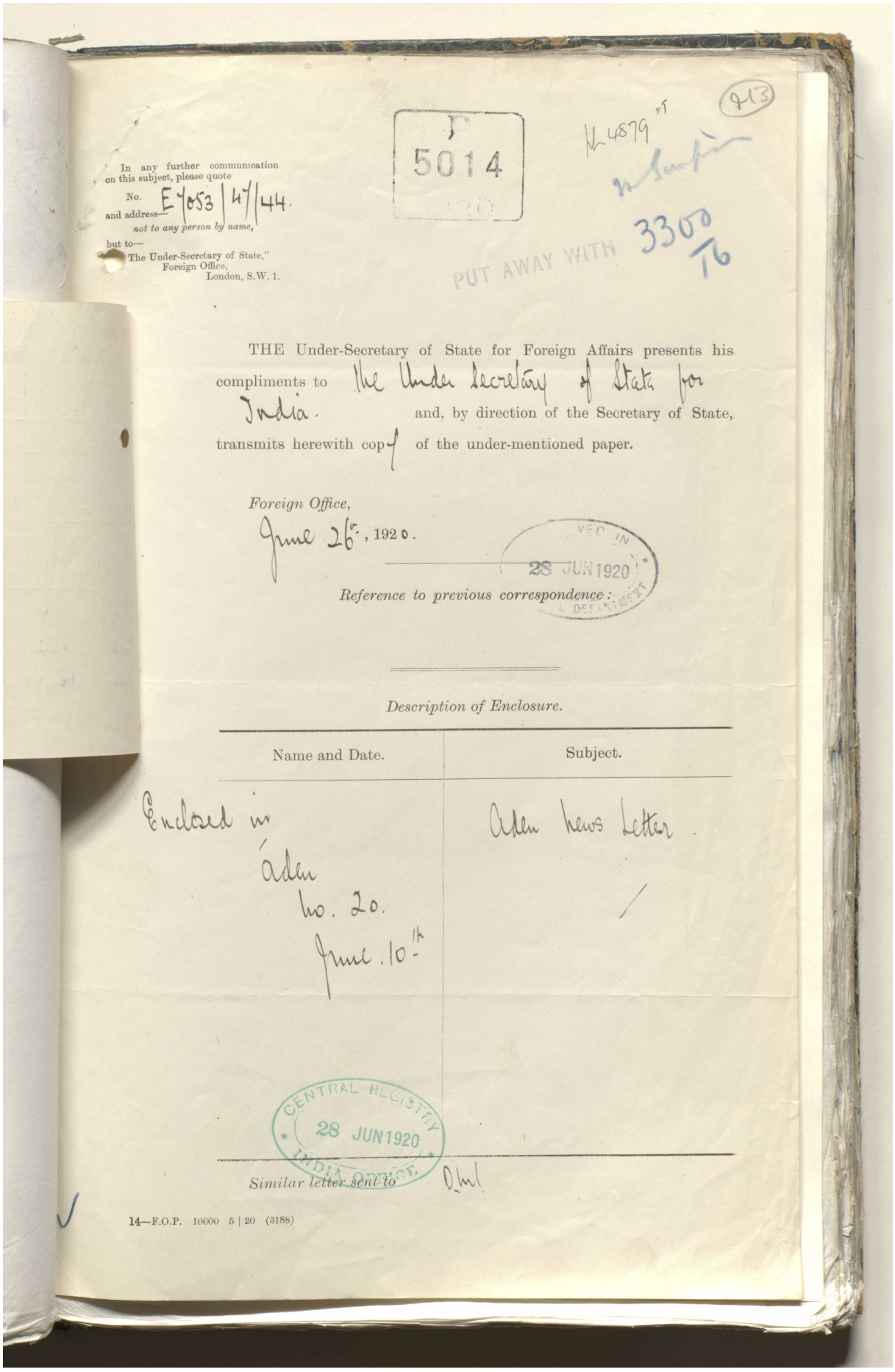

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P 5014 1920

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Foreign Office,
June 26th, 1920.

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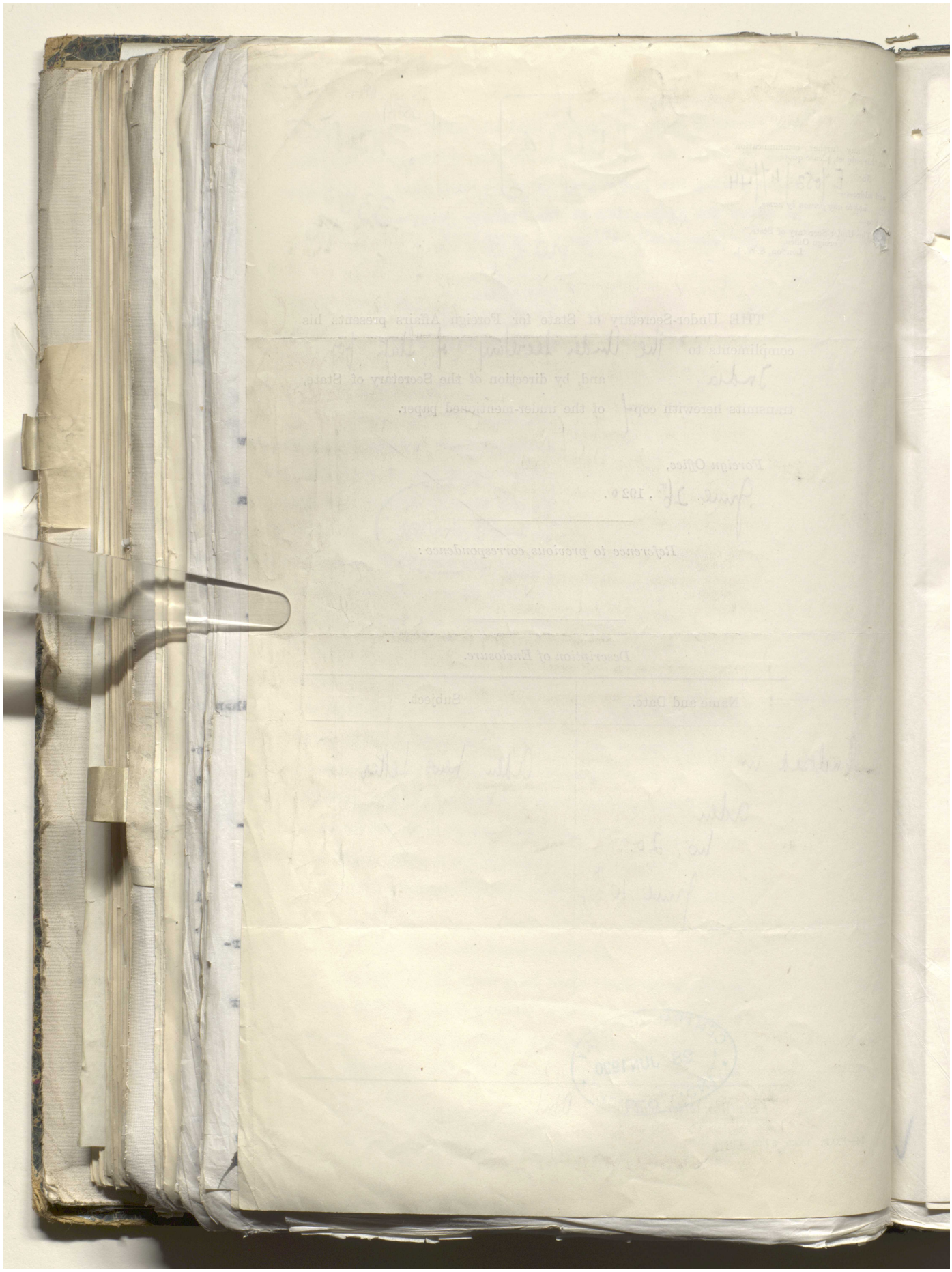

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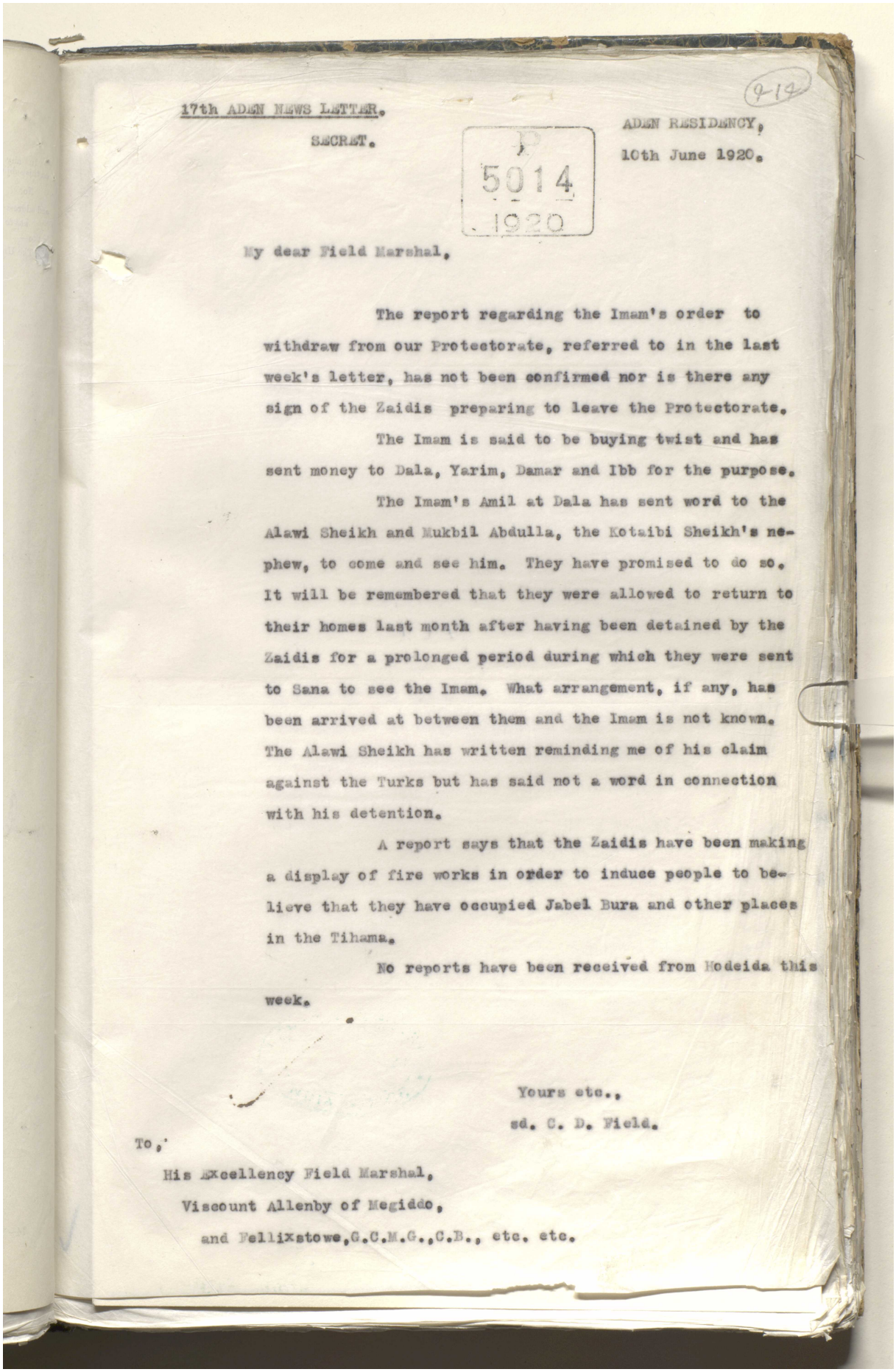

9-14

17th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

P 5014 1920

ADEN RESIDENCY,
10th June 1920.

My dear Field Marshal,

The report regarding the Imam's order to withdraw from our Protectorate, referred to in the last week's letter, has not been confirmed nor is there any sign of the Zaidis preparing to leave the Protectorate.

The Imam is said to be buying twist and has sent money to Dala, Yarim, Damar and Ibb for the purpose.

The Imam's Amil at Dala has sent word to the Alawi Sheikh and Mukbil Abdulla, the Kotaibi Sheikh's nephew, to come and see him. They have promised to do so. It will be remembered that they were allowed to return to their homes last month after having been detained by the Zaidis for a prolonged period during which they were sent to Sana to see the Imam. What arrangement, if any, has been arrived at between them and the Imam is not known. The Alawi Sheikh has written reminding me of his claim against the Turks but has said not a word in connection with his detention.

A report says that the Zaidis have been making a display of fire works in order to induce people to believe that they have occupied Jabel Bura and other places in the Tihama.

No reports have been received from Hodeida this week.

Yours etc.,
sd. C. D. Field.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
Viscount Allenby of Megiddo,
and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B., etc. etc.

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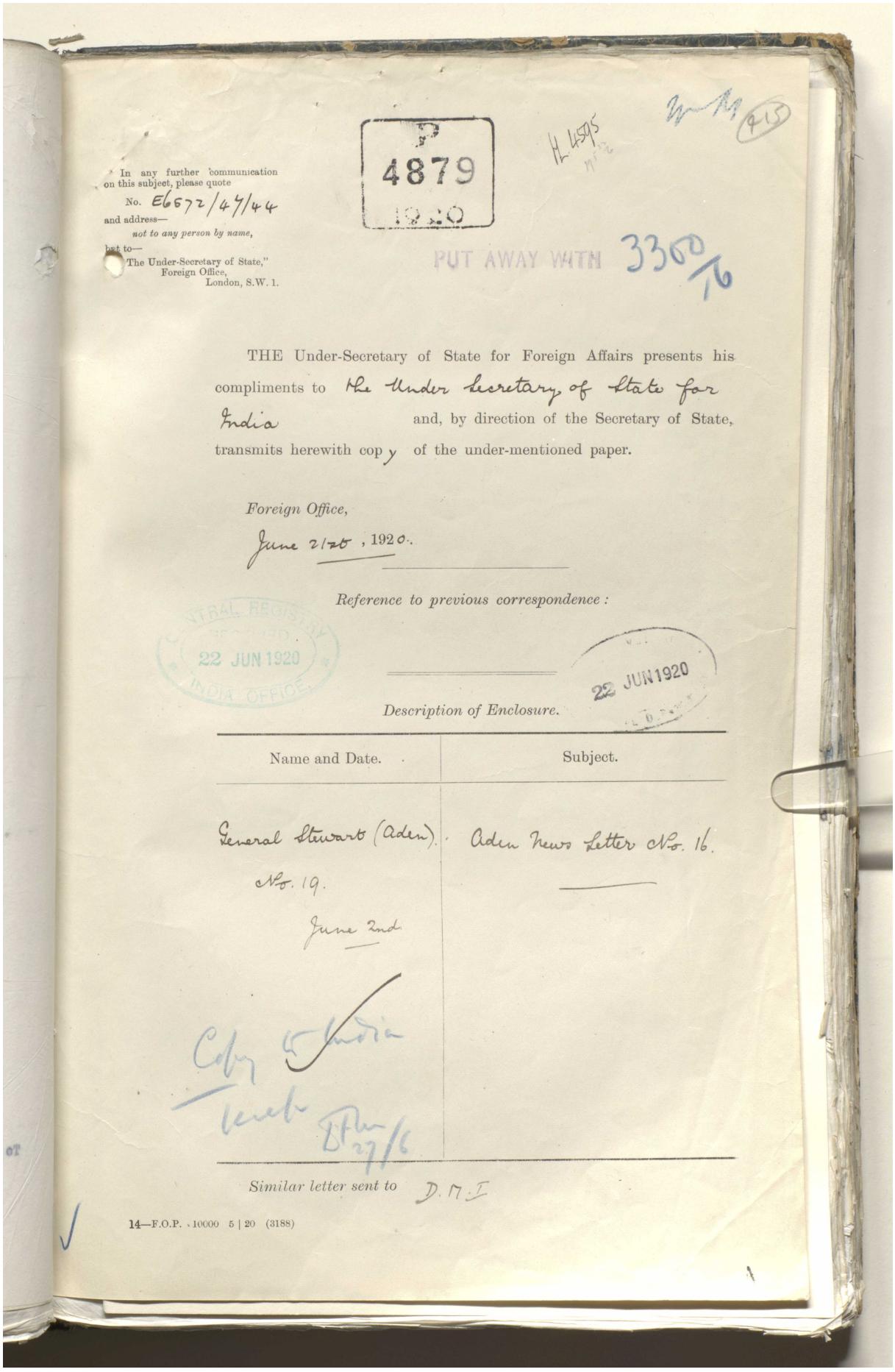

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P 4879 1920

H. 4595

415

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Foreign Office,
June 21st, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

CENTRAL REGISTRY RECEIVED 22 JUN 1920 INDIA OFFICE

22 JUN 1920

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart (Aden). No. 19. June 2nd.	Aden News Letter No. 16.

Copy sent to D.P. 27/6

Similar letter sent to D.M.I

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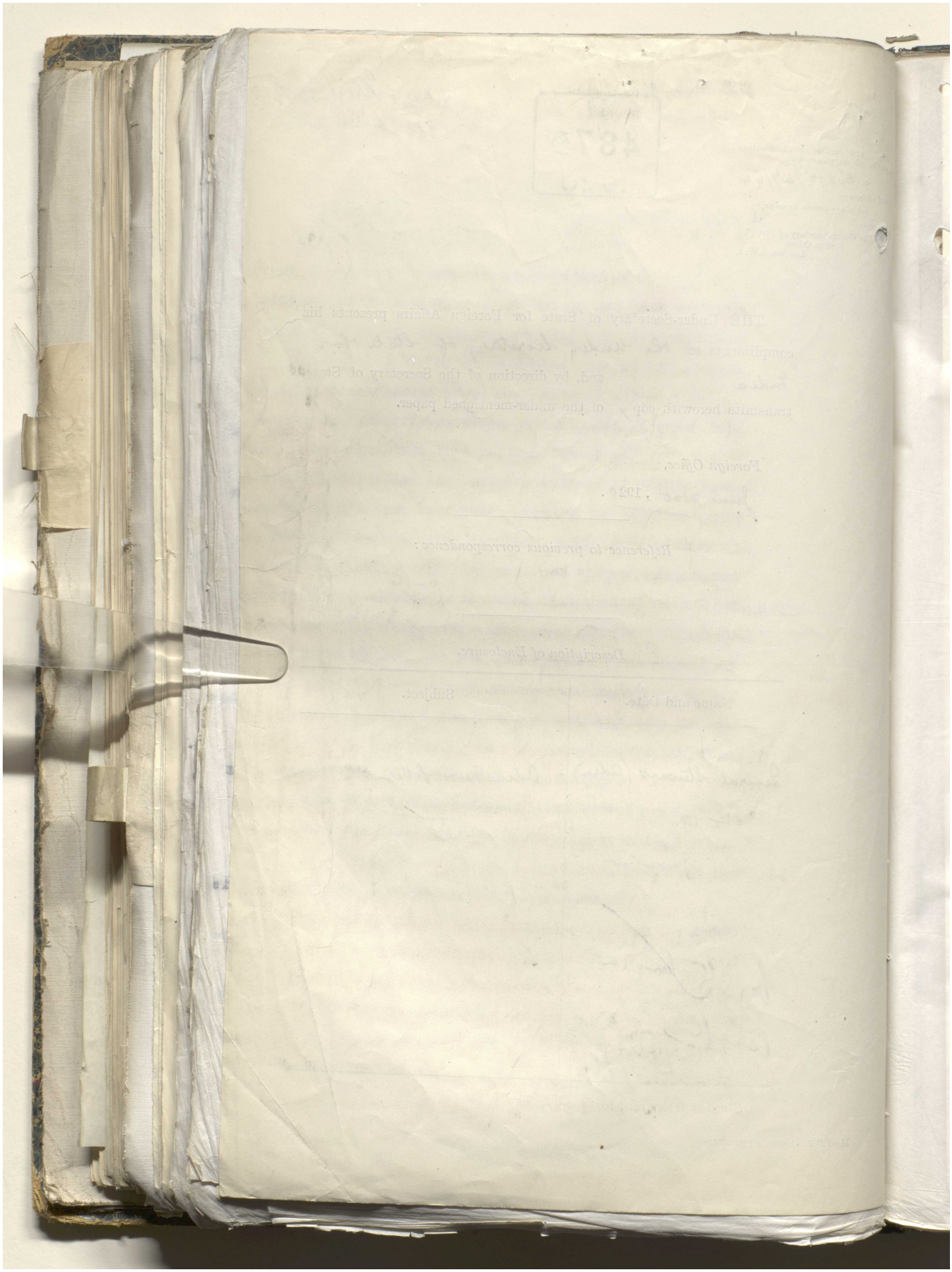

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16th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
2nd June 1920.

(416)

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 27th May 1920.

TIHAMA.

Sheikh Mahomed Zaid (Quhra) who was wounded at Jabel Bura is now reported to be almost well. It appears that he only sustained a flesh wound. Sheikh Ismail Bhagawi came to Hodeida to take medicine and dresssings for him but only mentioned that they were required for a friend without giving his name. The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that it came to his knowledge that the medicine etc. were for Sheikh Mahomed Zaid and that Sheikh Ismail Bhagawi was afraid of our putting poison in the medicine if we knew it was for Sheikh Mahomed Zaid.

A deputation consisting of the head Sheikh and several other Sheikhs of Jabel Reima visited Sheikh Mahomed Tahir, the Idrisi Commander at Bajil. They asked to be placed under Idrisi protection and for help to expel a party of Zaidis, who were committing excesses in their country. Sheikh Mahomed Tahir responded by despatching a party of Idrisi soldiers from Shutaba and a gun from Attar.

The Imam has made no fresh attempt to recapture Jabel Bura. He is reported to have sent orders to stop fighting during the Ramadhan. His soldiers have been under a disadvantage owing to the heat from which they have suffered a great deal. He has recalled a number of Commanders from Menakha and the majority of the troops there has proceeded to Zabeed.

The Zaidis have destroyed the house and other

property

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(417)

property of the Sheikh of Rakb in the vicinity of Zabeed owing to his recent revolt against the Imam. The Sheikh has sought help from the Idrisi. Syed Ahmed al Ambari of Zabeed has been appointed by the Imam Army Commander because of his influence with the prople of Zabeed.

Syed Mustafa has received a letter from the Idrisi informing him of a fight which took place between the Idrisi and the Imam's troops on the Beni Qais front north of Jabel Milhan in the neighbourhood of Zaidiya, in which fight the latter were driven out from a place known as Madhaya. A few Zaidis were killed and 20 were taken prisoners. The Commander, who has been killed, is said to be a near relative of the Imam.

Syed Mustafa and Captain Fazluddin left this morning for Jizan.

The ex-Wali, Mahmud Nadhim, is reported to be giving out that he has received a letter from Constantinople telling him that the Turks were (are) returning to the Yemen shortly and that Tewfiq Bey, the ex-Accountant General of the Vilayat has been appointed the ex-Wali's assistant-

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Imam is reported to have issued orders to his Amil and Commanders in the Amiri country to withdraw from our Protectorate. The Amil is said to be suspicious as to the genuineness of these orders and has despatched a special messenger to the Imam to get confirmation.

All his quiet in the Protectorate.

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart,

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal
Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and
Felixstowe.G.C.M.G..C.B.. etc. etc.

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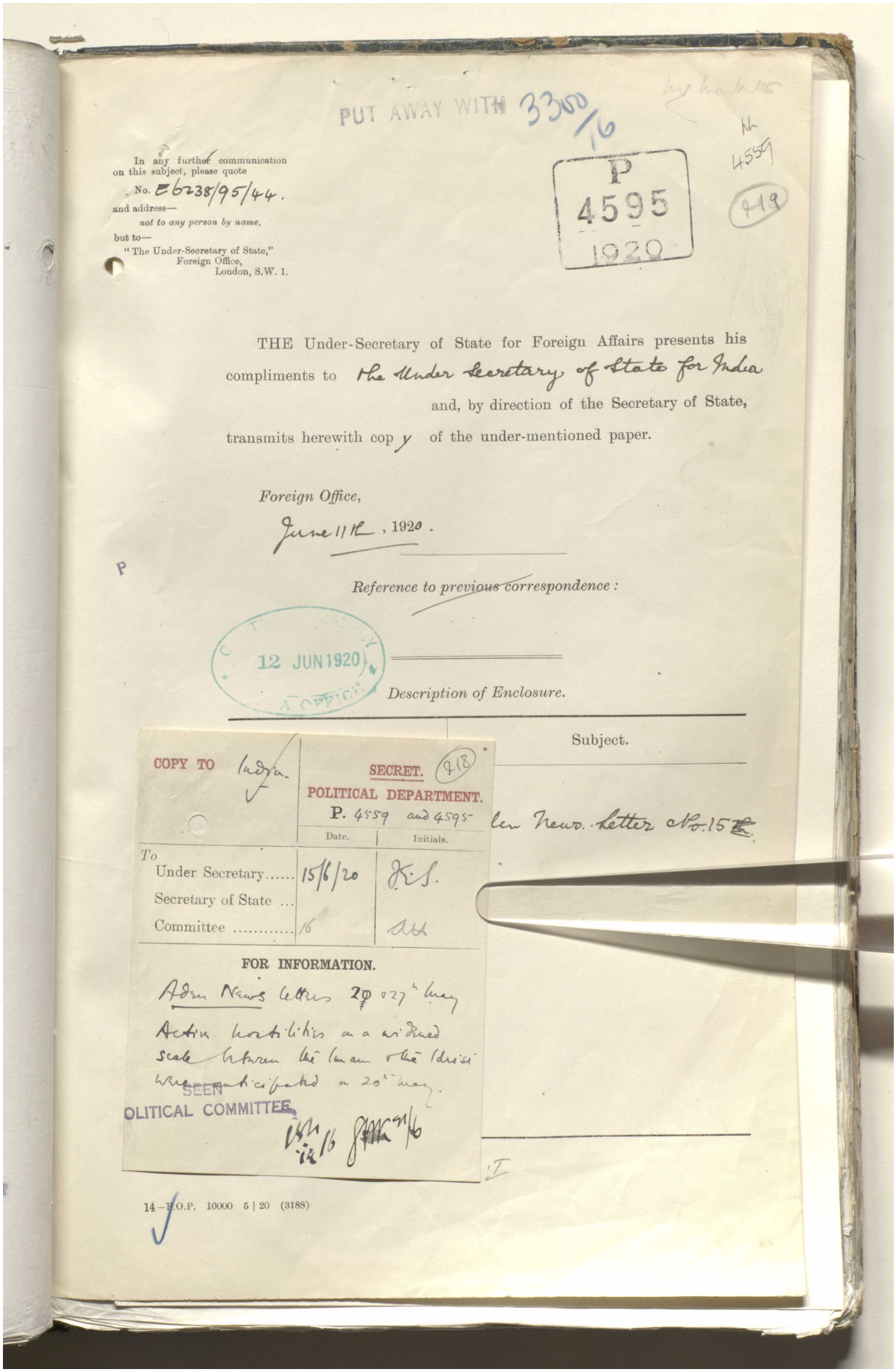

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P 4595 1920

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Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
June 11th, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

12 JUN 1920

Description of Enclosure.

Subject.

COPY TO India

SECRET. (418)
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P. 4559 and 4595- Aden News-letter No. 15

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	15/6/20	J.E.S.
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	16	

FOR INFORMATION.
Aden News letters 20 to 27th May
Active hostilities on a considerable scale between the Imam & the Idrisi were anticipated on 20th May.
SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE
16/6/20

14—E.O.P. 10000 5 | 20 (3188)

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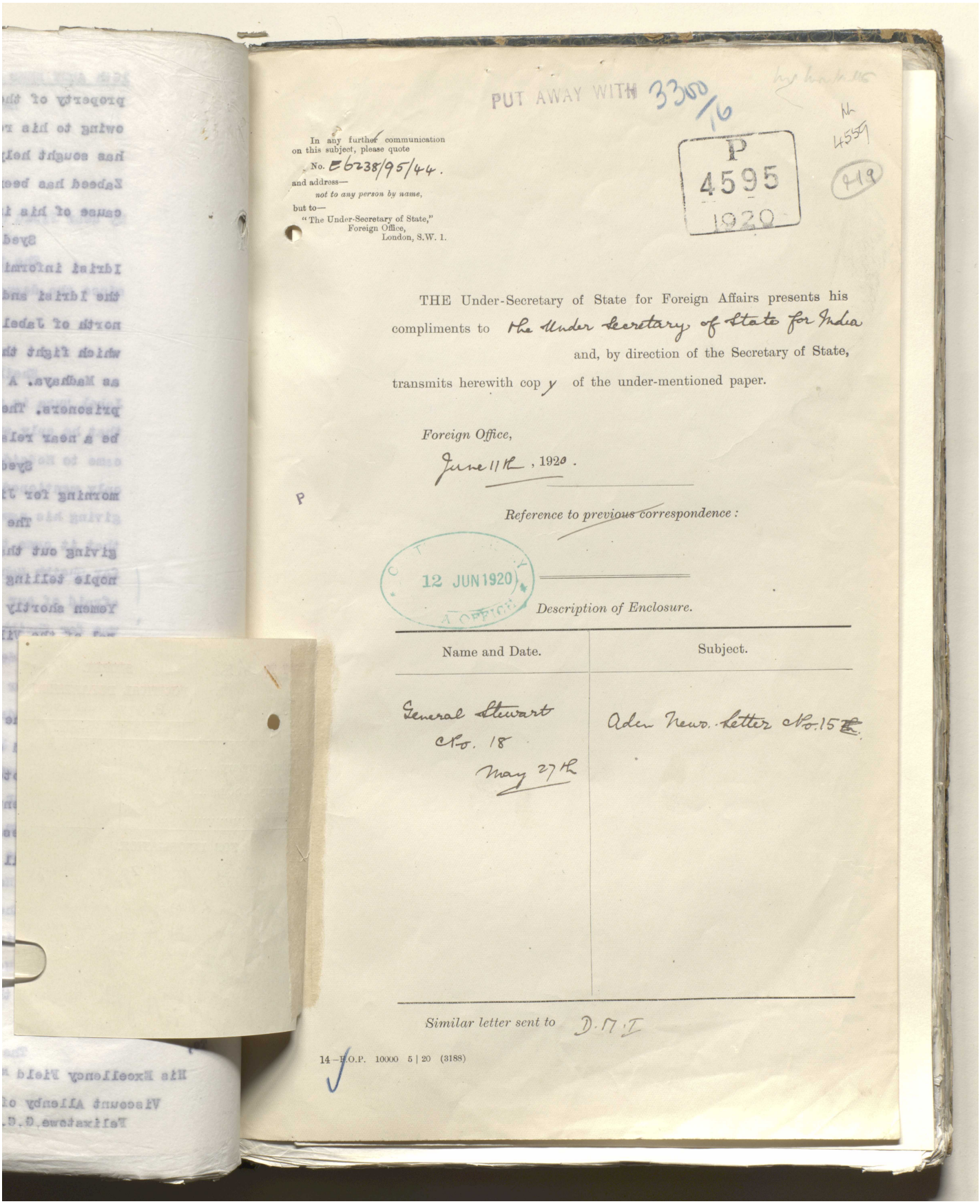

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Foreign Office,
June 11th, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

12 JUN 1920

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart No. 18 May 27th	Aden News-Letter No. 15

Similar letter sent to D.I.I

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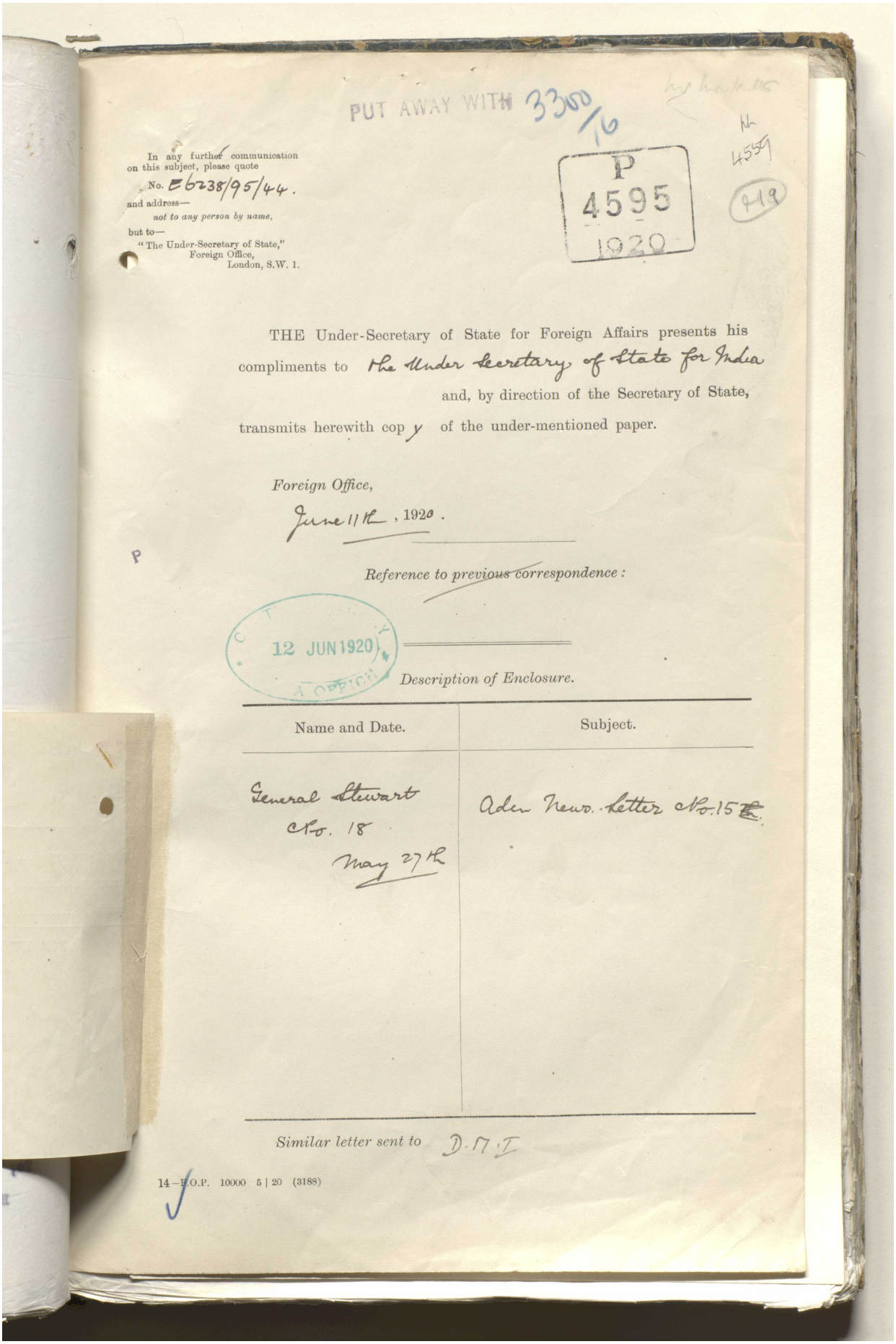

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P
4595
1920

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Foreign Office,
June 11th, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

12 JUN 1920

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart No. 18 May 27th	Aden News-letter No. 15

Similar letter sent to D. of I.

14—E.O.P. 10000 5 | 20 (3188)

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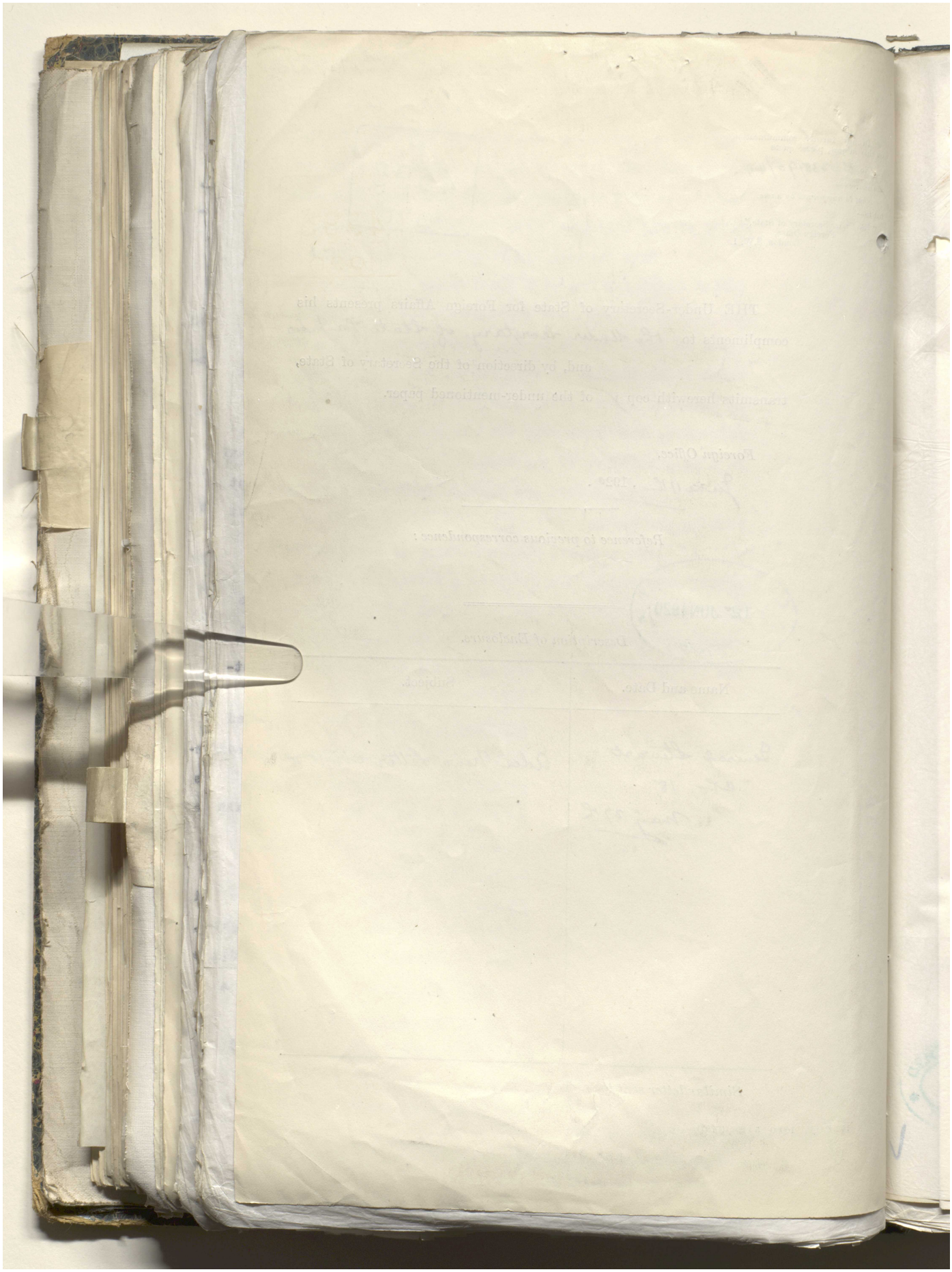

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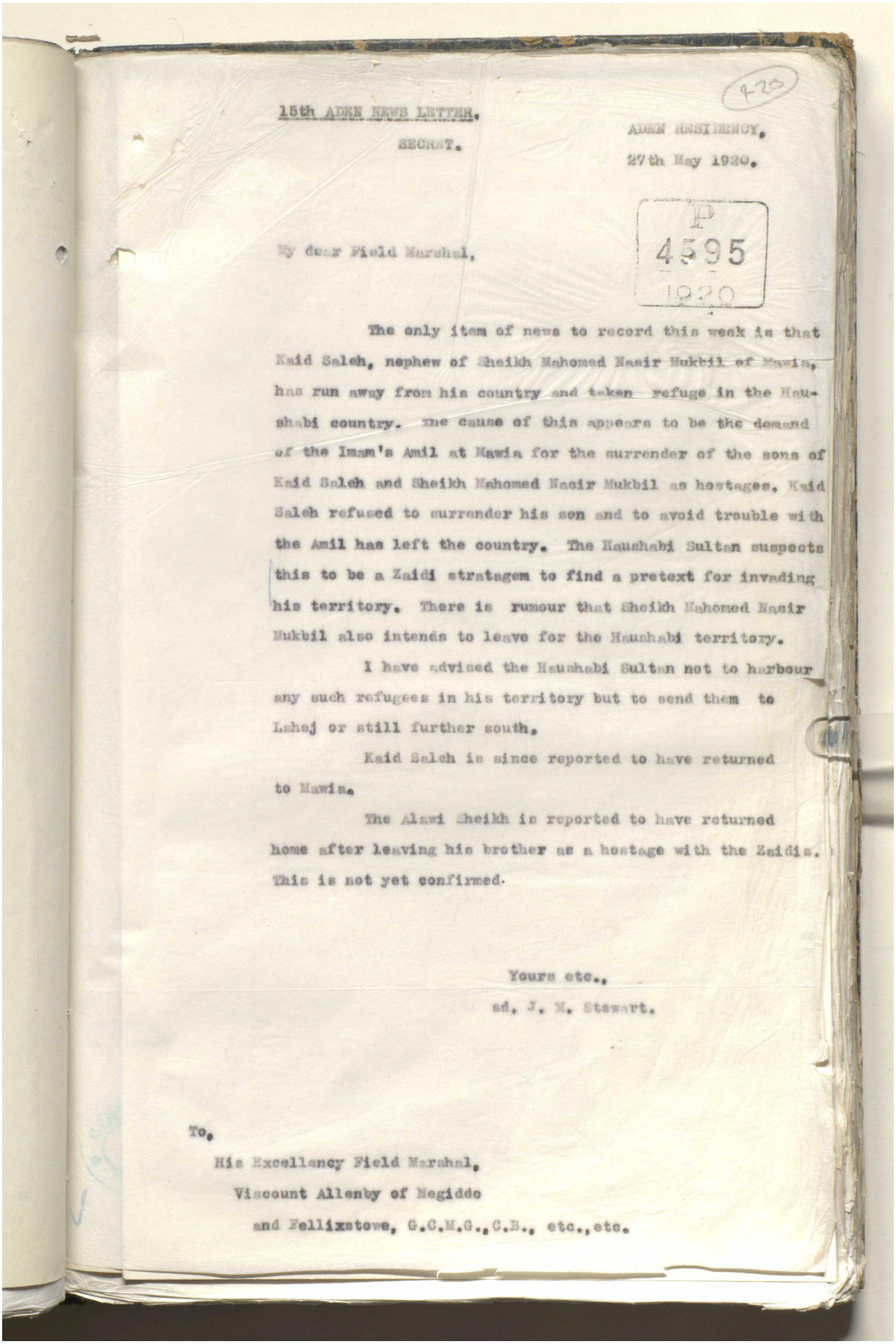

420

15th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
27th May 1920.

P
4595
1920

My dear Field Marshal,

The only item of news to record this week is that Kaid Saleh, nephew of Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil of Mawia, has run away from his country and taken refuge in the Haushabi country. The cause of this appears to be the demand of the Imam's Amil at Mawia for the surrender of the sons of Kaid Saleh and Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil as hostages. Kaid Saleh refused to surrender his son and to avoid trouble with the Amil has left the country. The Haushabi Sultan suspects this to be a Zaidi stratagem to find a pretext for invading his territory. There is rumour that Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil also intends to leave for the Haushabi territory.

I have advised the Haushabi Sultan not to harbour any such refugees in his territory but to send them to Lahej or still further south.

Kaid Saleh is since reported to have returned to Mawia.

The Alawi Sheikh is reported to have returned home after leaving his brother as a hostage with the Zaidis. This is not yet confirmed.

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B., etc., etc.

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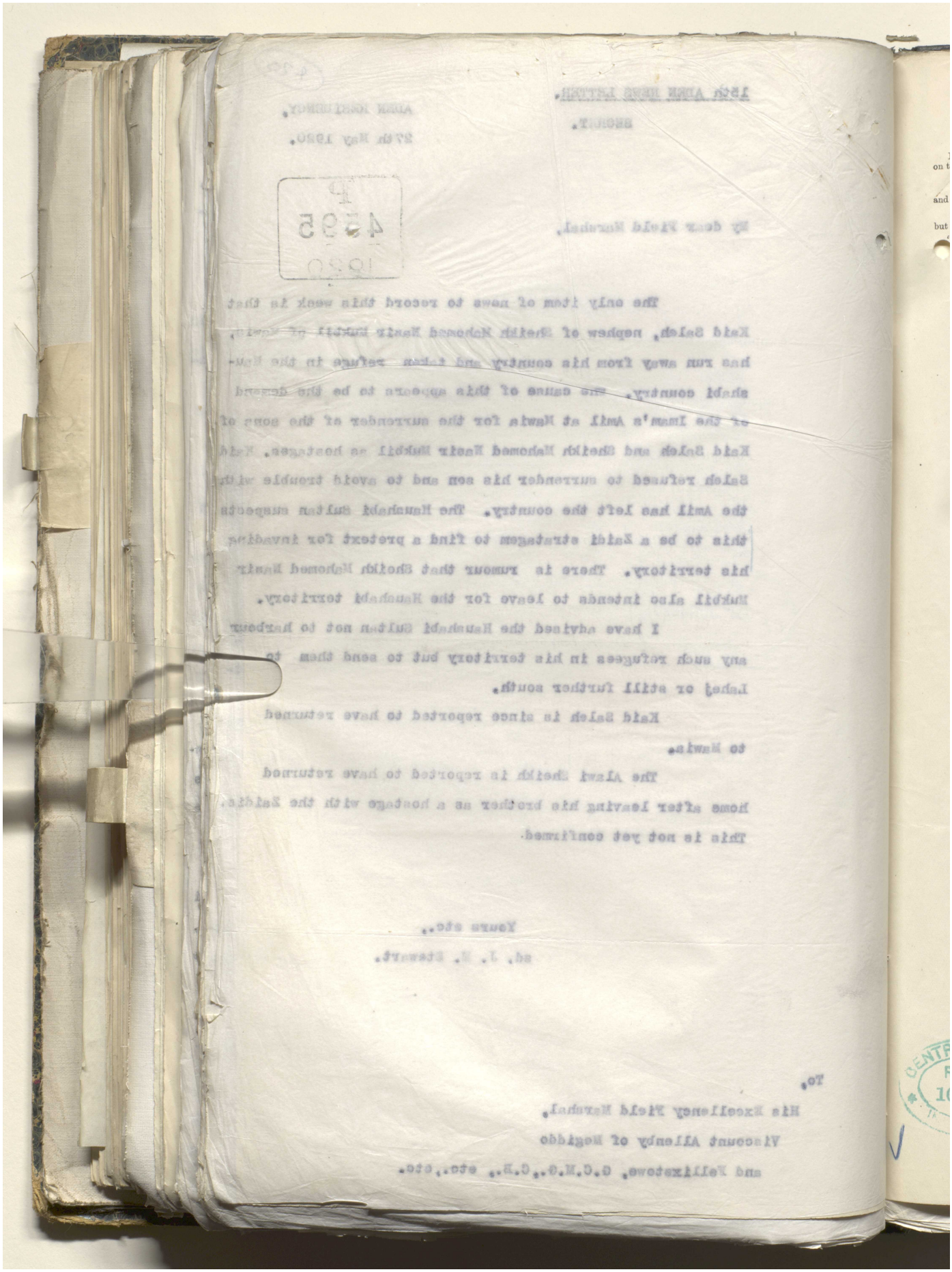

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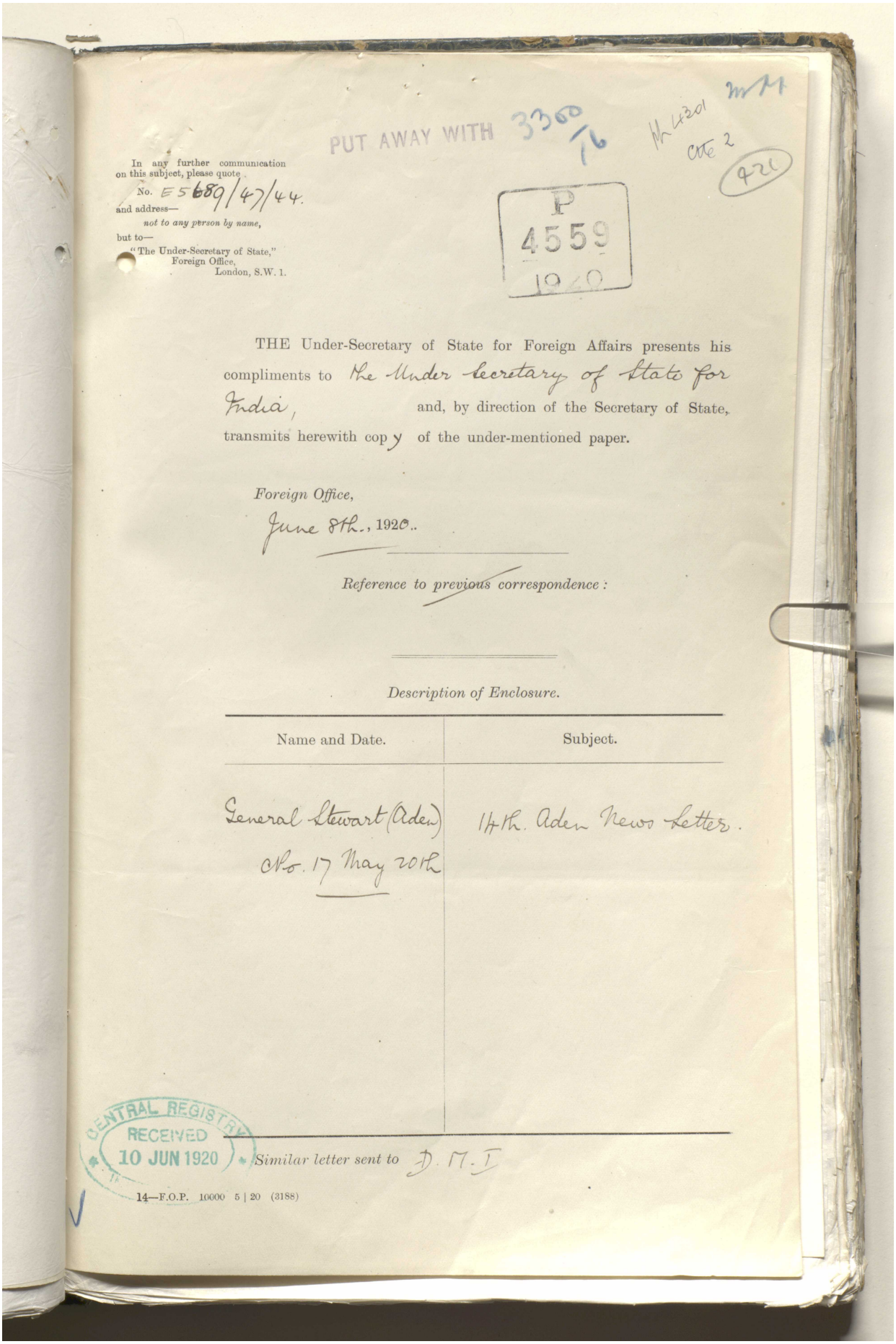

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Mr 4201 m11
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421

P
4559
1920

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Foreign Office,
June 8th., 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart (Aden) No. 17 May 20th	14th. Aden News Letter.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
RECEIVED
10 JUN 1920

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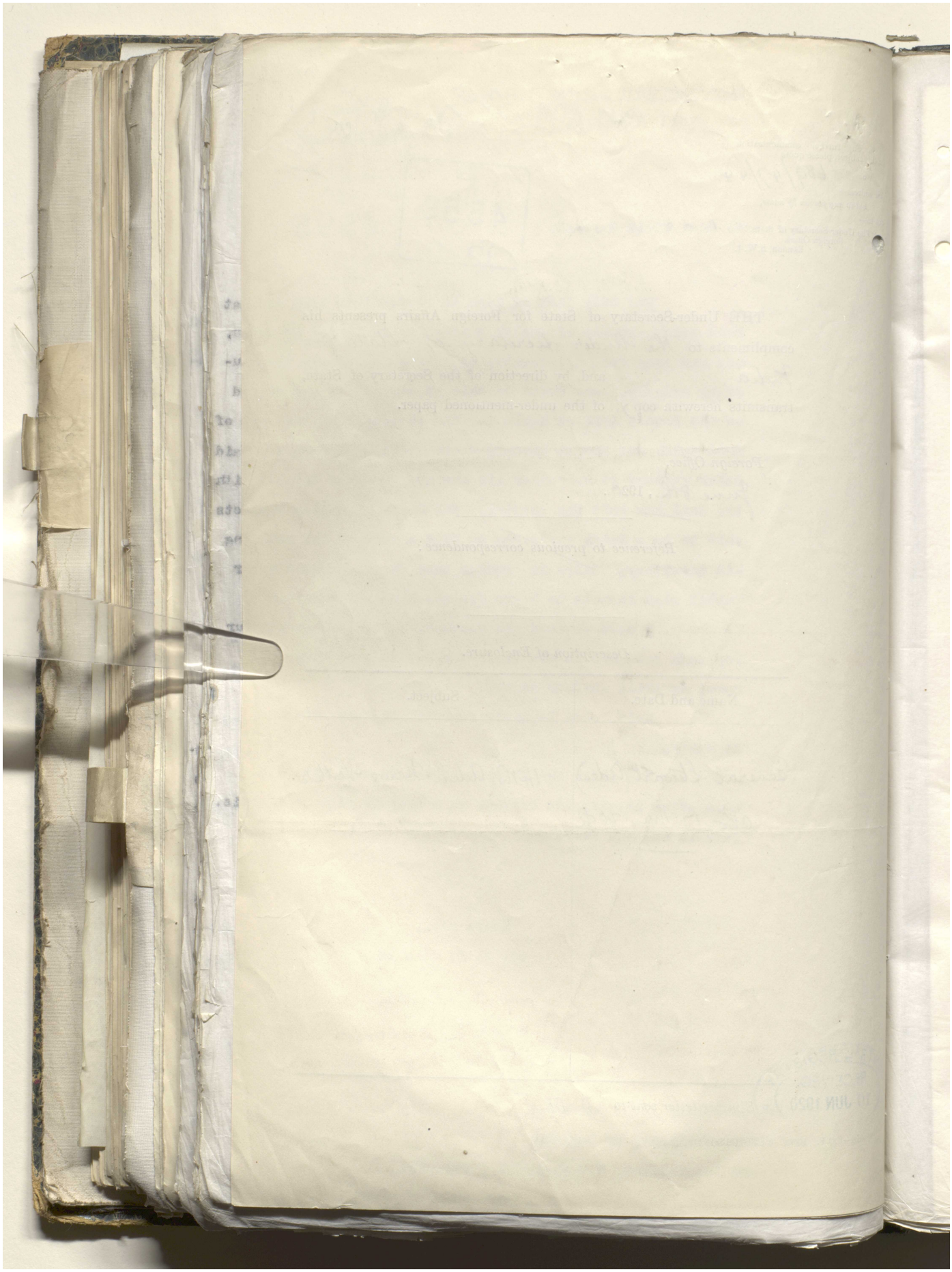

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14th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
20th May 1920.

(422)

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 13th May 1920.

TIHAMA.

Reports received from Hodeida during this week confirm the occupation of Jebel Bura by the Idrisi. Sheikh Mahomed Zaid (Quhra) who was in command at Jebel Bura was wounded in the leg. A force of 1,500 to 2,000 Imamic soldiers is reported to be concentrated at Shutaba and another of 700 awaiting the arrival of Commandant Saiyid Mahomed al Shami at Reima to advance on Jebel Bura.

The Idrisi, in his letter to Syed Mustafa referred to in my last letter, states that he has made adequate arrangements for the defence of Jebel Bura and that he is advancing on Zabid.

An agent at Menakha reports that Sheikh Abu Hadi is inclining towards the Imam. Captain Gordon says that he has received no confirmation of this report. In a recent letter to him, the Idrisi Commander at Bajil, Sheikh Mahomed Tahir, said that the Quhra tribes were absolutely in his hands.

Captain Gordon says that at present the Quhra are mustering in numbers and it appears that the eve of considerable fighting on a larger scale is approaching. He adds that if this continual fighting is maintained, there is the possibility of the Quhra becoming war weary, and the Menakha Agent's report may be a warning of this in advance.

Sheikh Suleiman Hassan Bukheit of the Aboos in a recent letter to the Political Officer, Hodeida, states that rumours are afloat that the Imam has made a vow to

conquer

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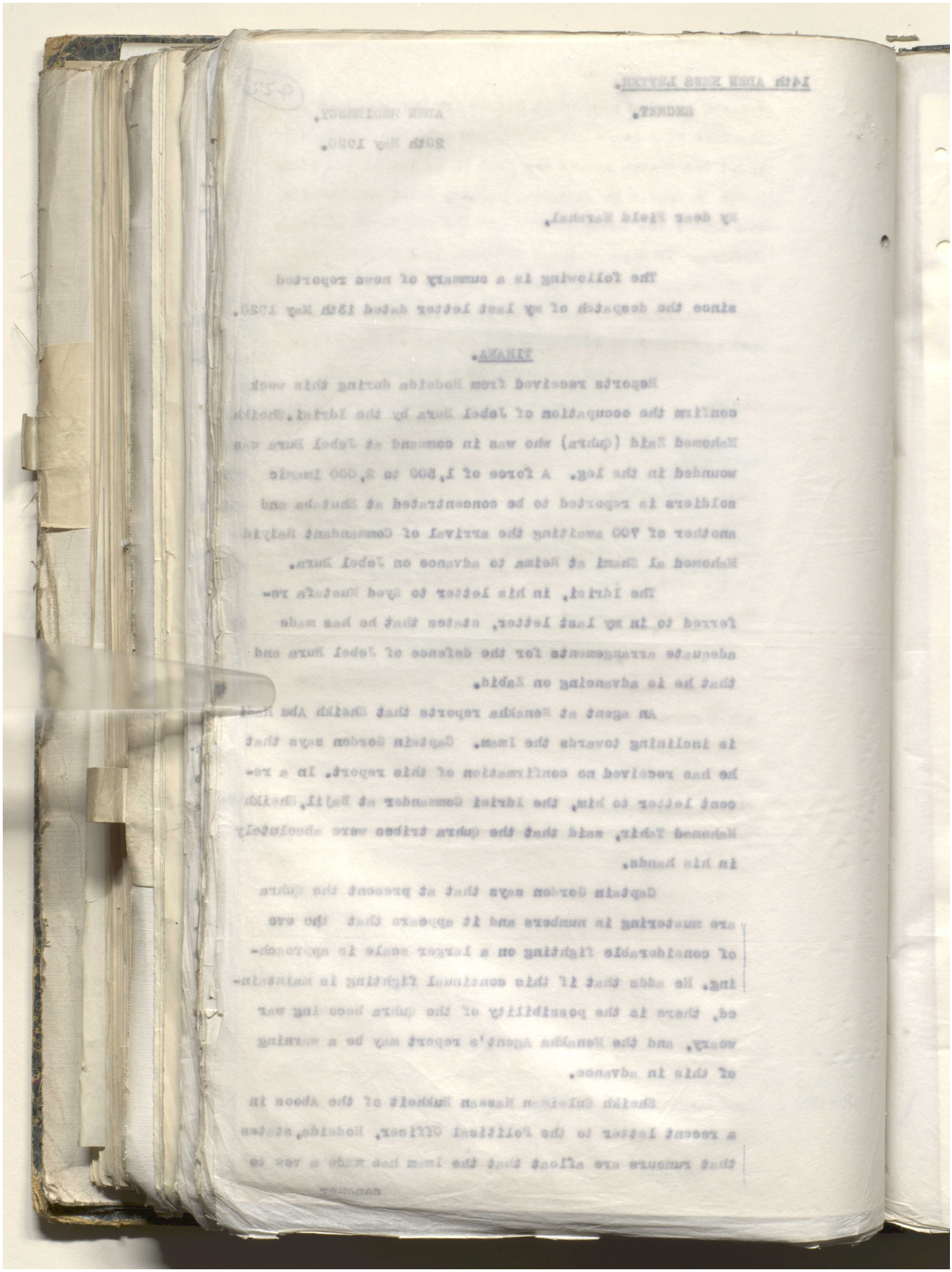

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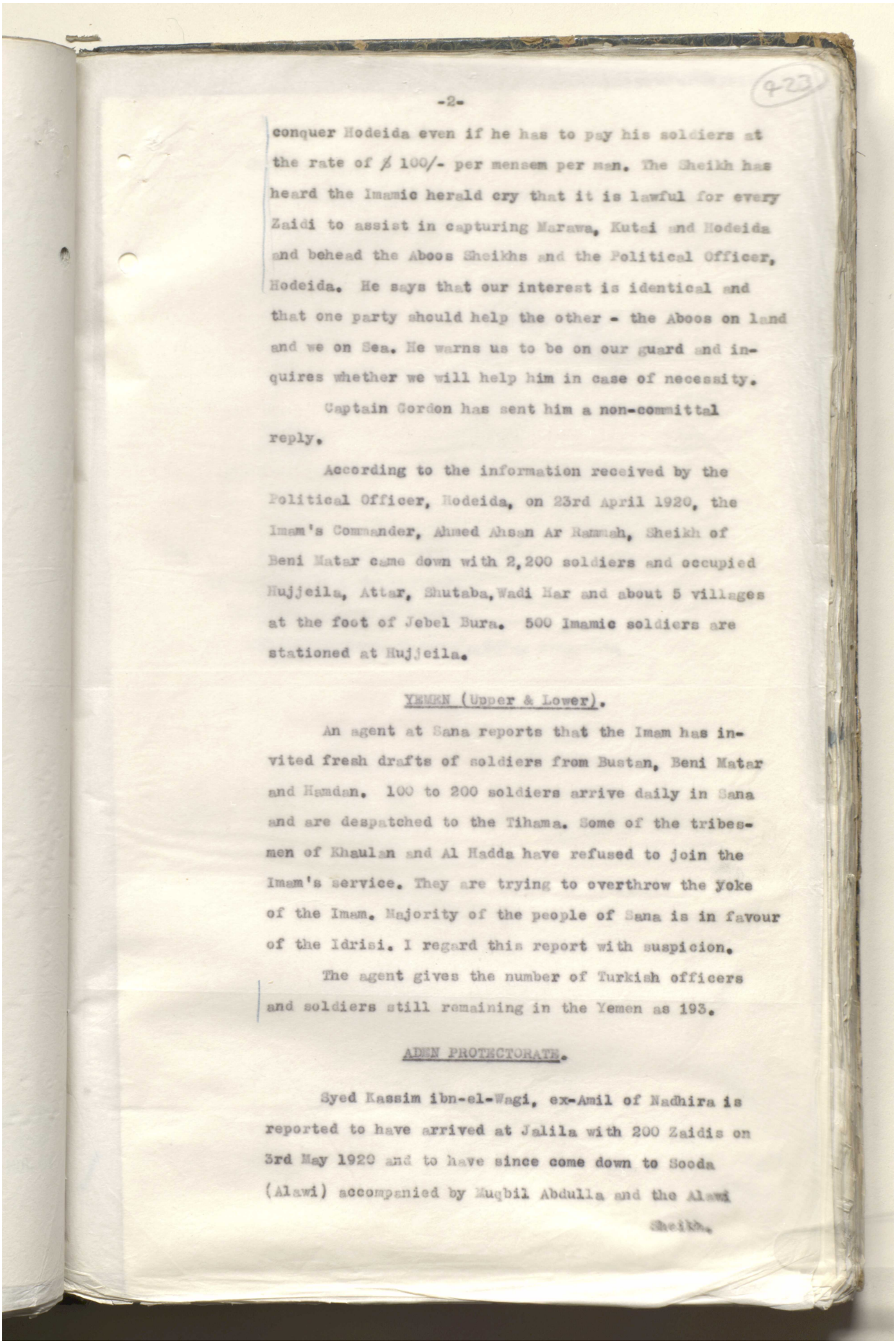

423

conquer Hodeida even if he has to pay his soldiers at the rate of ₤ 100/- per mensem per man. The Sheikh has heard the Imamic herald cry that it is lawful for every Zaidi to assist in capturing Marawa, Kutai and Hodeida and behead the Aboos Sheikhs and the Political Officer, Hodeida. He says that our interest is identical and that one party should help the other - the Aboos on land and we on Sea. He warns us to be on our guard and inquires whether we will help him in case of necessity.

Captain Gordon has sent him a non-committal reply.

According to the information received by the Political Officer, Hodeida, on 23rd April 1920, the Imam's Commander, Ahmed Ahsan Ar Rammah, Sheikh of Beni Matar came down with 2,200 soldiers and occupied Hujjeila, Attar, Shutaba, Wadi Har and about 5 villages at the foot of Jebel Bura. 500 Imamic soldiers are stationed at Hujjeila.

YEMEN (Upper & Lower).

An agent at Sana reports that the Imam has invited fresh drafts of soldiers from Bustan, Beni Matar and Hamdan. 100 to 200 soldiers arrive daily in Sana and are despatched to the Tihama. Some of the tribesmen of Khaulan and Al Hadda have refused to join the Imam's service. They are trying to overthrow the yoke of the Imam. Majority of the people of Sana is in favour of the Idrisi. I regard this report with suspicion.

The agent gives the number of Turkish officers and soldiers still remaining in the Yemen as 193.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Syed Kassim ibn-el-Wagi, ex-Amil of Nadhira is reported to have arrived at Jalila with 200 Zaidis on 3rd May 1920 and to have since come down to Sooda (Alawi) accompanied by Muqbil Abdulla and the Alawi Sheikh.

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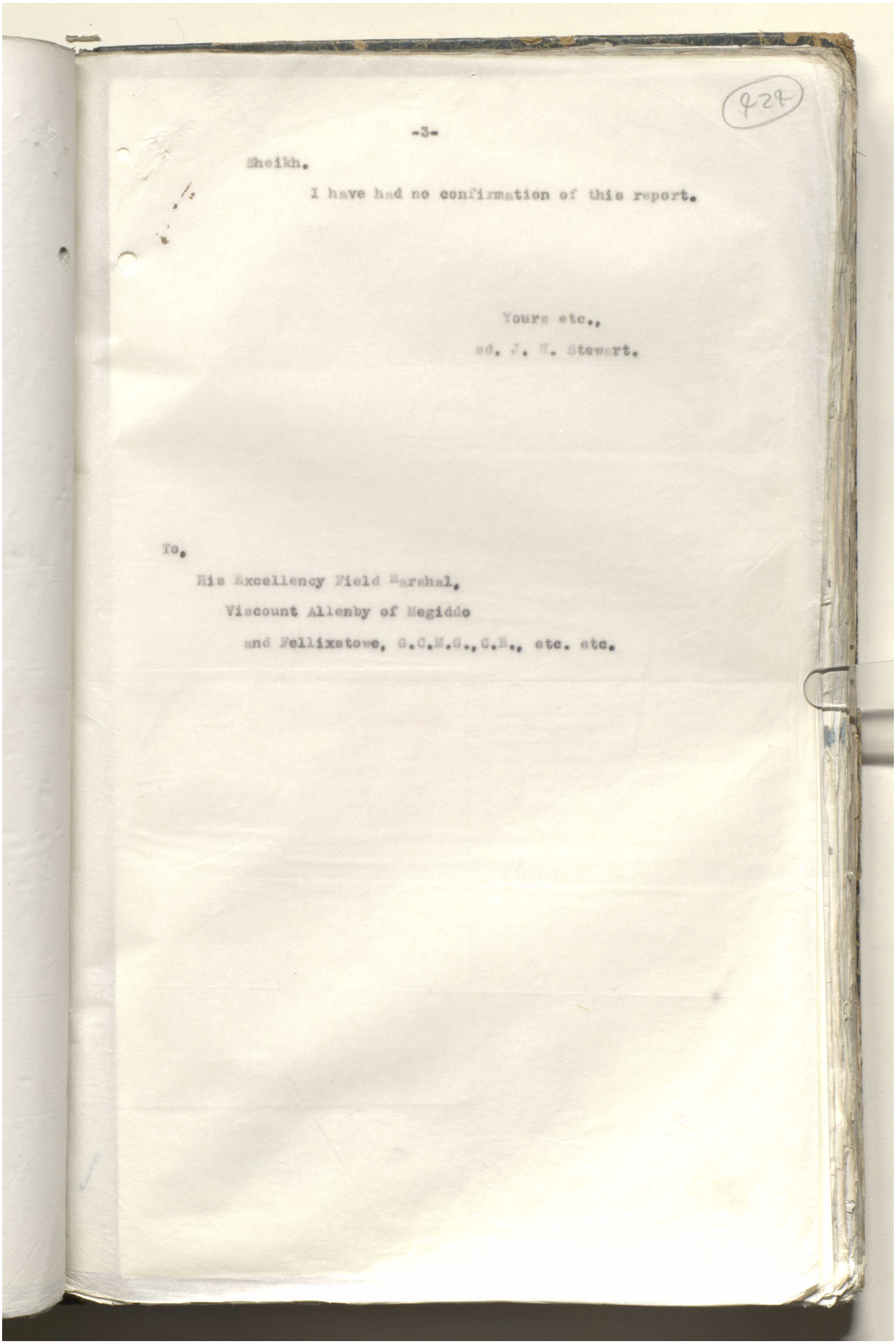

424

Sheikh.

I have had no confirmation of this report.

Yours etc.,

sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,

His Excellency Field Marshal,

Viscount Allenby of Megiddo

and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B., etc. etc.

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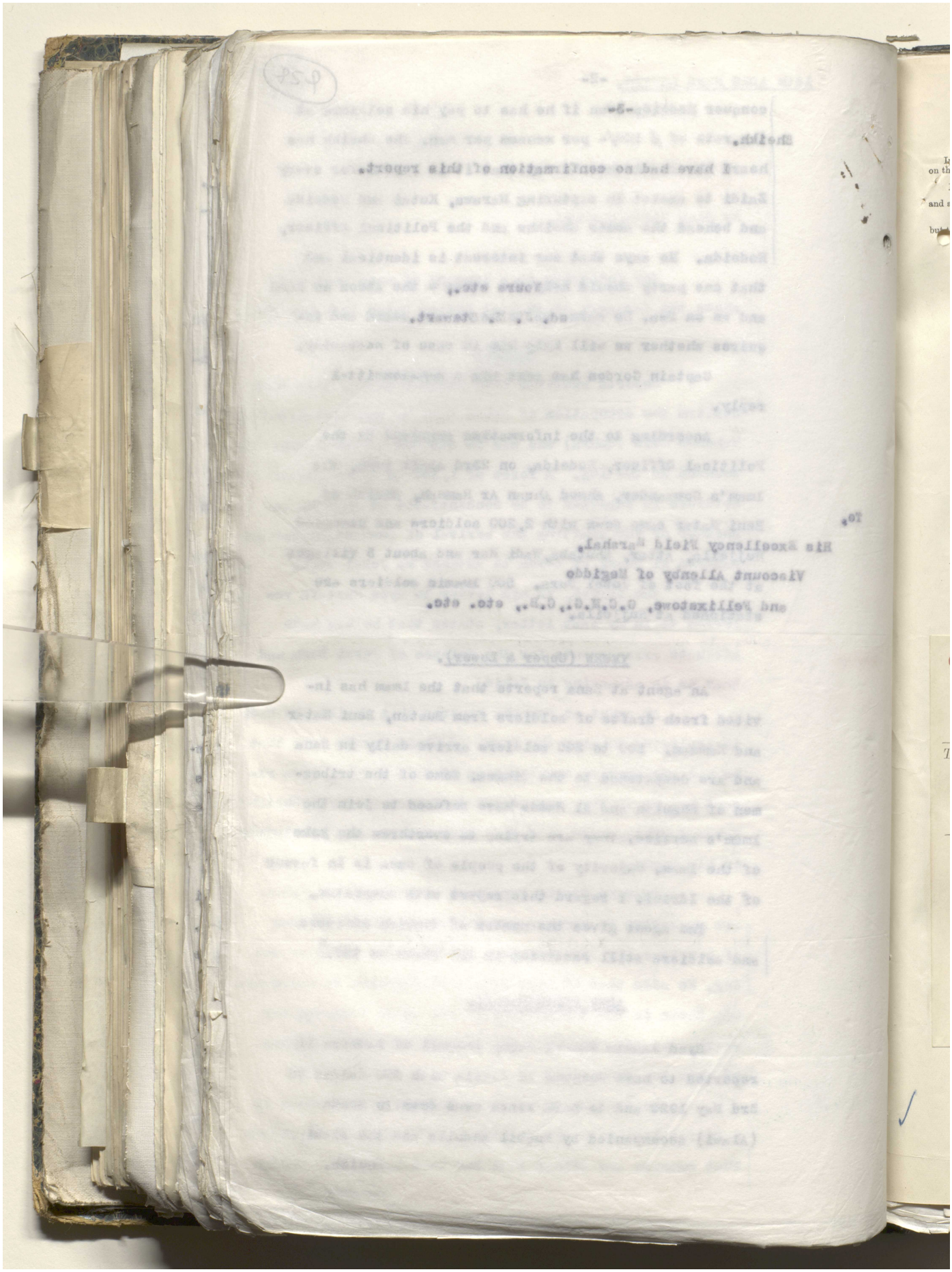

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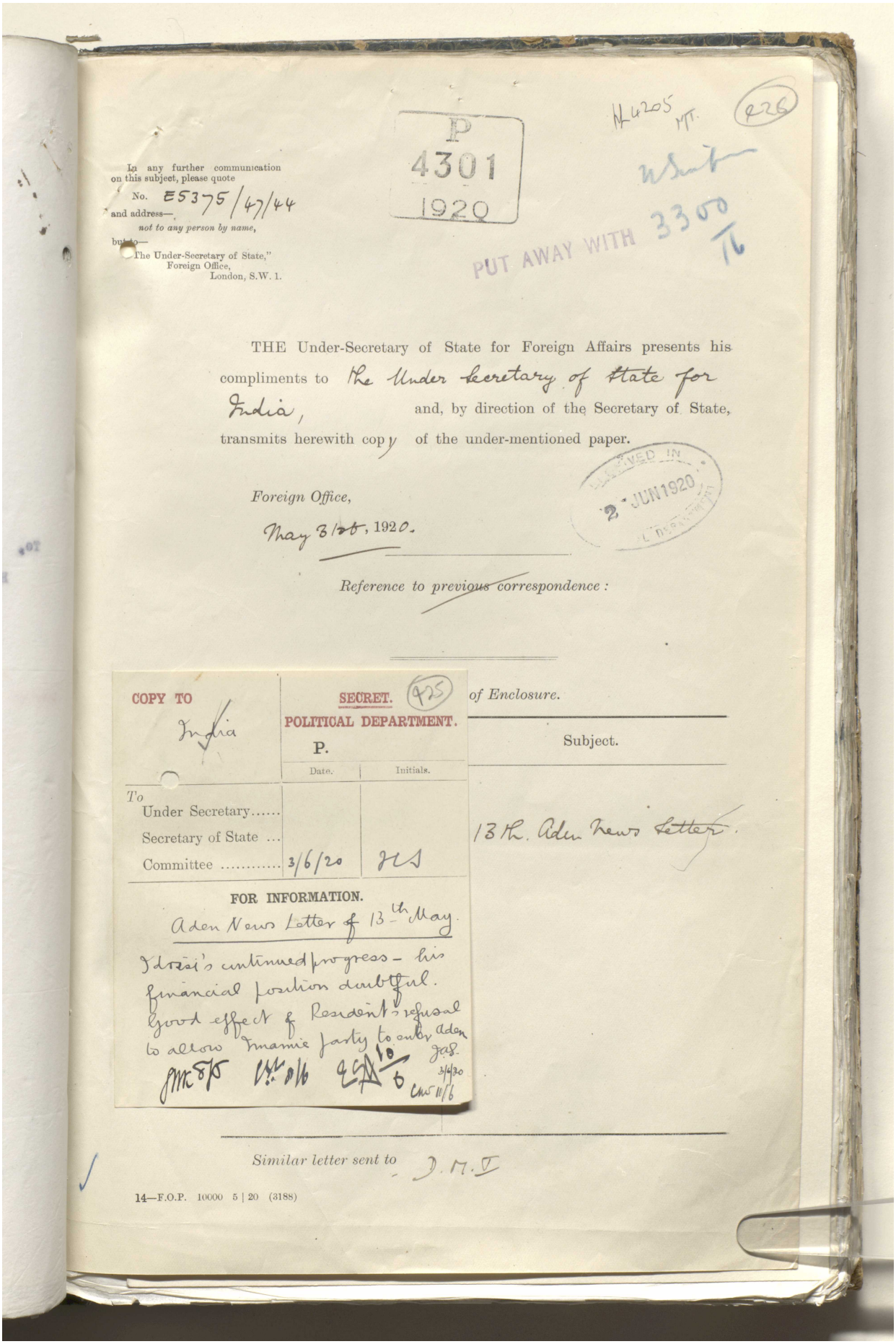

P 4301 1920

M 4205 MT. (425)

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RECEIVED IN 2 JUN 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Foreign Office,
May 31st, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

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SECRET. (425)
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

	Date.	Initials.
To Under Secretary.....		
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	3/6/20	JLS

FOR INFORMATION.
Aden News Letter of 13th May.
Idrisi's continued progress – his financial position doubtful.
Good effect of Resident's refusal to allow Imamic party to enter Aden.
JAB.
3/6/20

of Enclosure.

Subject.

13th. Aden News Letter.

Similar letter sent to I.M.T.

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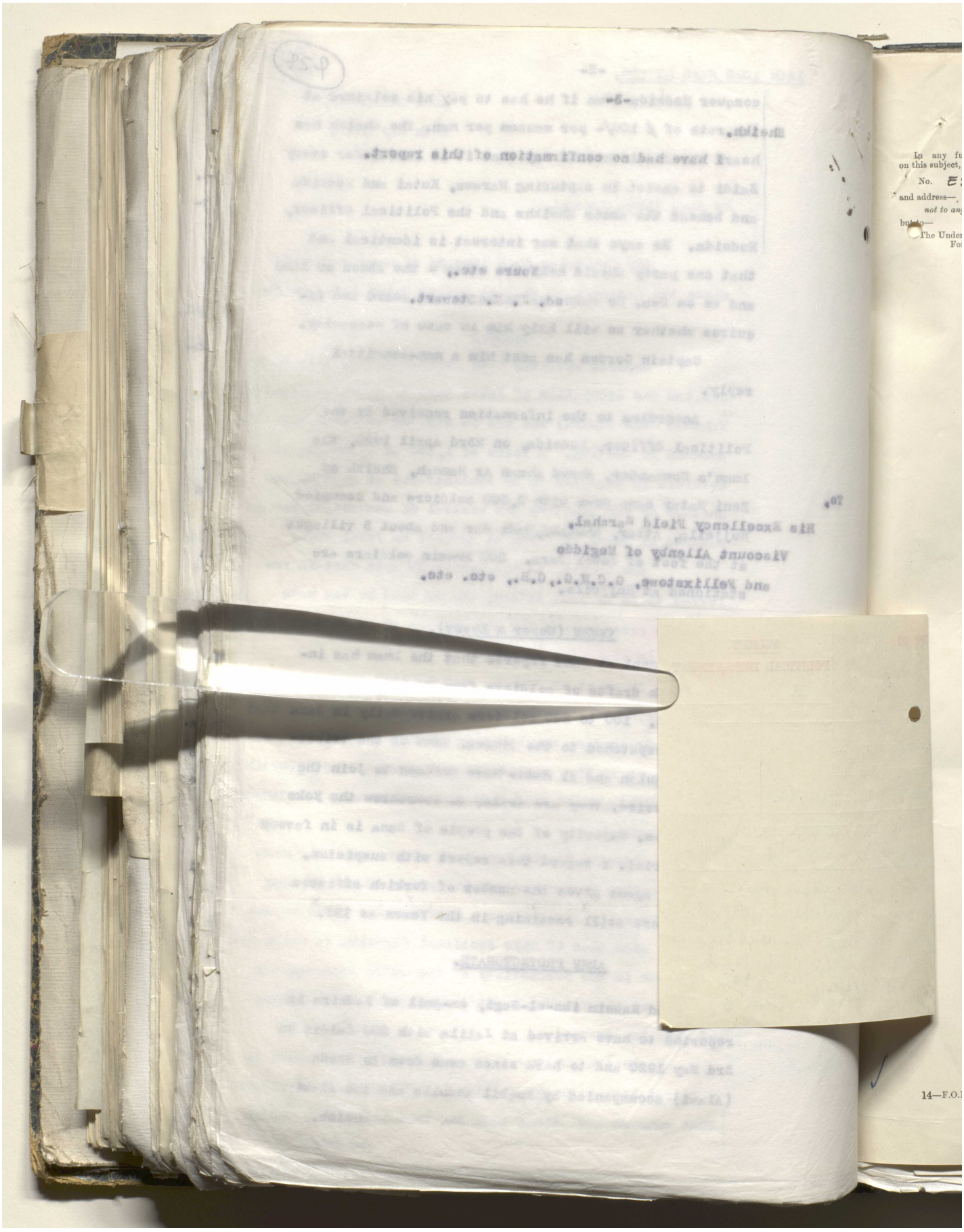

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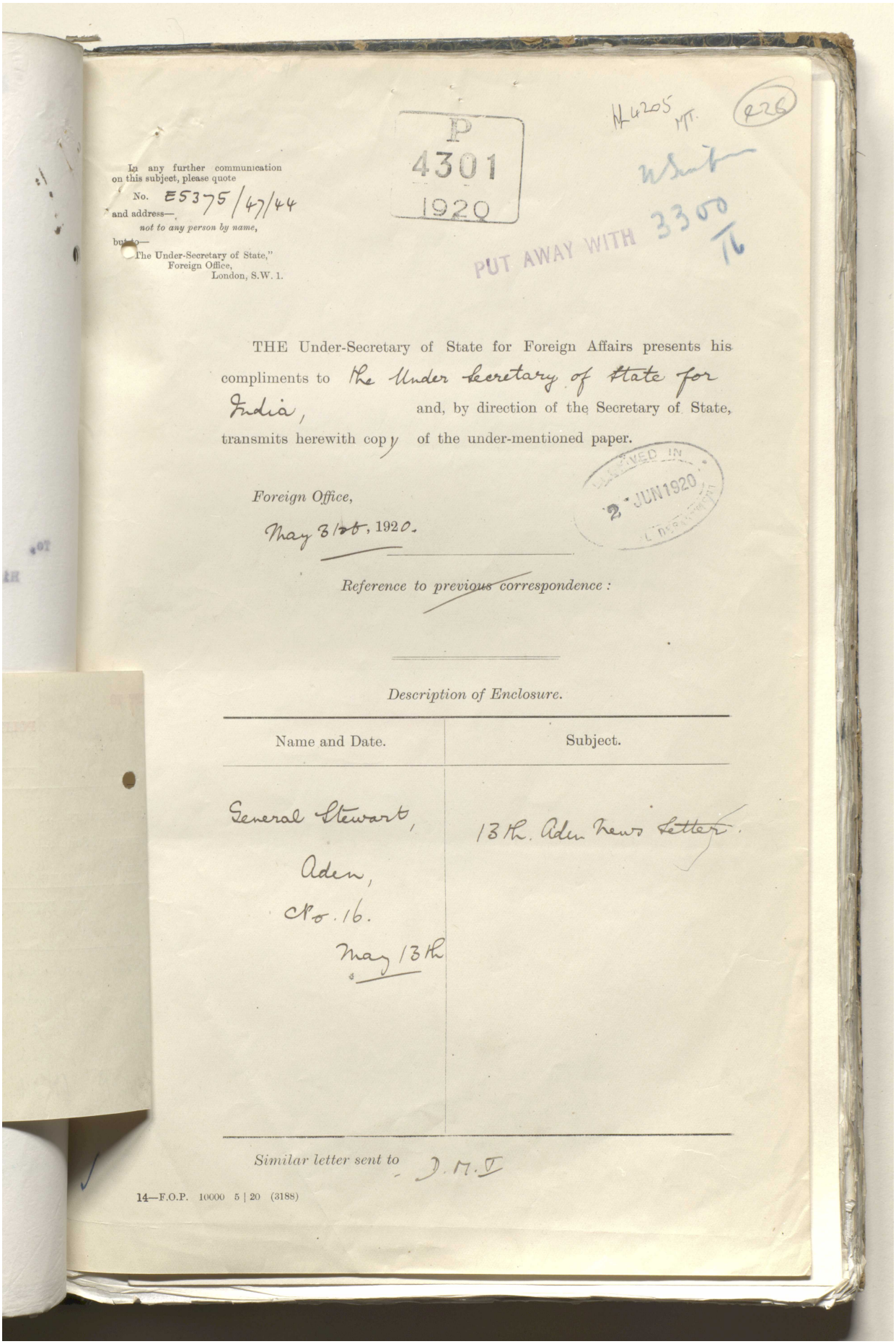

P
4301
1920

M 4205 MT. (426)

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RECEIVED IN 2 JUN 1920 L. DEPARTMENT

Foreign Office,
May 31st, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart, Aden, No. 16. May 13th	13th. Aden News Letter.

Similar letter sent to I.M.T.

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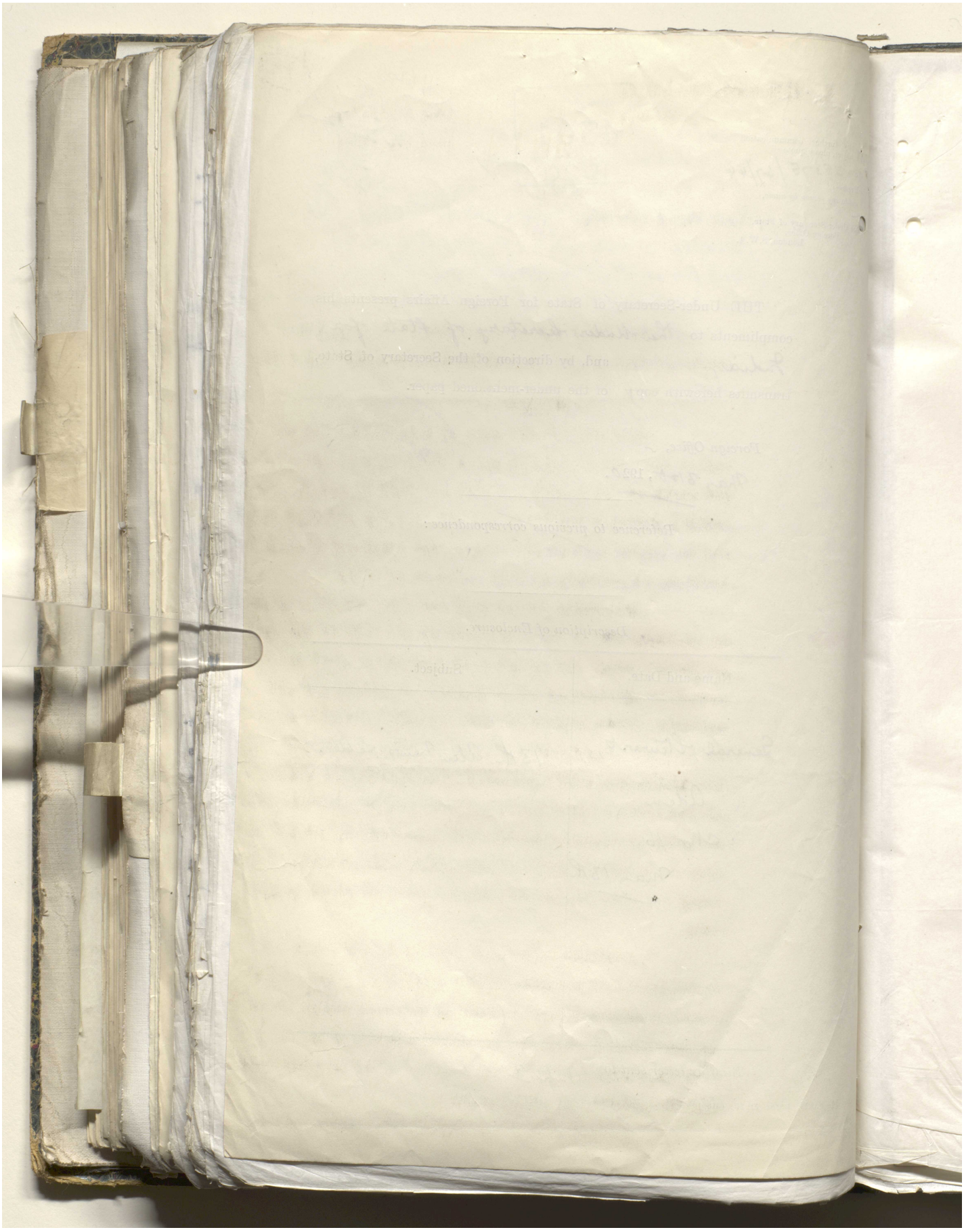

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13th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

P
4301
1920

ADEN RESIDENCY,
13th May 1920.

427

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 6th May 1920.

TIHAMA.

Syed Mustafa has sent me a letter he has received from the Idrisi, in which the latter states that the whole of Jebel Bura has been occupied by his troops after a decisive battle on the 2nd instant, and that there are no Zaidis left in the place. The chief Zaidi concentration, at present, is said to be at Sa'afan.

The Idrisi states that Ibn Saud has progressed on Shahran, due to the activities of the King of the Hedjaz in those parts. The Idrisi says that the King of the Hedjaz is carrying on his propaganda - anti-Idrisi and anti-Ibn Saud - amongst the central Arabian tribes most of whom are either Idrissophiles or partisans of Ibn Saud. The Idrisi views this progress of Ibn Saud with complacency and extolls his treatment of the tribes under his protection. He requests the British Government to advise the King of Hedjaz to stop his propaganda against him and Ibn Saud, which he is carrying out by means of enormous bribes etc.

Sometime ago, Major Gordon, lately Political Officer, Hodeida, expressed his opinion that the Idrisi would be strong enough to hold an extended domain against aggression if he was whole heartedly accepted by all the tribes, even though he is not stated to be so strong materially or in men as the Imam.

Major Gordon in a demi-official letter dated

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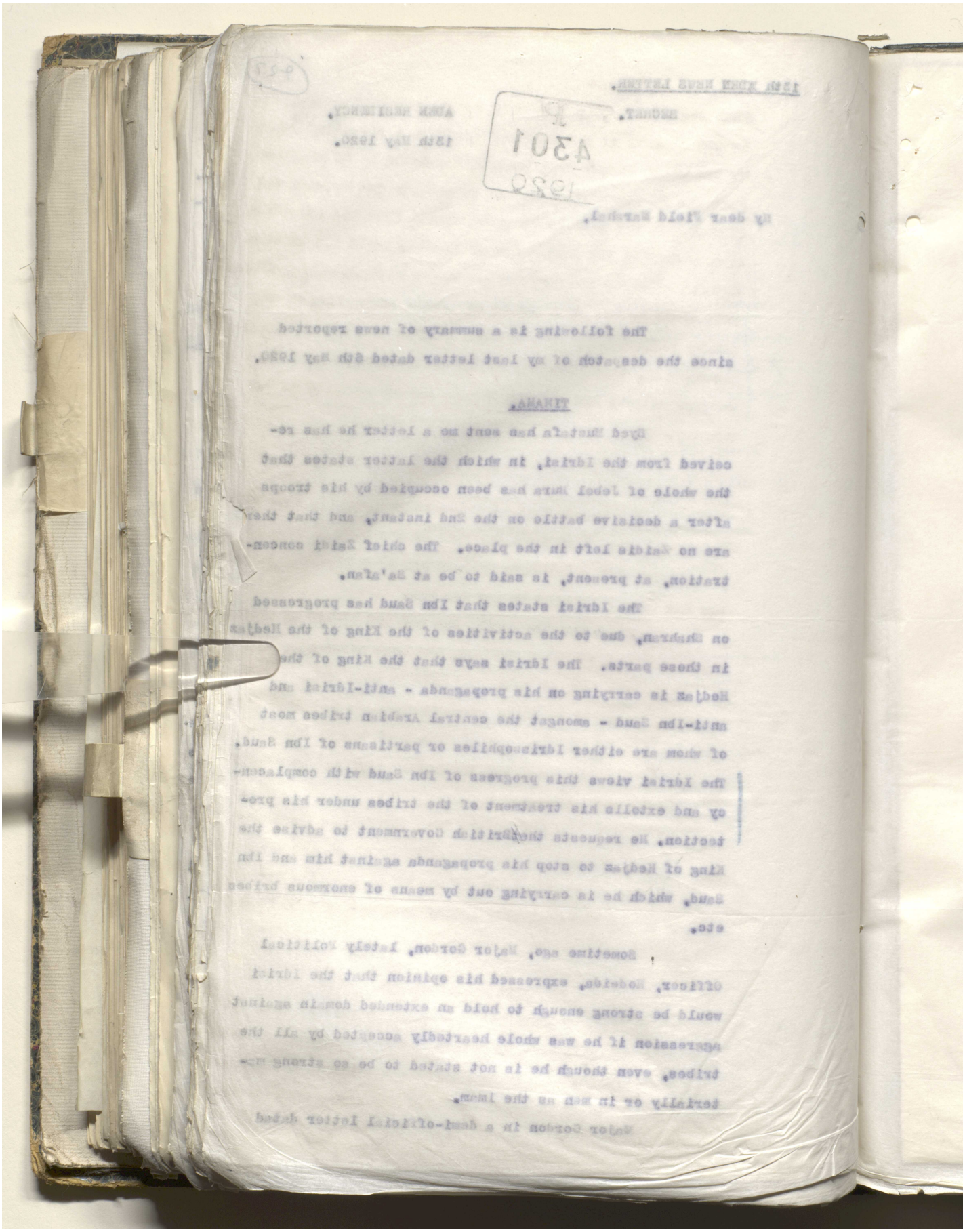

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28th April 1920 says that when expressing that opinion he was unaware of the state of the Idrisi finances, which he has since learnt from Captain Fazluddin to be unsatisfactory. He accordingly wishes to qualify the opinion and states that the revenue the Idrisi would derive from his extension even including the occupation of Hodeida would not be sufficient as a set off against his extended liabilities, unless subsidised by us. As a result of Idrisi occupation of the Tihama including Hodeida without British support and possibly with it, there would probably be continuous guerilla warfare between him and the Zaidis and no security in the country.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

The Imam's Amil at Mawia is reported to have been recalled and to have left for Sana on the 29th ultimo, in connection with complaints against him of maltreatment. His son has been appointed to act for him.

About the 8th April, the son and nephew of Sheikh Mahomed Hassan of Jabel Habashi, who were given as hostages to the Imam's Amil at Taiz, are said to have escaped from Taiz and returned to their homes in Sarahim. The Amil sent 100 soldiers to Sheikh Mahomed Hassan to demand the surrender of the hostages, but the latter declined to comply and defied the soldiers.

It is said that Syed Ali, the Imamic Commander at Taiz, is finding great difficulty in obtaining troops for service in the Mokha district. He is offering higher rates of pay but even this action does not seem to induce the Zaidi soldiers to go there.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

From the reports received, it appears that the Koteibi Sheikh's nephew, Mukbil Abdulla has given a hostag to the Imam and he has been allowed to return to his count The Alawy Sheikh is still at Dala. The Imam asked for his

son

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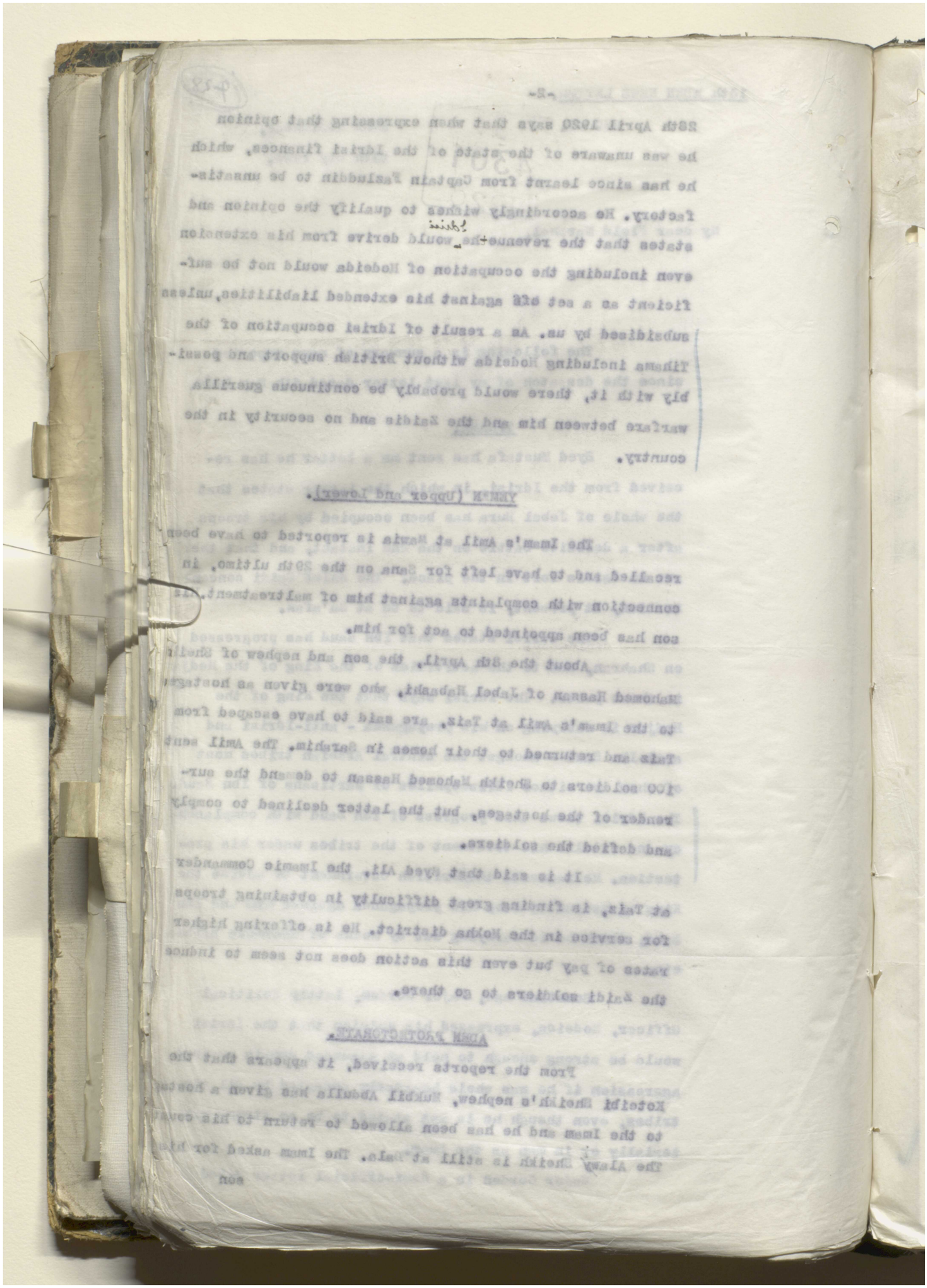

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sen as a hostage but the Alawi refused.

50 Zaidis with one gun are reported to have left Dala for Sana on 1st instant.

Referring to the Imamic party which came to Lahej, last month, the Kadi of Dala who has lately returned from Lahej, states that the people of Lahej and other places hailed my action in refusing permission to the party to enter Aden. The people think that if the party had been allowed to come in, been entertained and dismissed with presents, it would not only have shown that we were afraid of the Imam, but the people would be confirmed in the belief, which they held before this incident, that there was a secret arrangement between us and the Imam under which the protectorate was to be handed over to him. The people are now convinced that the delay in turning out the Zaidis from our protectorate is due to the fact that we do not wish to resort to force but that we are trying to turn them out by employing diplomacy.

Yours etc.,
sd. J.M.Stewart,

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Nellixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B., etc etc.,

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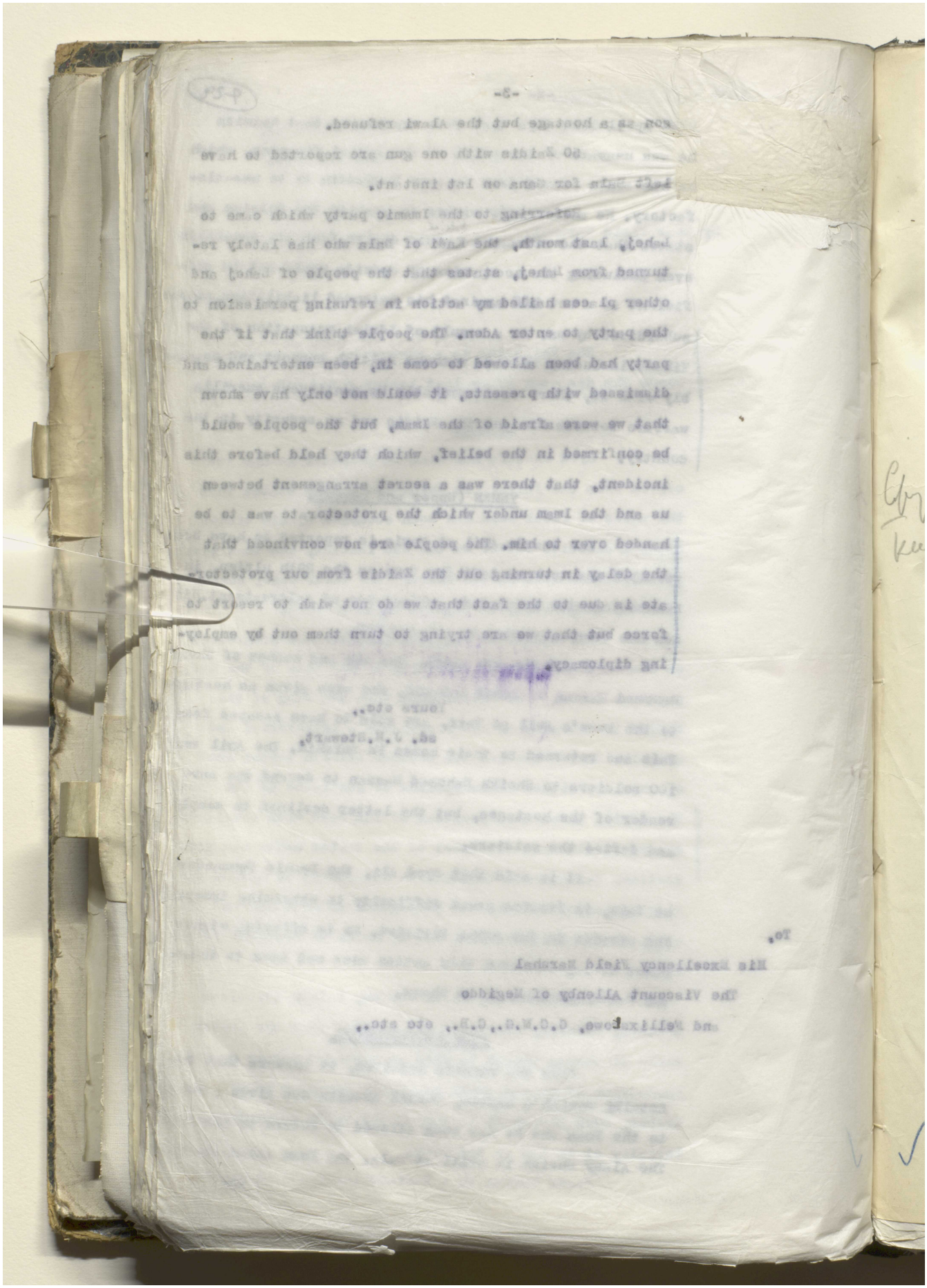

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P 4205 1920

(430)

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No. E5230/47/44.
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
May 27th, 1920.

RECEIVED IN 28 MAY 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Cy to India
Keep 8 Pm 27/5

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. Letter of May 20 (E 4826/47/44).

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart (Aden) No. 15. May 6th.	Aden News Letter No. 12.

CENTRAL REGISTRY RECEIVED 28 MAY 1920

Similar letter sent to D.M.I.

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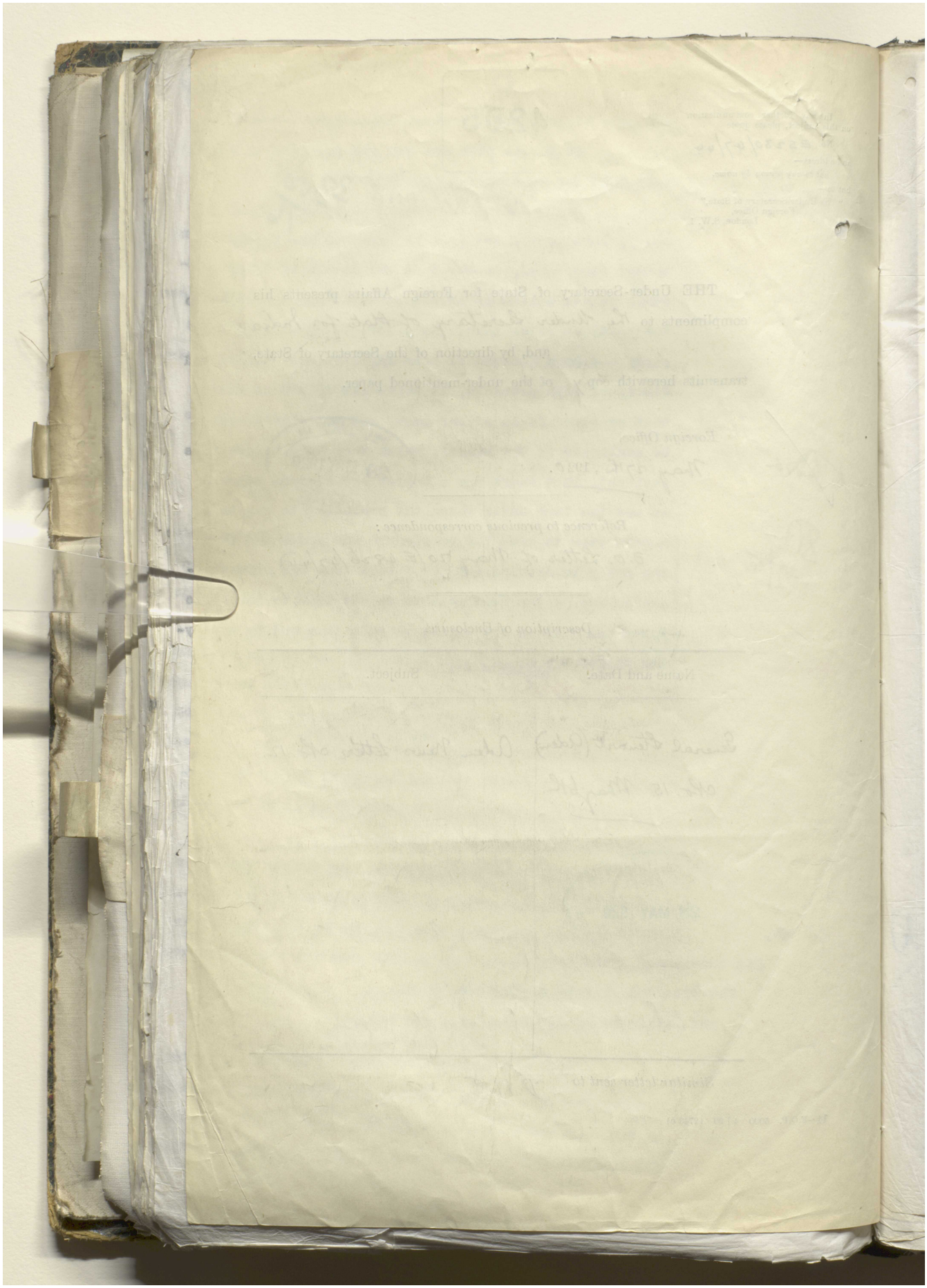

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12th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

(431)

4205
1920

ADEN RESIDENCY,
6th May 1920.

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my letter dated 29th April 1920.

TIHAMA.

No reports have been received from Hodeida during this week.

YEMEN(Upper & Lower).

An informant who lately arrived here from Sana reports that, while he was in Mawia, on 17th April 1920, Sheikh Mahomed Nasir surrendered two guns and 10 camel loads of ammunition to the Imam. These were immediately despatched to Sana. The informant also saw 20 camels being loaded with ammunition at the house of Sheikh Mahomed Nasir. This latter ammunition was intended for despatch to Taiz.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Zeidi party referred to in my last letter left Lahej on the 27th April, after the Abdali Sultan had informed them of my reply. The Zeidis did not come to Lahej via Nobat Dakim but took that route on their return journey.

The Officer Commanding, Tiban Column, writes that the party travelled slowly from Lahej stopping at different stages reconnoitring. They wished to stay overnight at Nobat Dakim but he sent them to Al Millah, 5 miles from Nobat Dakim, under escort, within ½ an hour of their arrival at Nobat Dakim. They went marching in fours and singing loudly.

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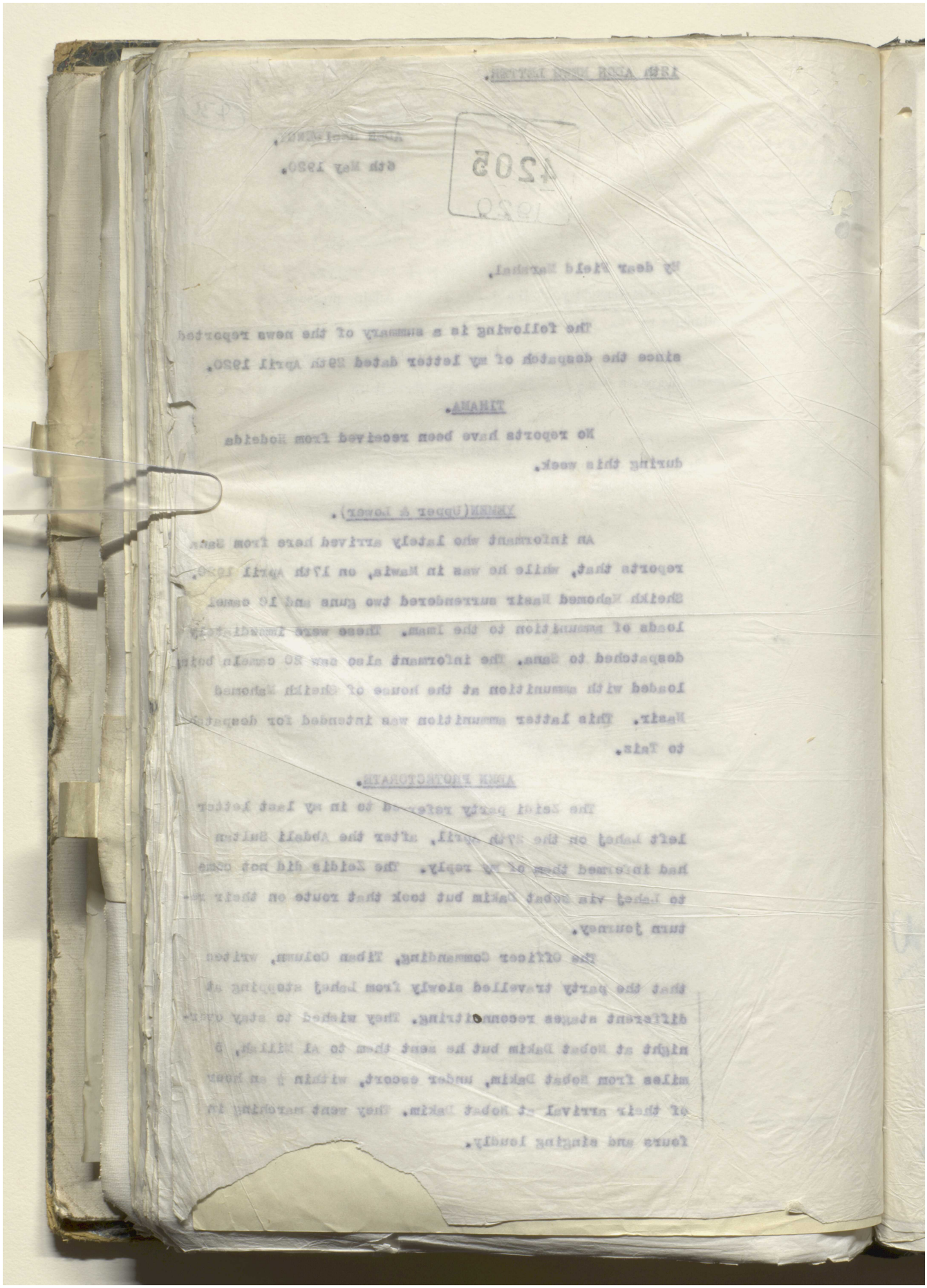

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The party did not give out the object of their mission. From the report of a Dala informant, however, it appears that the party was despatched under instructions from the Imam to discuss certain matters with me and to arrange for the meeting of British and Zeidi representatives at Kataba. The Imam, at the same time, instructed his Amil at Dala, Sayed Yahia, to keep down the strength of the garrison at Dala at 100 men and to stop building work.

A special messenger who was sent to verify reports of arrivals of fresh Imamic troops at Dala has returned. According to him, the number of Zeidis posted at different places in the Amiri territory is not more than 300 men These men are periodically relieved. This messenger saw the Imamic party which lately returned from Lahej, encamped at Suleik where they have been levying taxes on kafilas.

Another special messenger who was sent to Dala subsequently corroborates the statement of the above informant and adds that Sayed Yahia is expected to arrive at Suleik where a Customs post is being erected. According to this messenger, the Alawi Sheikh, and the Kotaibi Sheikh's nephew, Mukbil Abdulla who had been taken to Sana, have been sent back to Dala and are now with Sayed Yahia.

Youre etc.
sd. J. M. Stewart,

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B., etc., etc.,

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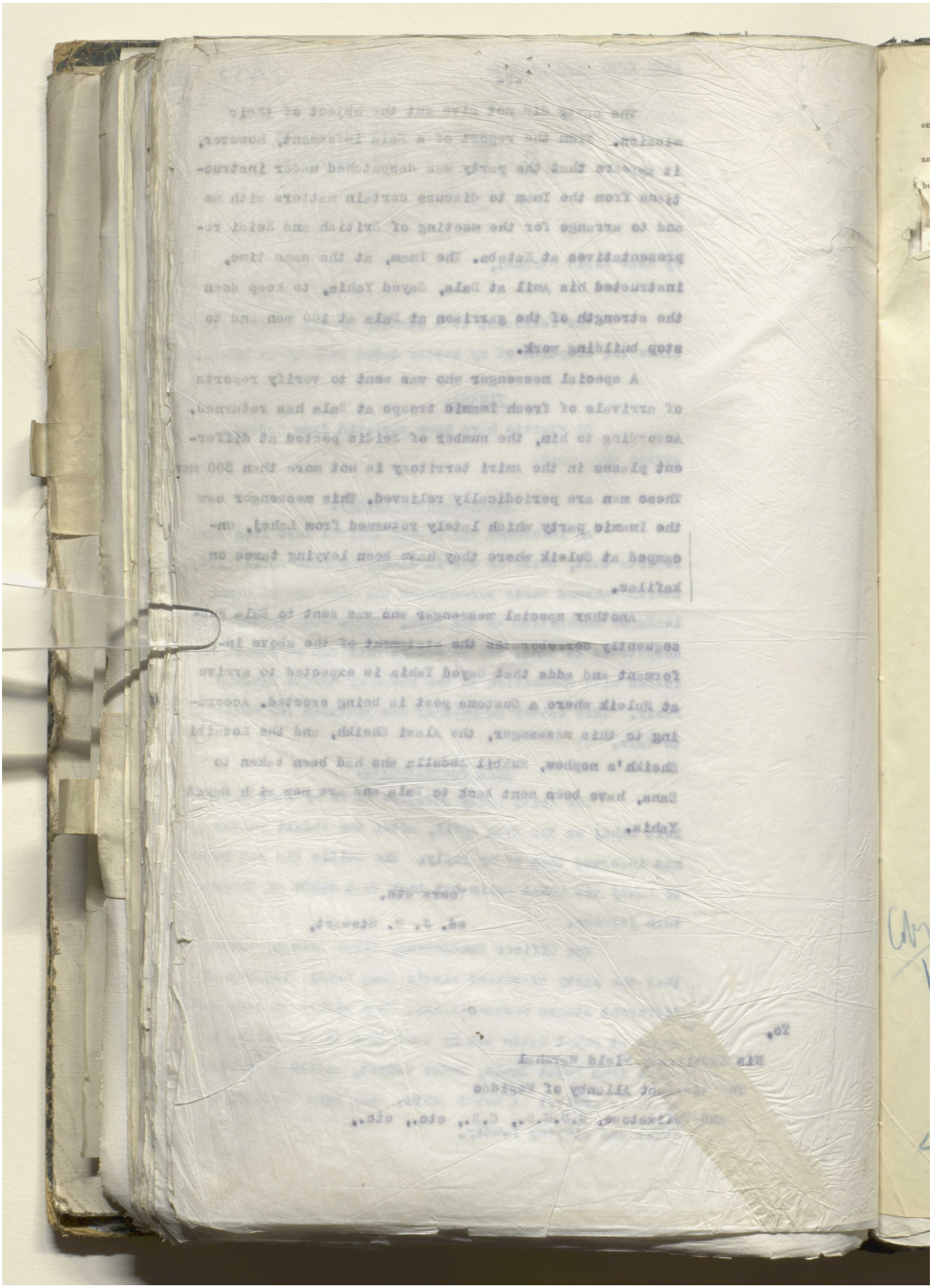

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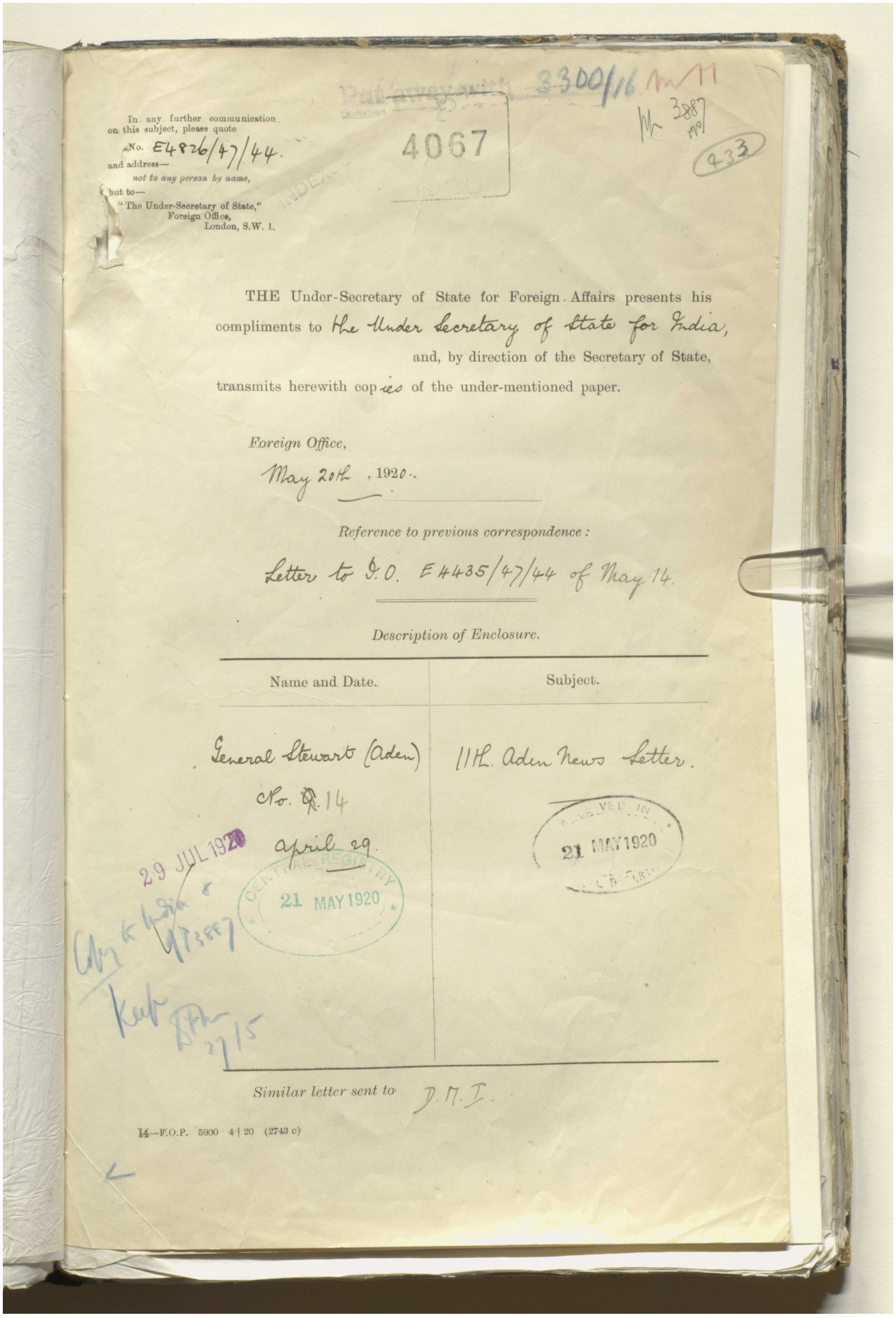

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and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

4067

3300/16 Pt 11
Mr 3887 mo
433

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to The Under Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
May 20th, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Letter to F.O. E4435/47/44 of May 14.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart (Aden) No. 14 April 29.	11th Aden News Letter.

RECEIVED IN 21 MAY 1920 INDIA OFFICE

29 JUL 1920
Mr & Govt of India 973887
Kept 27/5

CENTRAL REGISTRY 21 MAY 1920

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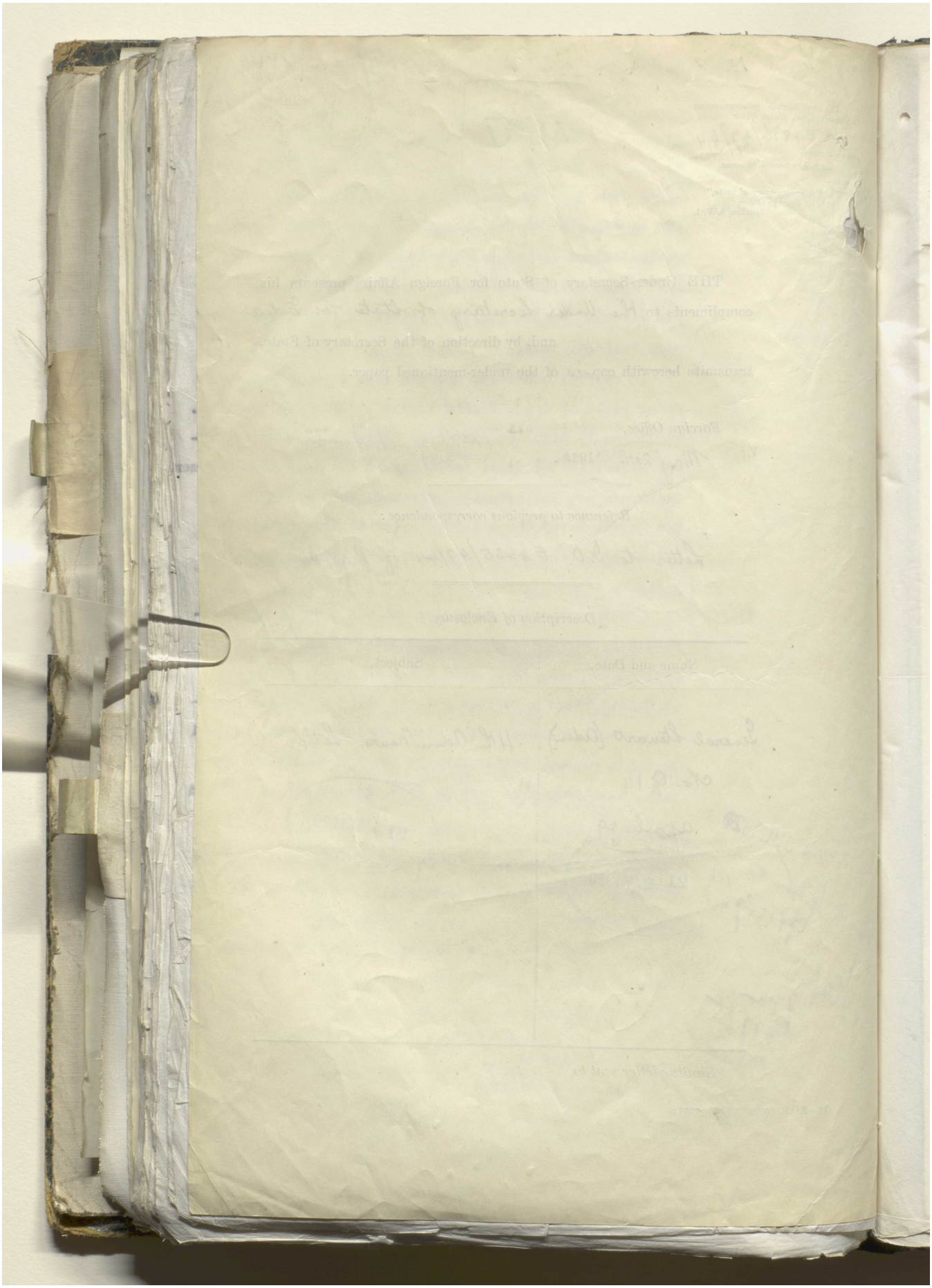

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11th ADEN NEWS LETTER. ADEN RESIDENCY,
29th April 1920. 434

4067
1920

My dear Field Marshal

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 21st April 1920.

YEMAMA.

On the Bajil front the Quhra-Idrisi appear to have cleared the whole of Beni Saad of the Imamic troops and occupied Madwal in the Wadi Nar beyond Suq Nar.

The siege of Miqab continues; but it is said now to have been made more complete, all communication with the place having been cut. The garrison is expected to surrender in about a week's time.

An attempt by the Quhra-Idrisi to take Safaan is reported to have failed. The people of Beni Jurain sided with the Imamic troops in this fighting. Jurain was occupied by the Idrisi troops who were subsequently ejected.

It appears from a report from an Idrisi source that after the reverse of the Zeidis at Obal, Rajjabia and Shawal last month, the Imam sent for Sheikh Hamsah of the Bilad Bostan near Sanaa and asked him for a certain specified number of men and a sum of money, which the Sheikh refused to supply. Orders were accordingly issued for his imprisonment but he managed to escape. This report is confirmed by the Intelligence Agent at Bajil of the Political Officer, Hodeida, but in a leter report from the same Agent the Sheikh of Bostan is said to have raised 1000 men; and it was this force which ejected the Idrisi from Beni Jurain.

Captain Fazluddin reports that the western half of the Jebel Milhan is in the hands of the Idrisi, the eastern half being still occupied by the Zeidis.

Captain Fazluddin also reports that Sheikh Hassan

ibn

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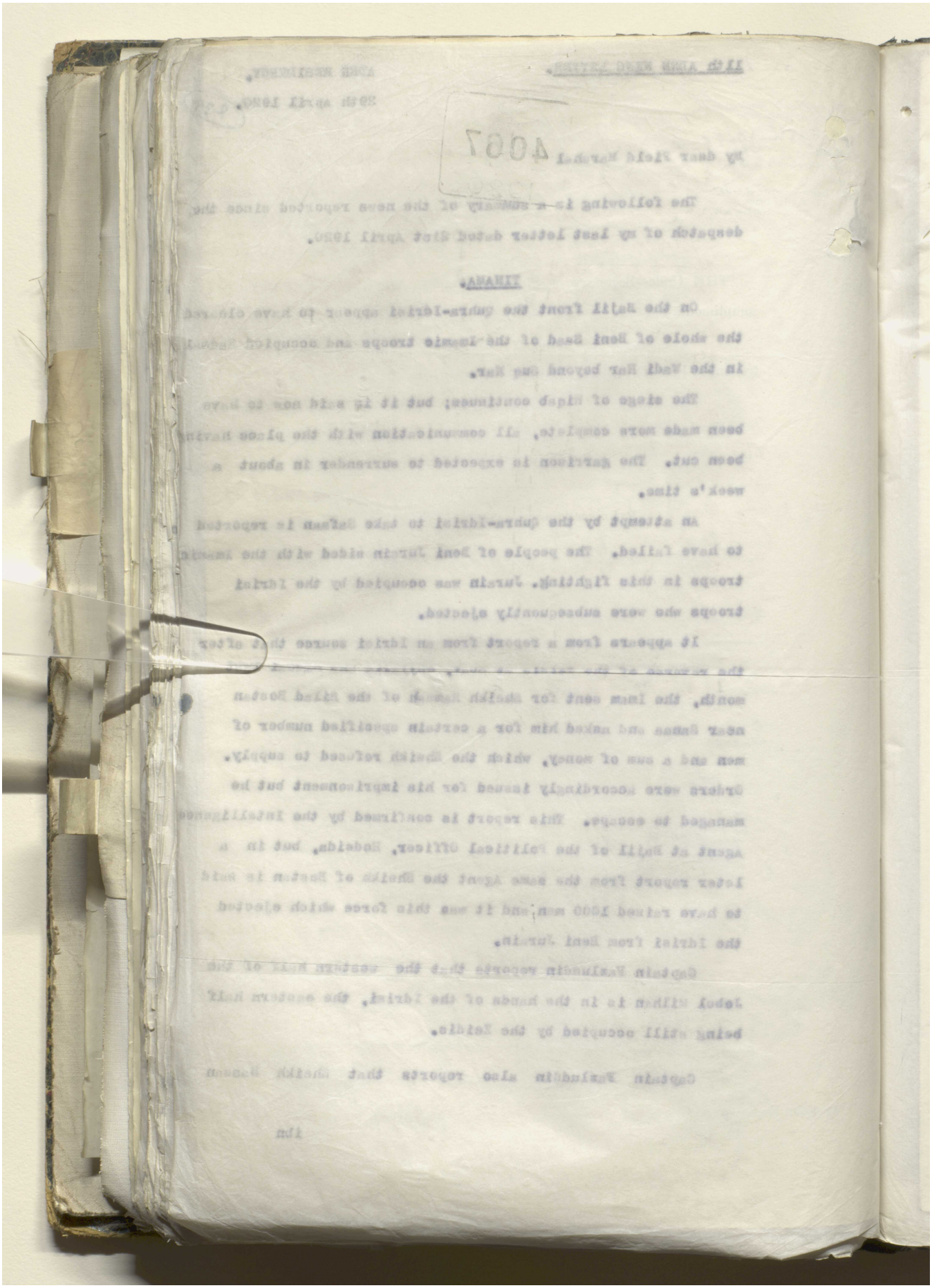

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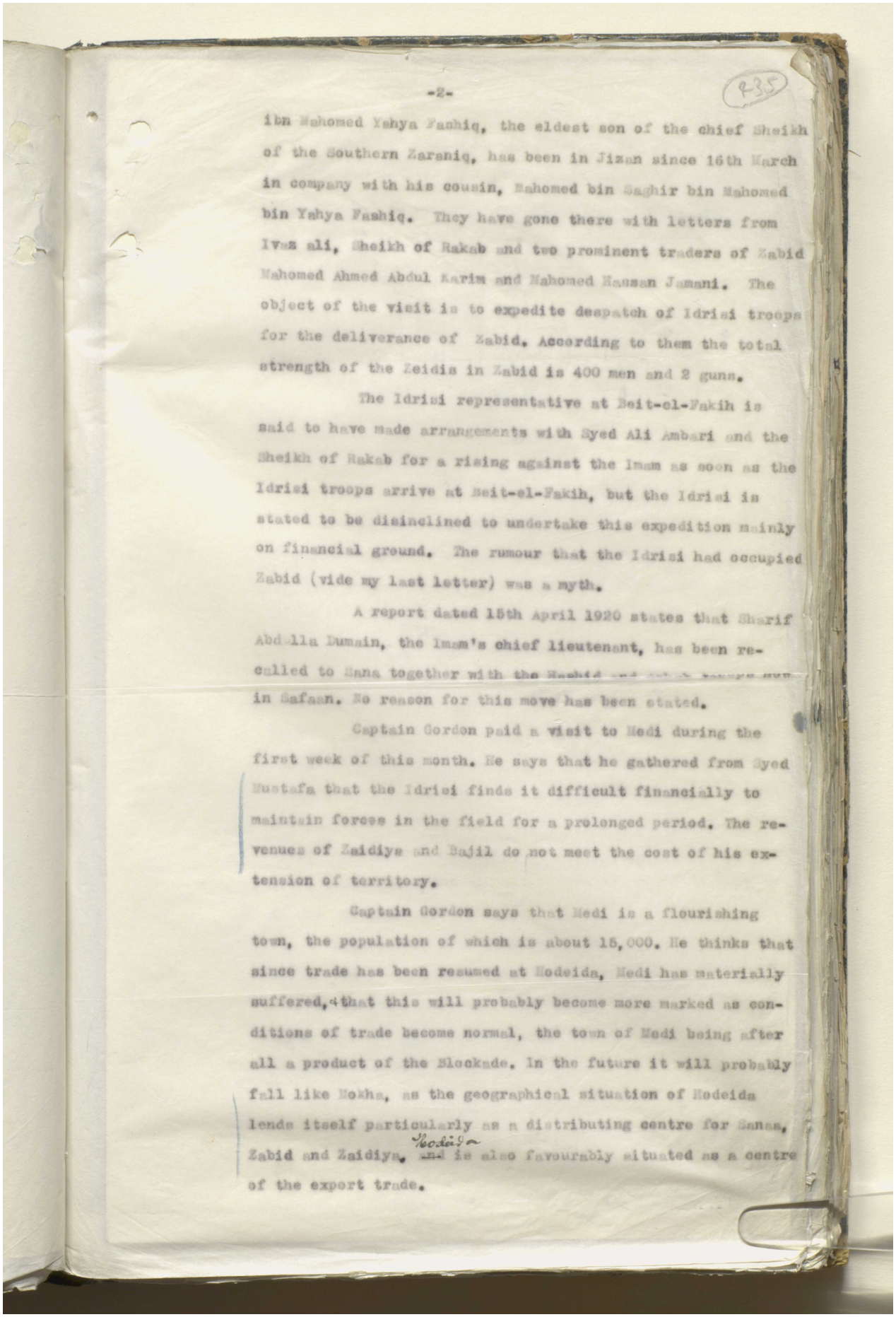

435

ibn Mahomed Yahya Fashiq, the eldest son of the chief Sheikh of the Southern Zaraniq, has been in Jizan since 16th March in company with his cousin, Mahomed bin Saghir bin Mahomed bin Yahya Fashiq. They have gone there with letters from Ivaz ali, Sheikh of Rakab and two prominent traders of Zabid Mahomed Ahmed Abdul Karim and Mahomed Hassan Jamani. The object of the visit is to expedite despatch of Idrisi troops for the deliverance of Zabid. According to them the total strength of the Zeidis in Zabid is 400 men and 2 guns.

The Idrisi representative at Beit-el-Fakih is said to have made arrangements with Syed Ali Ambari and the Sheikh of Rakab for a rising against the Imam as soon as the Idrisi troops arrive at Beit-el-Fakih, but the Idrisi is stated to be disinclined to undertake this expedition mainly on financial ground. The rumour that the Idrisi had occupied Zabid (vide my last letter) was a myth.

A report dated 15th April 1920 states that Sharif Abdulla Dumain, the Imam's chief lieutenant, has been recalled to Sana together with the Hashid and [illegible] troops now in Safaan. No reason for this move has been stated.

Captain Gordon paid a visit to Medi during the first week of this month. He says that he gathered from Syed Mustafa that the Idrisi finds it difficult financially to maintain forces in the field for a prolonged period. The revenues of Zaidiya and Bajil do not meet the cost of his extension of territory.

Captain Gordon says that Medi is a flourishing town, the population of which is about 15,000. He thinks that since trade has been resumed at Hodeida, Medi has materially suffered, that this will probably become more marked as conditions of trade become normal, the town of Medi being after all a product of the Blockade. In the future it will probably fall like Mokha, as the geographical situation of Hodeida lends itself particularly as a distributing centre for Sanaa, Zabid and Zaidiya. Hodeida and is also favourably situated as a centre of the export trade.

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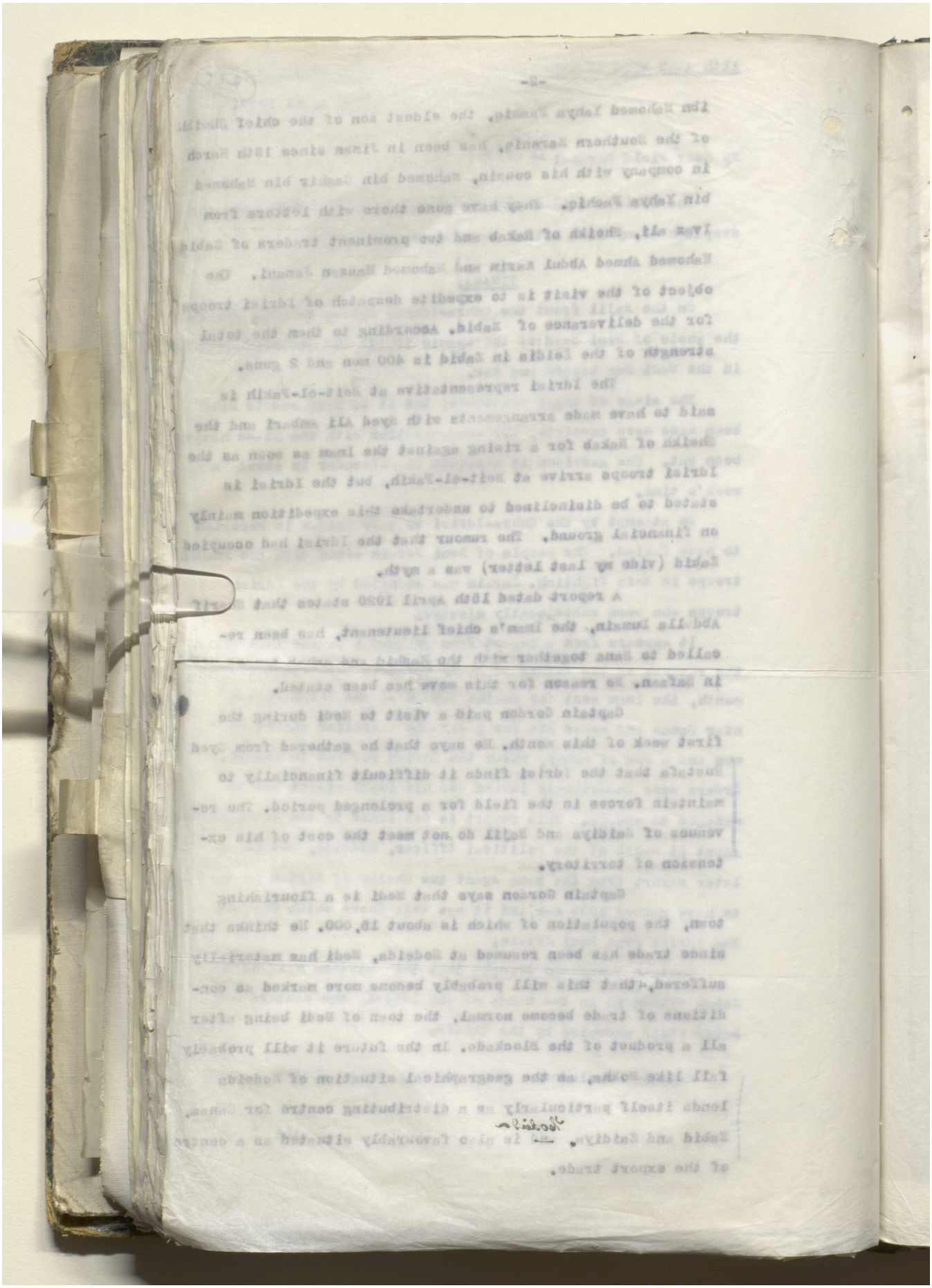

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Akil Omar Saghir of the Quhra tribe has come in to Hodeida for medical treatment. Captain Gordon says that when he went to see him, the first thing the Akil asked was "Where is Colonel Jacob, he made a contract with us and has gone away and forgotten about it."

Imports into Hodeida during March amounted to Rupees 227,777/- and exports to Rupees 310,310/-.

Syed Mustafa and Captain Fazluddin arrived here on the 24th instant.

YEMEN (UPPER & LOWER).

Sharif Abdul Rehman bin Hussein bin Abdul Rehman bin Alawi of Saba and Marib has written expressing his desire to enter into friendly relations with the British Government He writes that the people of Negran have unanimously agreed to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Imam.

The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports that the Imamic troops referred to in my letter of 15th April 1920 have returned to Sana with the exception of 20 men who are still in Moza. It appears that the movement of Zaidi troops was connected with the complaints against Sheikh Ali Othman of Khokha, who has been imprisoned by the Imam for oppressing minor Sheikhs some of whom have died in prison. The Imamic troops were under the command of Abdulla Effendi, brother of Ali Othman.

Until lately the garrison of Taiz was reported to be 2000. This has now been reduced to 500 owing to desertions and detachments sent for service in Zabid. It is rumoured that the Amil of Taiz, Ibn el Wazir, has gone over to the Idrisi with all his men.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Reports of arrivals of fresh drafts of Zeidis at Dala continue to come in. According to these reports nearly 500 Zeidis appear to have arrived lately. No definite

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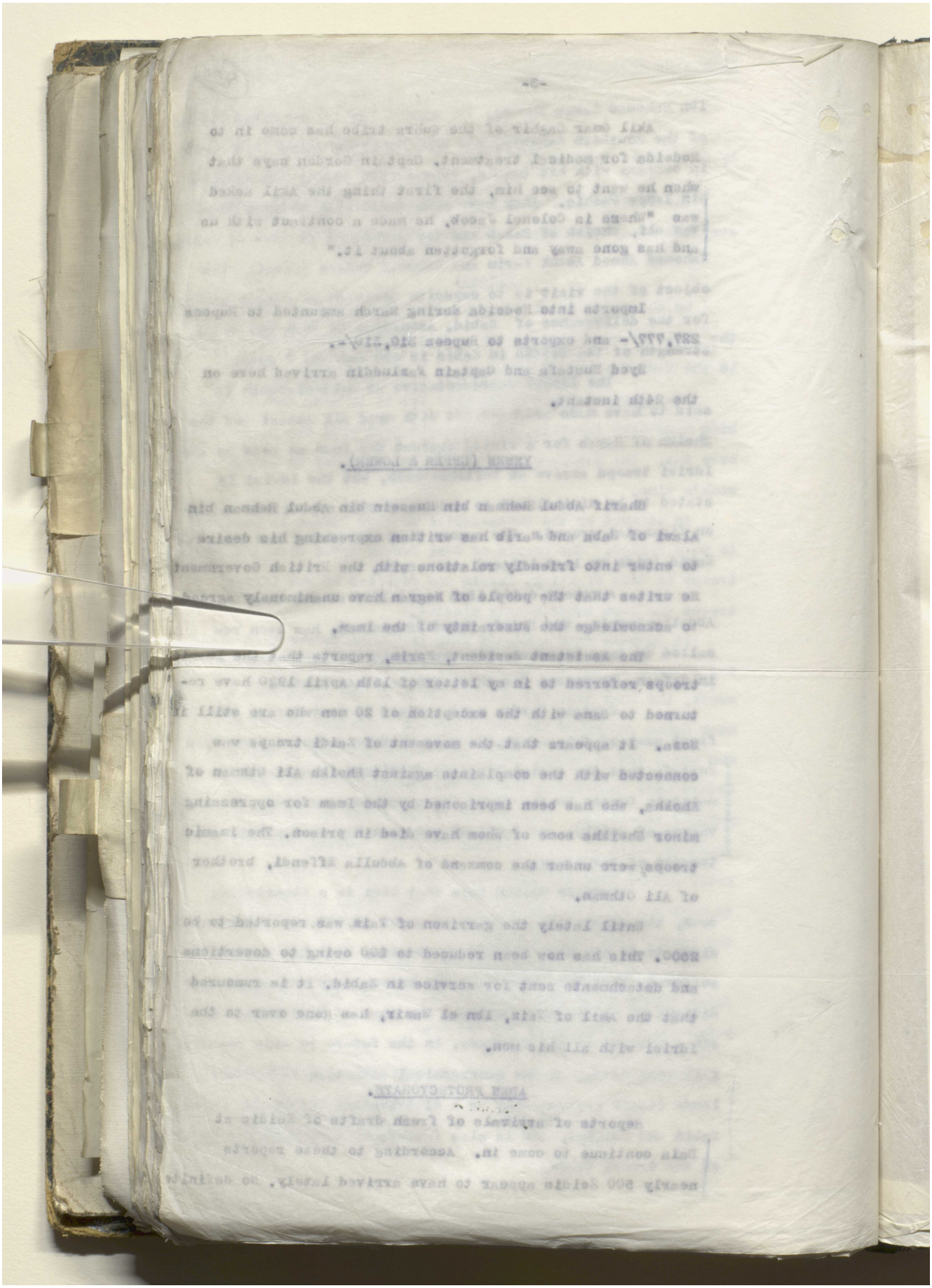

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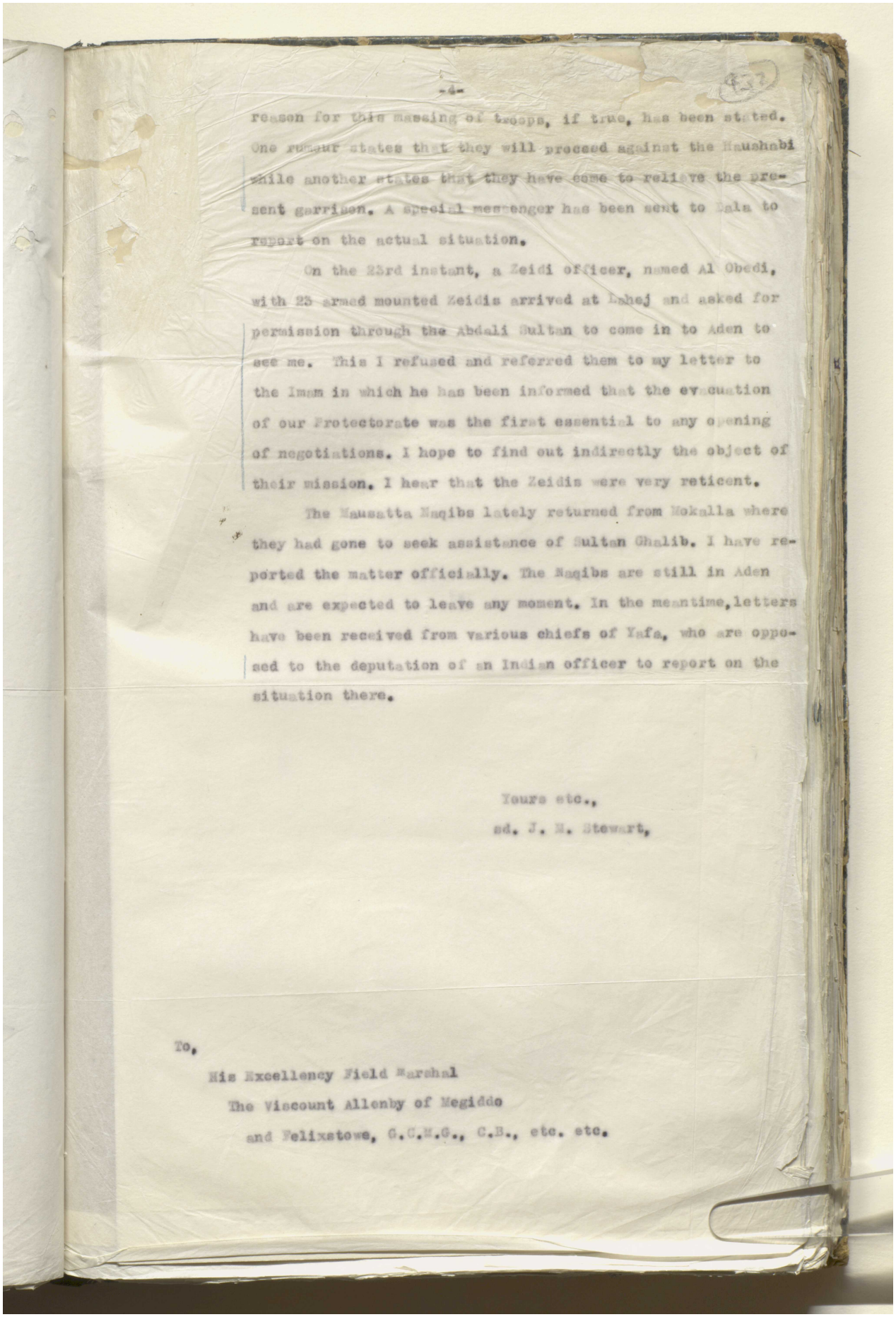

reason for this massing of troops, if true, has been stated. One rumour states that they will proceed against the Haushabi while another states that they have come to relieve the present garrison. A special messenger has been sent to Lahej to report on the actual situation.

On the 23rd instant, a Zeidi officer, named Al Obedi, with 25 armed mounted Zeidis arrived at Lahej and asked for permission through the Abdali Sultan to come in to Aden to see me. This I refused and referred them to my letter to the Imam in which he has been informed that the evacuation of our Protectorate was the first essential to any opening of negotiations. I hope to find out indirectly the object of their mission. I hear that the Zeidis were very reticent.

The Mausatta Naqibs lately returned from Mokalla where they had gone to seek assistance of Sultan Ghalib. I have reported the matter officially. The Naqibs are still in Aden and are expected to leave any moment. In the meantime, letters have been received from various chiefs of Yafa, who are opposed to the deputation of an Indian officer to report on the situation there.

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart,

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B., etc. etc.

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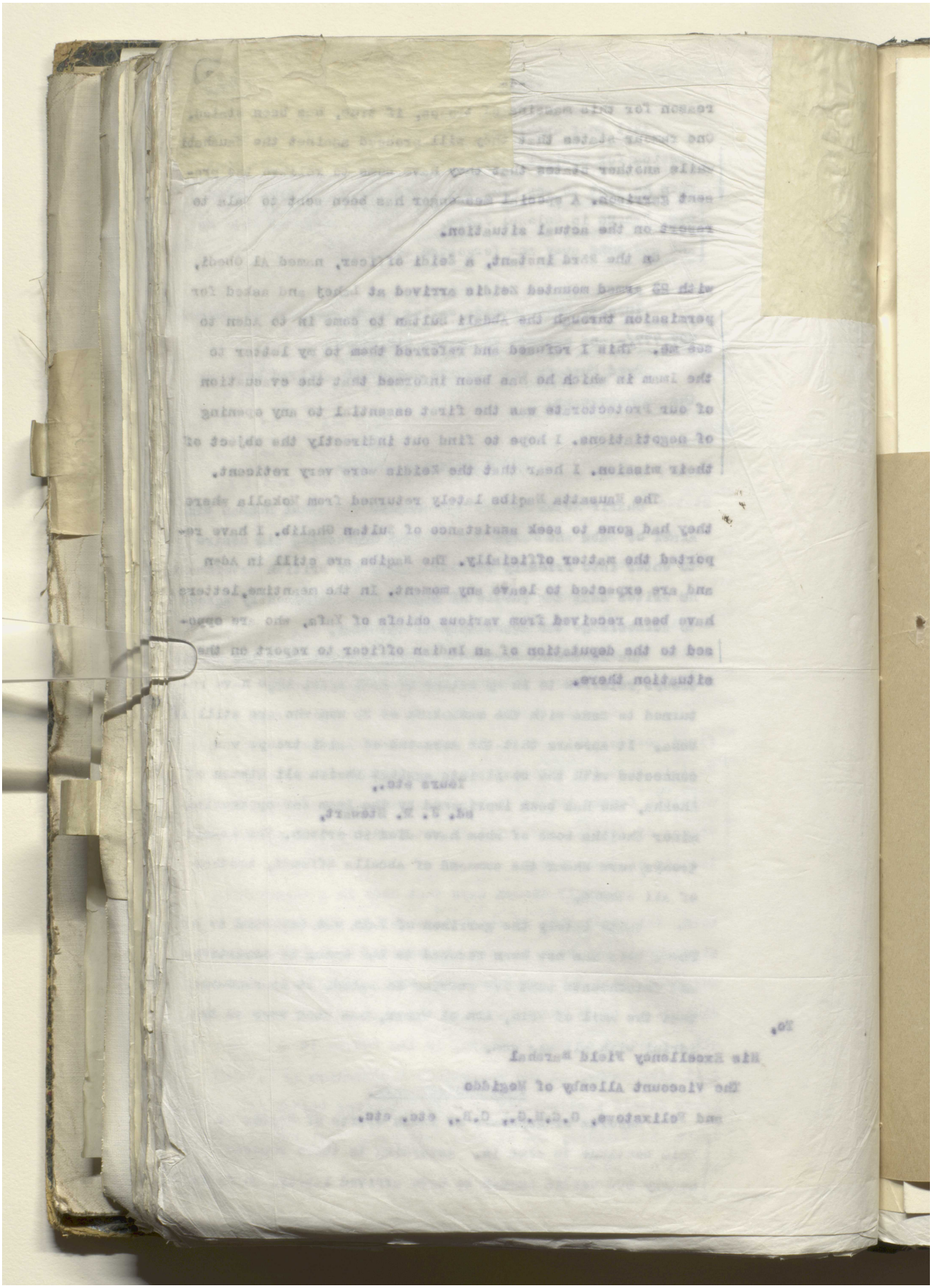

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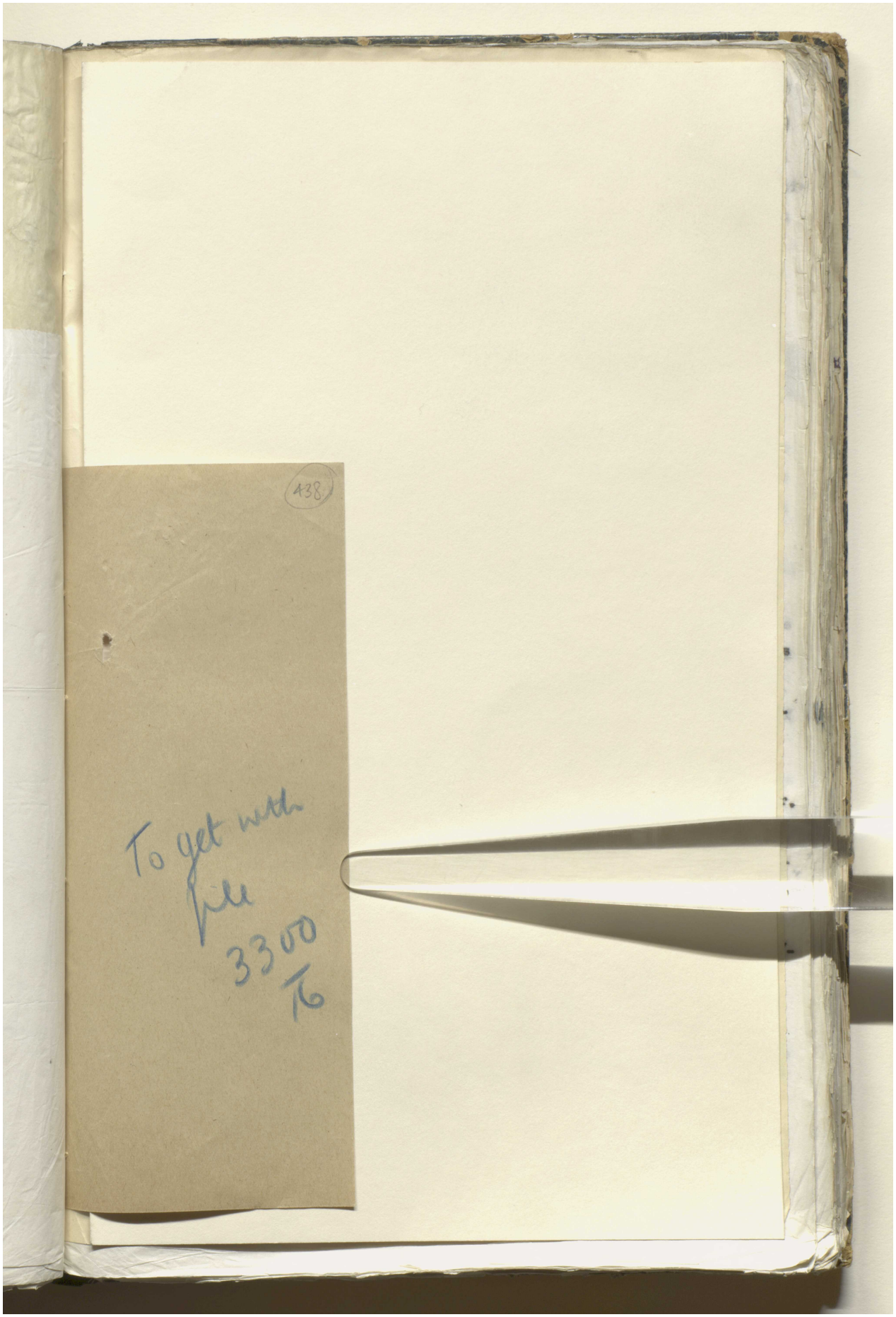
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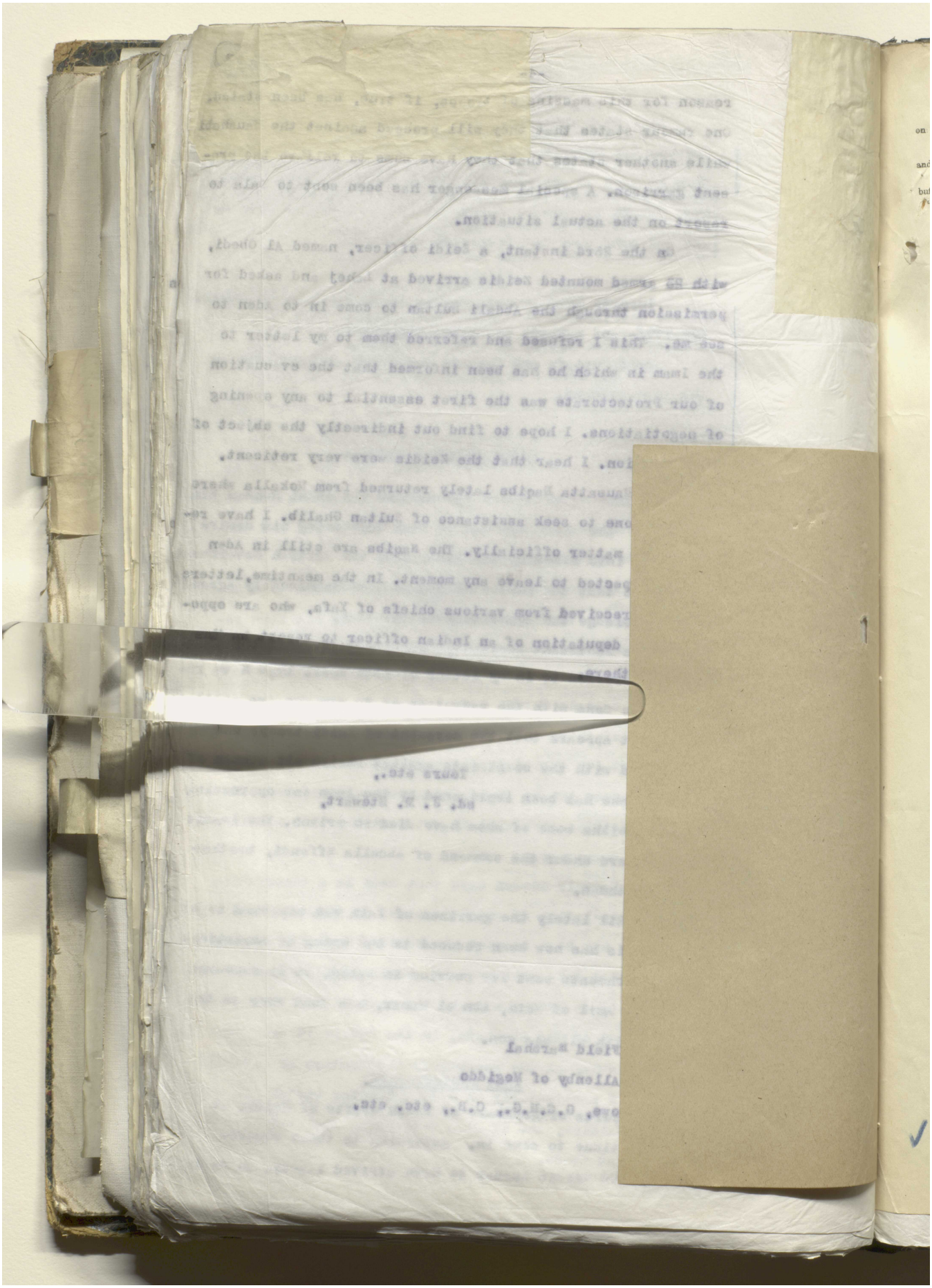

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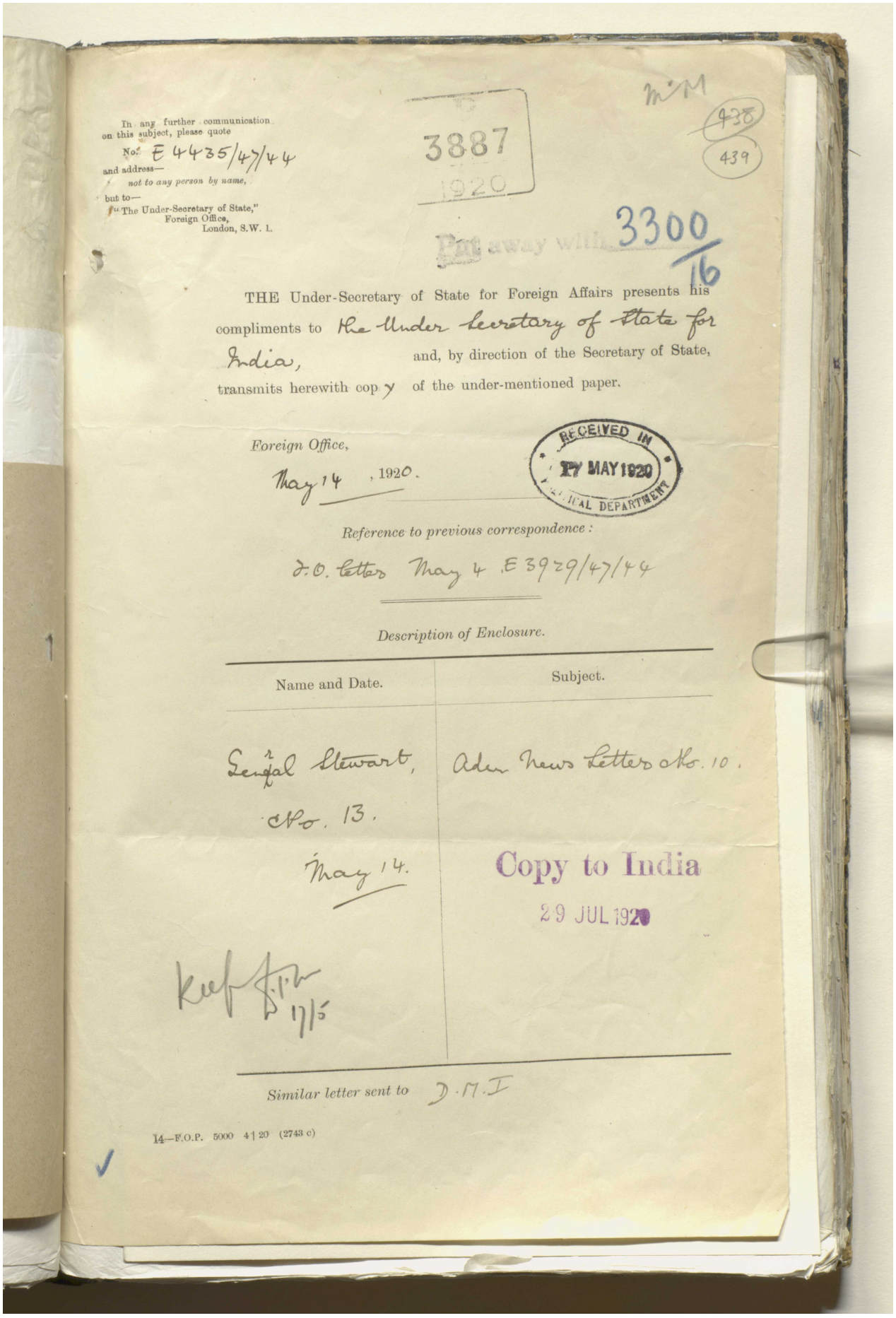

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Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

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1920

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
May 14, 1920.

RECEIVED IN 17 MAY 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O. letter May 4 E 3929/47/44

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Lieut Stewart, No. 13. May 14.	Aden News Letter No. 10.

Copy to India
29 JUL 1920

Kuf Stew 17/5

Similar letter sent to D.M.I

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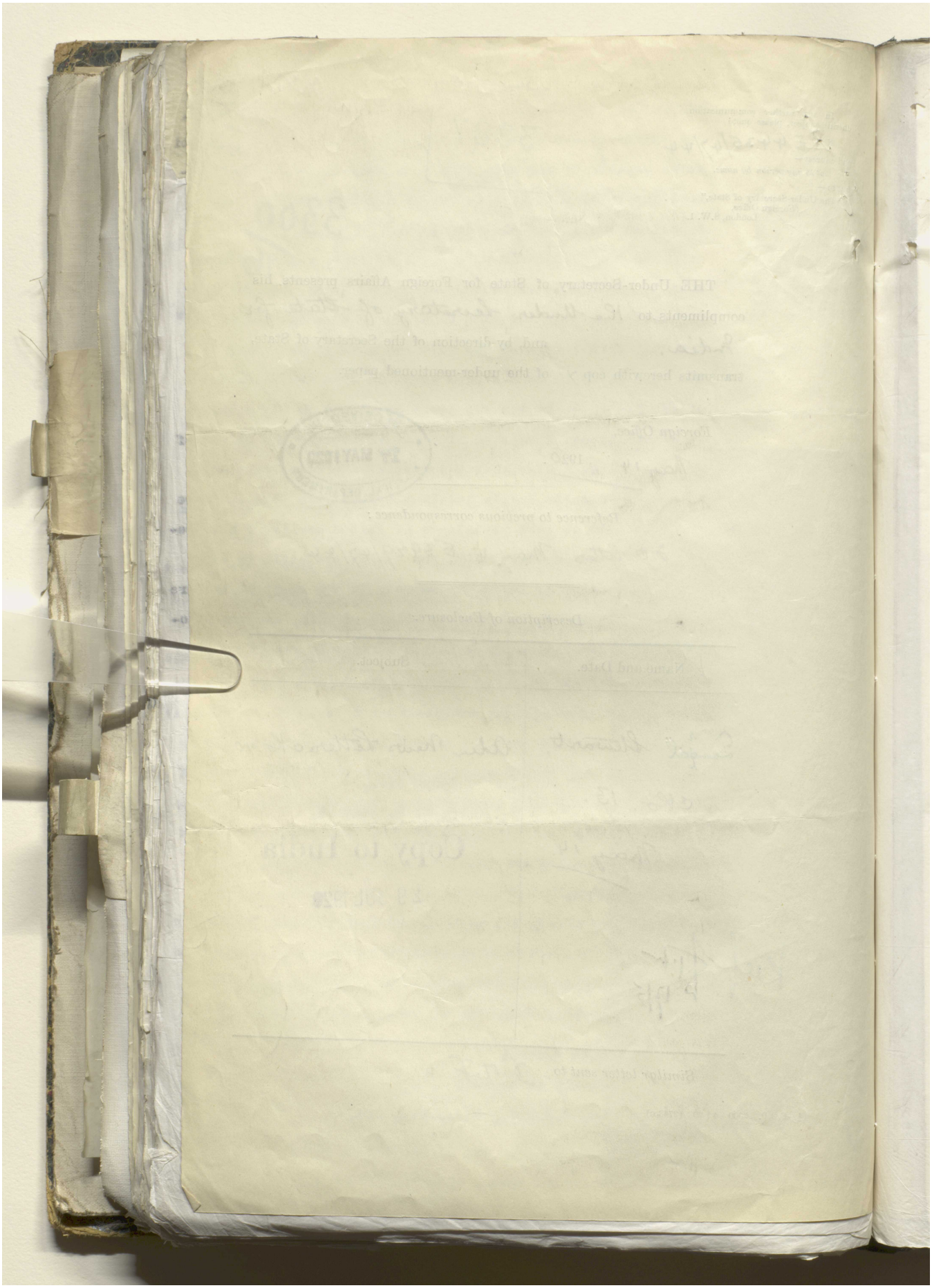

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10th Aden News Letter.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
21st April 1920.

(434)
440

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter.

TIHAMA.

No reports have been received from Hodeida this week. A rumour is current here that the Idrisi has occupied Zabeed and that fighting is in progress at Hais and other places in the neighbourhood.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

With reference to the alleged intention of the Imam to advance on Lahej via the Maktari and the Subehi countries reported in my last letter, the Abdali Sultan has now been informed from the same source that the scheme has been postponed by order of the Imam.

The Imam has also sent orders to his Amil at Jalila, Saiyid Yahya, to postpone further operations in that quarter. The Amil is, however, reported to have moved from Jalila to Dala with 150 men en route to Dubyat with the object of confiscating the valuable effects of the Dala people removed to Dubyat. Another report states that the Amil sent a letter to the Mansab of Dubyat, Saiyid Ali Radwan, demanding ₰ 300/- as a tax on the property and threatening to confiscate the property in case the tax is not paid. The Mansab replied promising to pay the amount and asking the Amil not to send Zeidis to Dubyat as their presence would frighten the people and lower his own prestige. The families of the Amir of Dala and of his brothers, who had been removed to Dubyat after the occupation of Dala by the Zeidis, are reported to have left for Tafwa.

The

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The Amil is reported to have sent men to bring him information re the number of live-stock in the Amiri, Shairi and Halmin villages. The object is believed to be the imposition of a tax. The Amil has imposed the following taxes on articles etc. sold in the market:-

₰ 1 per camel
" ½ " bullock
Annas 2-4 per goat or sheep
" 1 each from retailers
" 1 each from seller and purchaser of 1 dollar worth of jowari.

The Imam's Amil is said to have received orders recalling him to Sana, but he has not complied with them.

The Yafais are said to have withdrawn from their border as they have heard that the Zeidis have given up their intention to attack them.

The Imam's Amil at Mawia lately sent two Sheikhs to the Haushabi Sultan with a letter asking him to come to Mawia. The Sultan sent a verbal reply to the effect that he was under the British protection and that he had nothing to do with the Amil. The Haushabi hastened the departure of the Sheikhs by stating that he was expecting the arrival of British troops at Musemir that very day.

Yours sincerely,

sd. J.M.Stewart.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Felixstowe, G.C.M., C.B., etc., etc.

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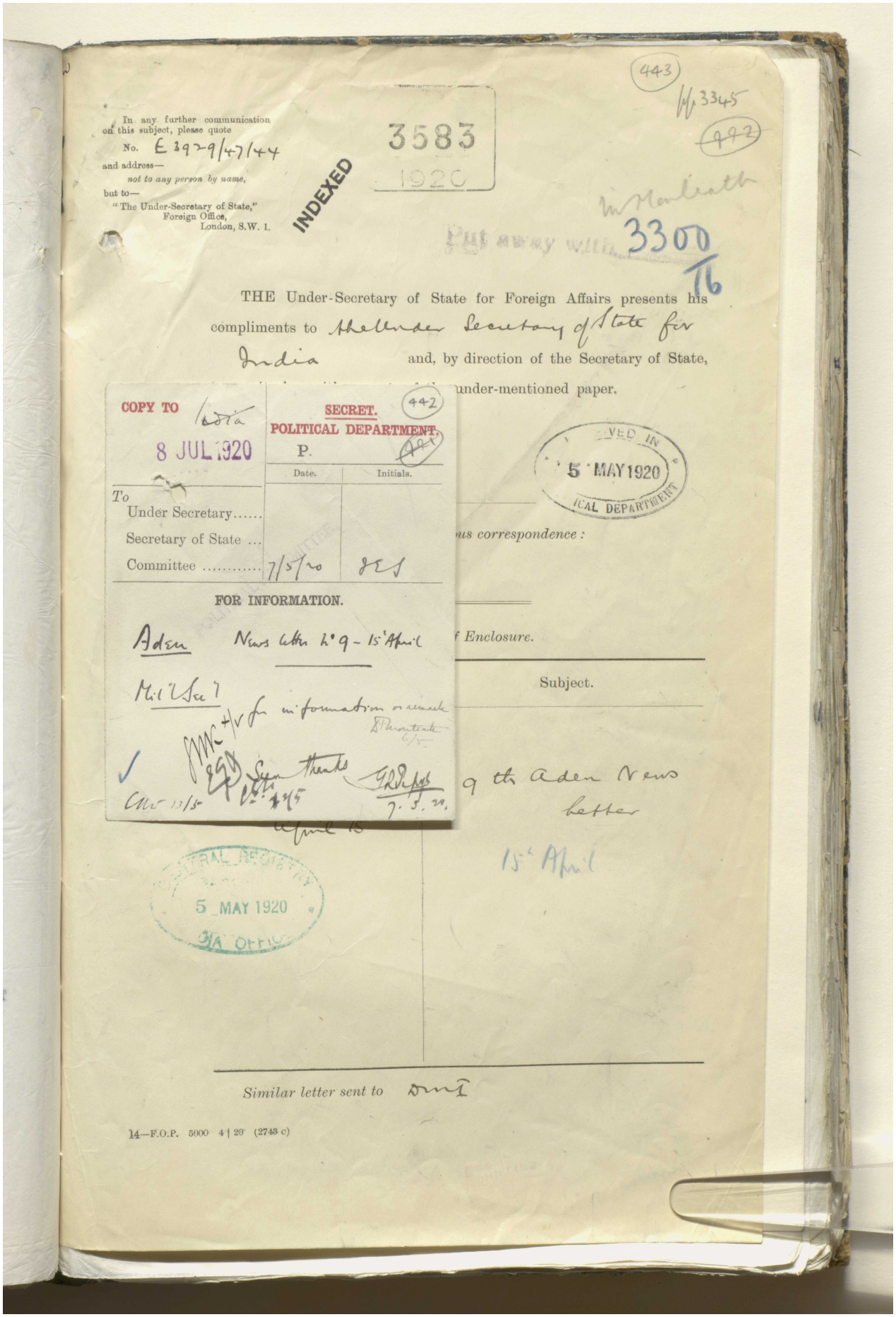

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, under-mentioned paper.

RECEIVED IN
5 MAY 1920
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

COPY TO India
8 JUL 1920

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.
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To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....		
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	7/5/20	JCJ

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden News Letter 9 - 15 April

Mil Sec?

for information & remarks

Seen thanks 7.5.20

9th Aden News letter

15th April

us correspondence :

f Enclosure.

Subject.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
5 MAY 1920
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to India

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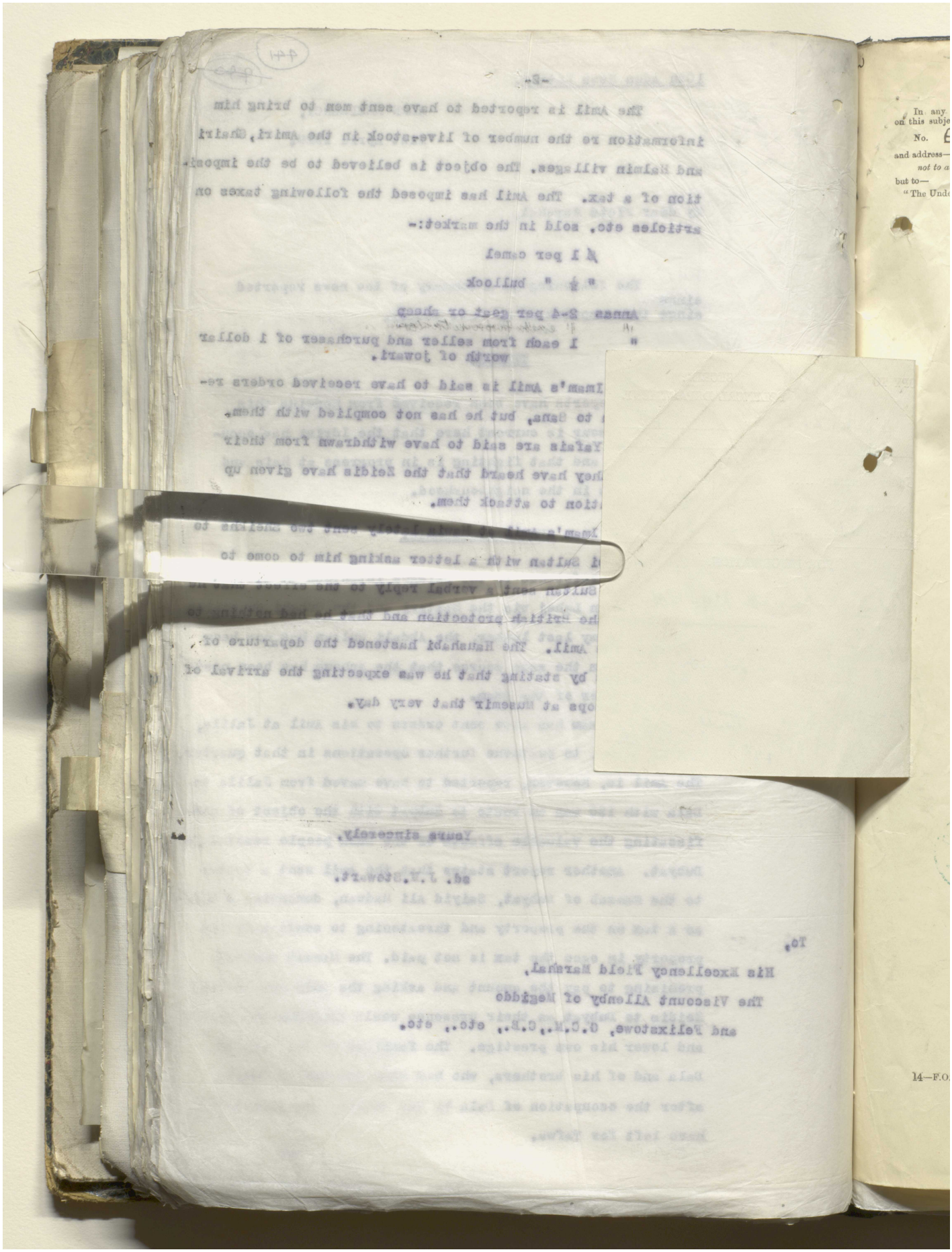

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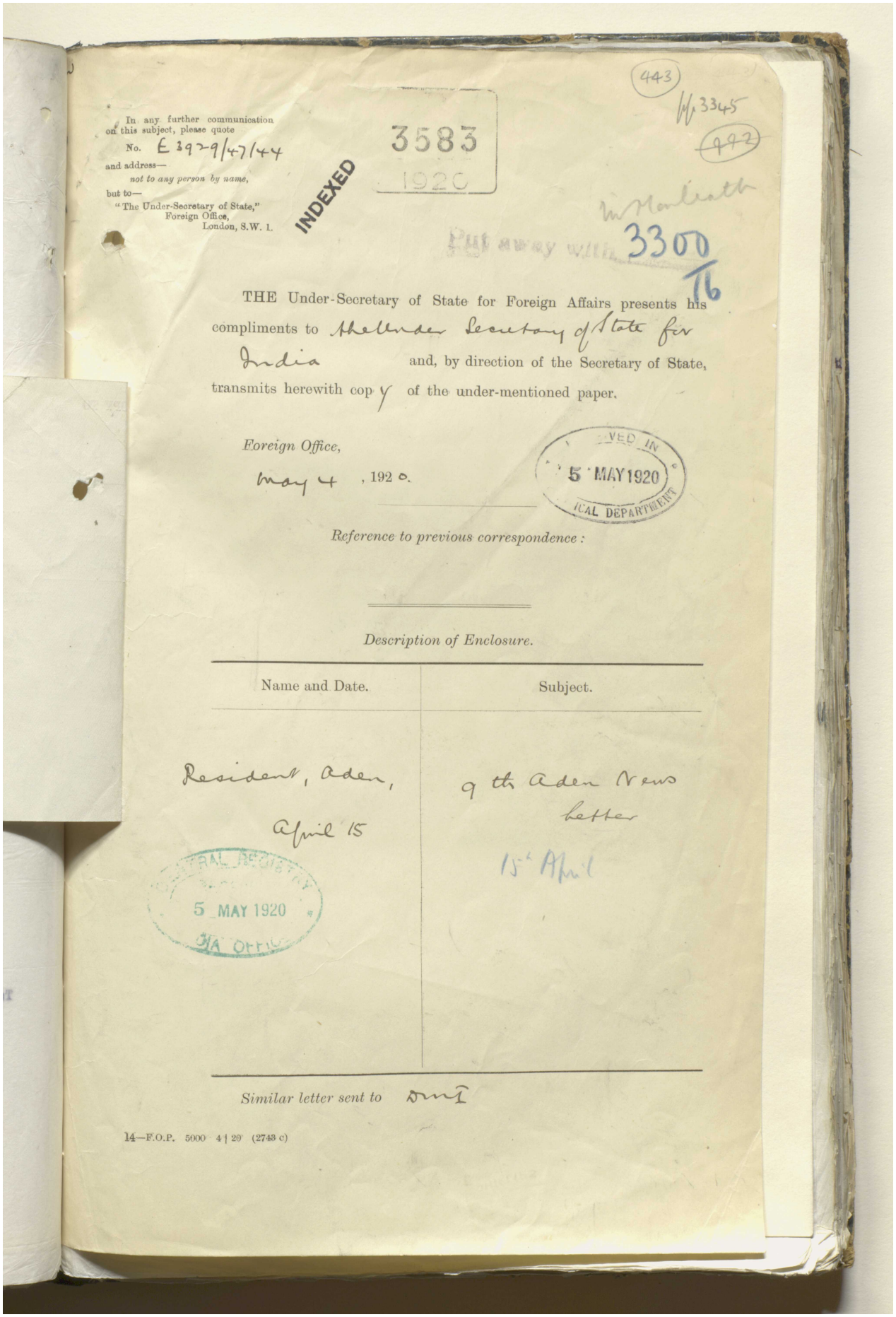

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Foreign Office,
May 4, 1920.

RECEIVED IN
5 MAY 1920
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Resident, Aden, April 15	9th Aden News Letter 15th April

GENERAL REGISTRY
5 MAY 1920
I.O. Office

Similar letter sent to Govt

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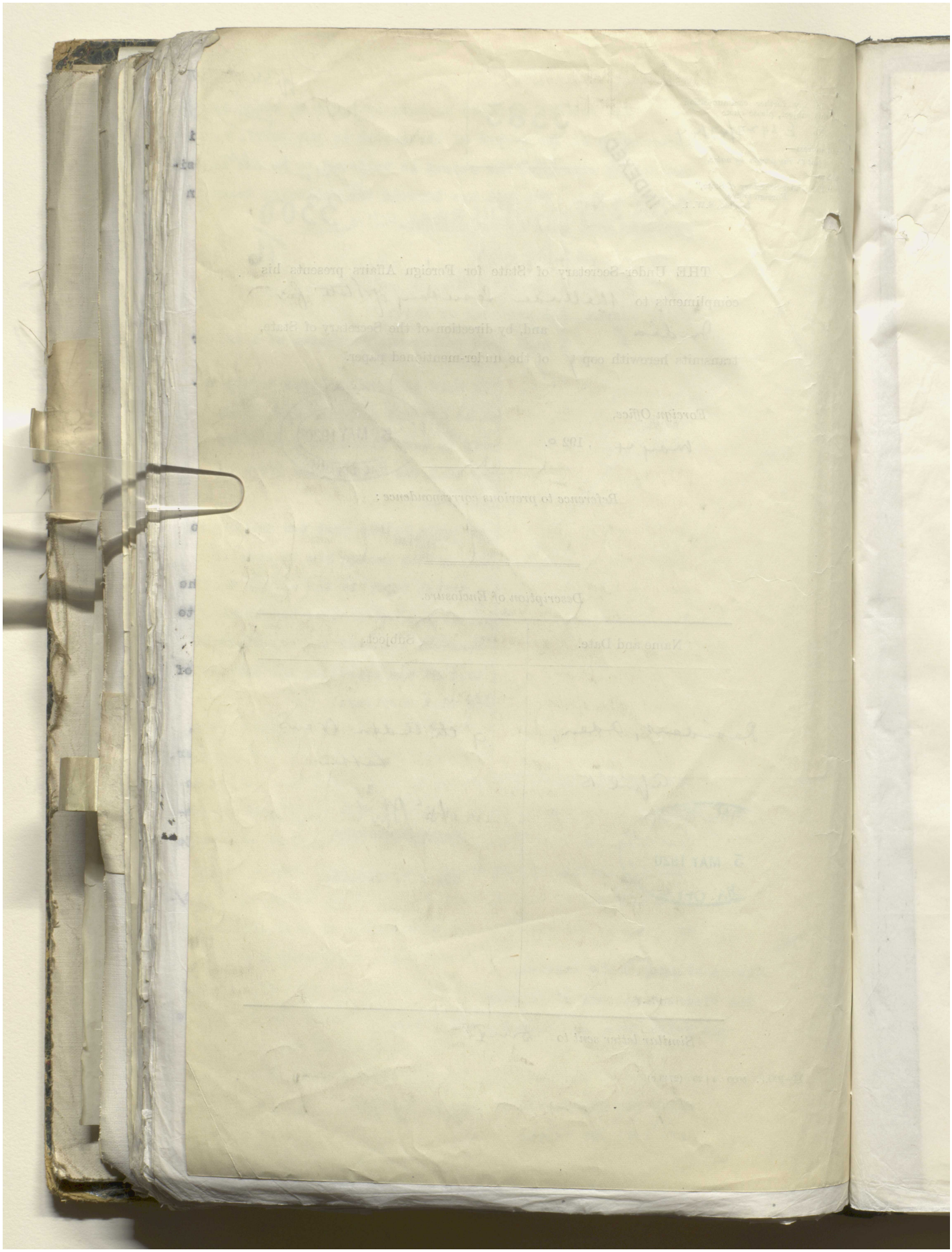

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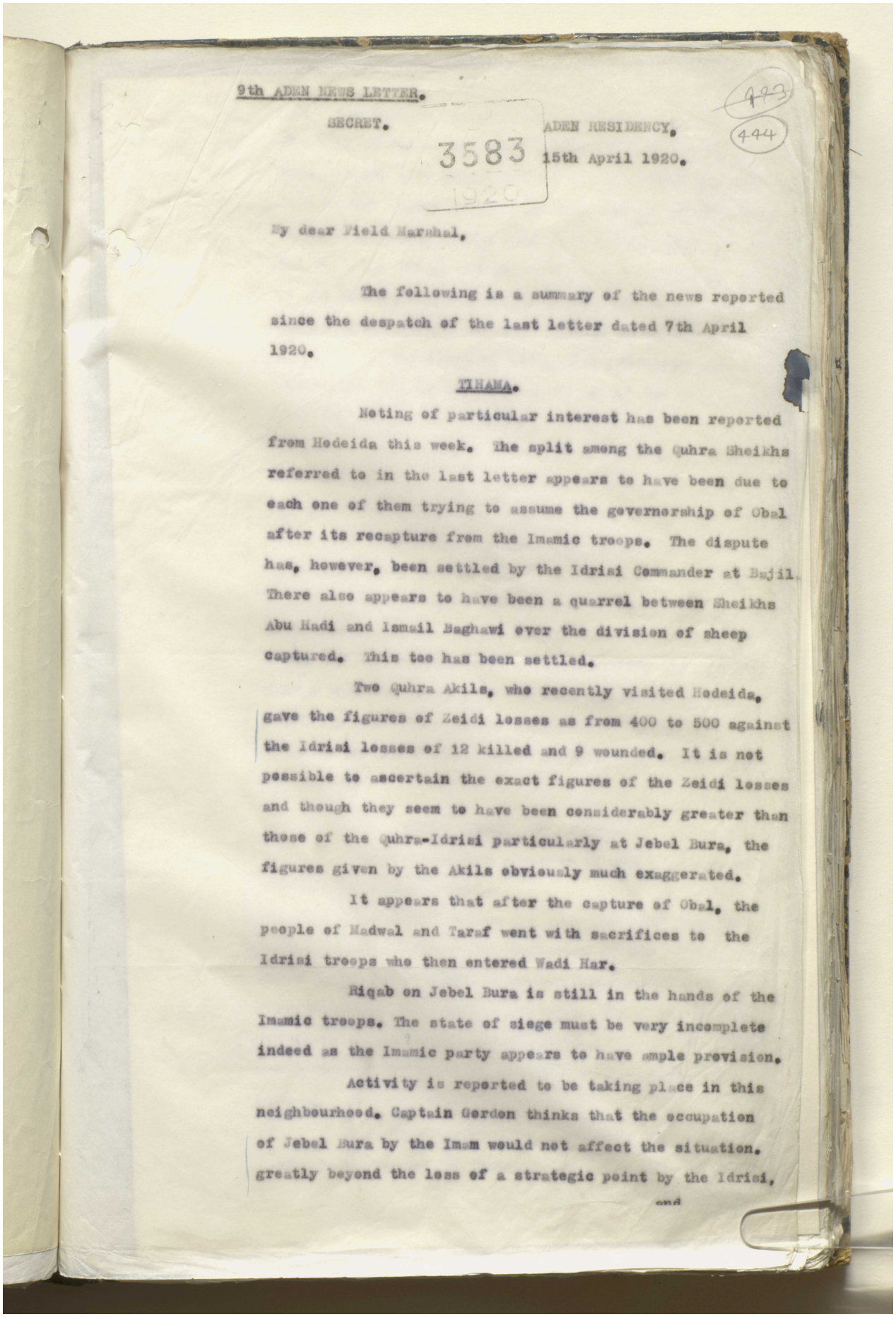

9th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

3583
1920

ADEN RESIDENCY,
15th April 1920.

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My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of the last letter dated 7th April 1920.

TIHAMA.

Noting of particular interest has been reported from Hodeida this week. The split among the Quhra Sheikhs referred to in the last letter appears to have been due to each one of them trying to assume the governorship of Obal after its recapture from the Imamic troops. The dispute has, however, been settled by the Idrisi Commander at Bajil. There also appears to have been a quarrel between Sheikhs Abu Hadi and Ismail Baghawi over the division of sheep captured. This too has been settled.

Two Quhra Akils, who recently visited Hodeida, gave the figures of Zeidi losses as from 400 to 500 against the Idrisi losses of 12 killed and 9 wounded. It is not possible to ascertain the exact figures of the Zeidi losses and though they seem to have been considerably greater than those of the Quhra-Idrisi particularly at Jebel Bura, the figures given by the Akils obviously much exaggerated.

It appears that after the capture of Obal, the people of Madwal and Taraf went with sacrifices to the Idrisi troops who then entered Wadi Har.

Riqab on Jebel Bura is still in the hands of the Imamic troops. The state of siege must be very incomplete indeed as the Imamic party appears to have ample provision.

Activity is reported to be taking place in this neighbourhood. Captain Gordon thinks that the occupation of Jebel Bura by the Imam would not affect the situation greatly beyond the loss of a strategic point by the Idrisi,

and

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and a set back to his possible extension into the Tihama. The fall of Bajil, however, in his opinion, would be of considerably more importance as it would mean the subjection of the Quhra. In such an eventuality, he does not think it likely that the Imam will advance into the plains but that the Abees, who are after all half-hearted allies of the Idrisi, would probably desert him and out of fear assume an unfriendly attitude towards us at Hodeida.

In the event of the Idrisi extension into the Tihama, it will be interesting to see if the Zaraniq wholeheartedly accept the Idrisi.

Their three Sheikhs were said to have entered into an agreement with the Idrisi to accept and obey the orders of his Commandant when sent, but later there appeared to have been a certain reversion of feeling owing to rumours of heavy Idrisi dues.

Syed Mustafa, who is expected here shortly, has given health as the ostensible object of his coming to Aden, but I understand from Captain Gerden, who recently paid a visit to Medi, that the real object is to ask for pecuniary assistance as the Idrisi finds it difficult to carry on the local war without getting some revenue from the Tihama.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

Rumours of Zeidi activity in the direction of Mafalis are again current.

The Abdali Sultan has received news from some Sheikhs in the Yemen of the intention of the Zeidi Commander at Taiz, Ibn'l Wazir, to occupy the Maktari fort and then to attack the Subehis within our Protectorate with the ultimate object of taking Lahej. It is said that Ibn 'l Wazir will be assisted by the Hakim of An-Nadra in this scheme.

The Abdali Sultan has also received a letter from the Maktari Sheikh enclosing one from Ibn 'l Wazir

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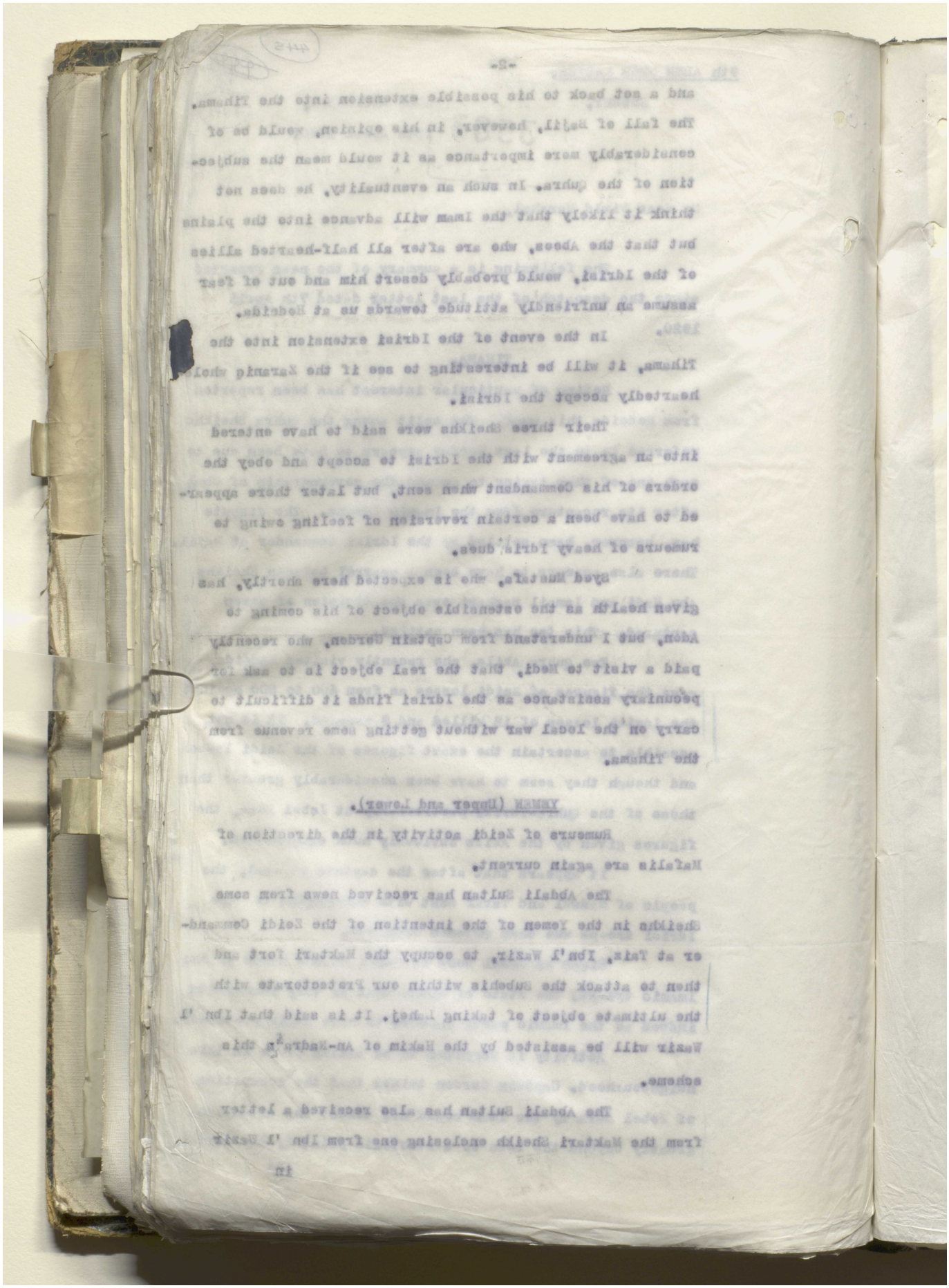

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in which the Maktari people are exhorted to be obedient and submissive to the Imam's representative in their country and are warned of severe punishment for failure to do so.

The Maktari Sheikh asks for assistance to fight against the Imam.

The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports a movement of Imamic troops towards Moza and Sheikh Said. The object seems to be to remove Turkish guns lying at these places. Sheikh Nasir of Sheikh Said, who was summoned to Taiz, have refused to go and has come to Perim to ask for our assistance. He has collected his men at Sheikh Said.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

There has been no change in the situation. The number of the Zeidis at Jalila reported in the last letter was much exaggerated. The number does not appear to be more than 100 at Jalila. According to Abdul Hamid, the brother of the Amir of Dala, there are about 380 Zeidis in all distributed among various places in the Amiri country including Jalila.

The Audhali Sultan has sent his Wazir with a letter he has received from one of the Imam's Commanders, Syed Mahomed bin Ali, in which the Syed says he has heard that the Resident at Aden has sent him letters asking the Audhali to send his children to the schools which, he says, we have lately opened. He warns the Audhali against sending his children to these schools and listening to the Kadi of Behan and the Audhali Wazir, who mislead him by advising him to befriend us and by saying that the Yemen is now under the Christians. The Syed says that the Yemen is still under the Turks and that they will shortly return with tremendous forces and will severely punish those who have proved treacherous to the Islamic faith. The Syed promises to come himself shortly or send an emissary to explain matters personally. He adds that we will shortly discontinue stipends and pre-

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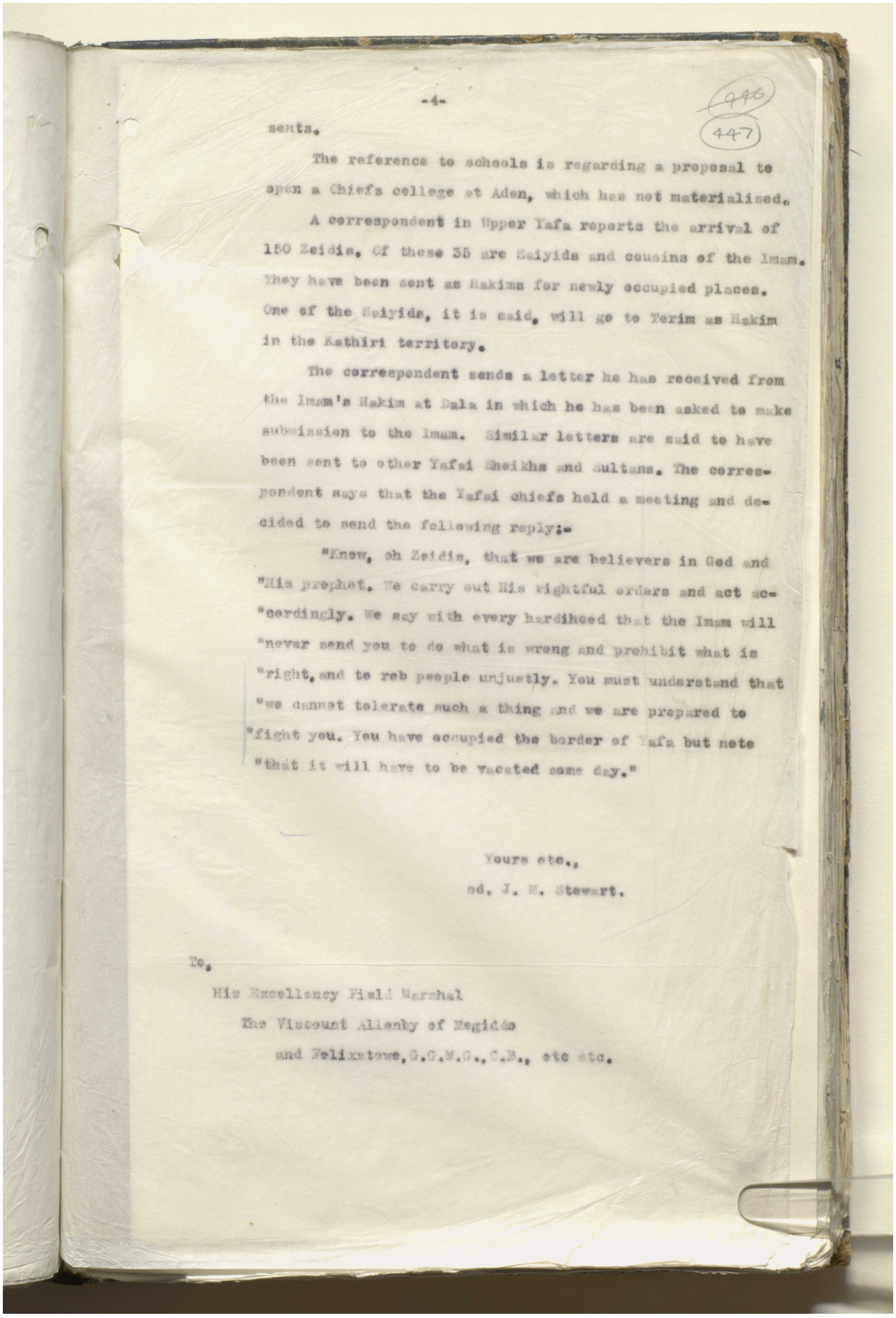

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sents.

The reference to schools is regarding a proposal to open a Chiefs college at Aden, which has not materialised.

A correspondent in Upper Yafa reports the arrival of 150 Zeidis. Of these 35 are Saiyids and cousins of the Imam. They have been sent as Hakims for newly occupied places. One of the Saiyids, it is said, will go to Terim as Hakim in the Kathiri territory.

The correspondent sends a letter he has received from the Imam's Hakim at Dala in which he has been asked to make submission to the Imam. Similar letters are said to have been sent to other Yafai Sheikhs and Sultans. The correspondent says that the Yafai chiefs held a meeting and decided to send the following reply:-

"Know, oh Zeidis, that we are believers in God and "His prophet. We carry out His rightful orders and act accordingly. We say with every hardihood that the Imam will "never send you to do what is wrong and prohibit what is "right, and to rob people unjustly. You must understand that "we cannot tolerate such a thing and we are prepared to "fight you. You have occupied the border of Yafa but note "that it will have to be vacated some day."

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Felixstowe, G.C.M.G., C.B., etc etc.

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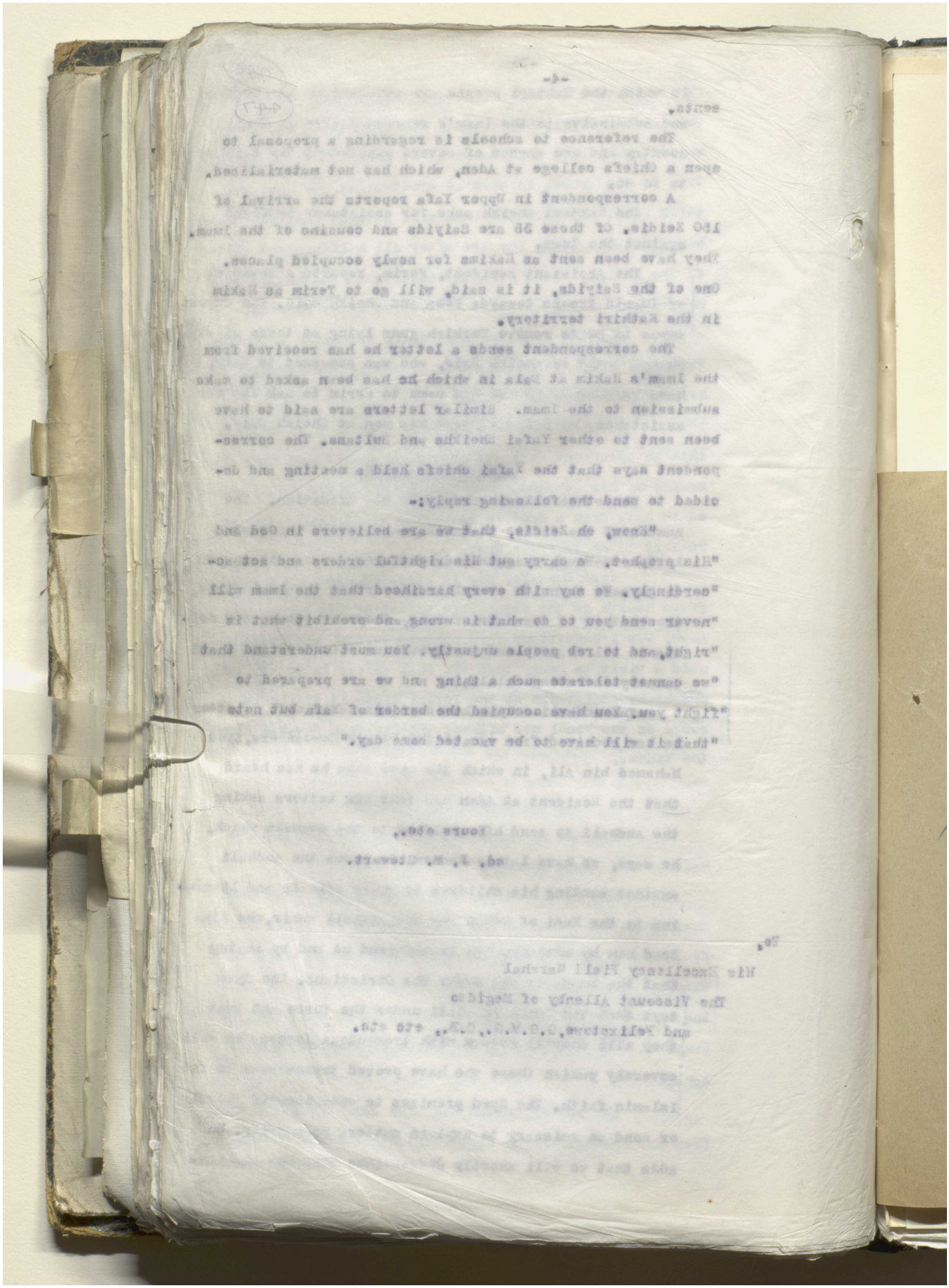

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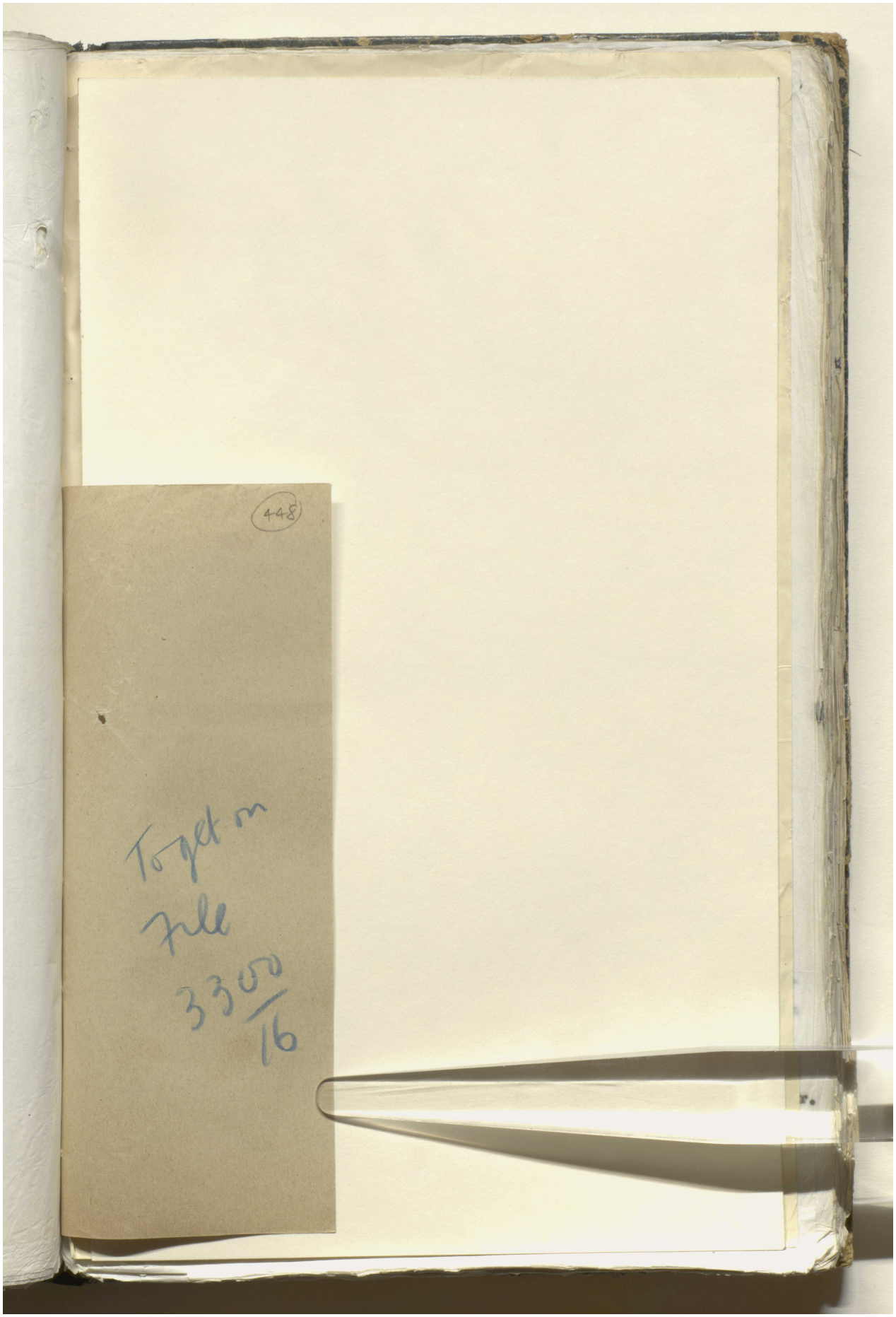
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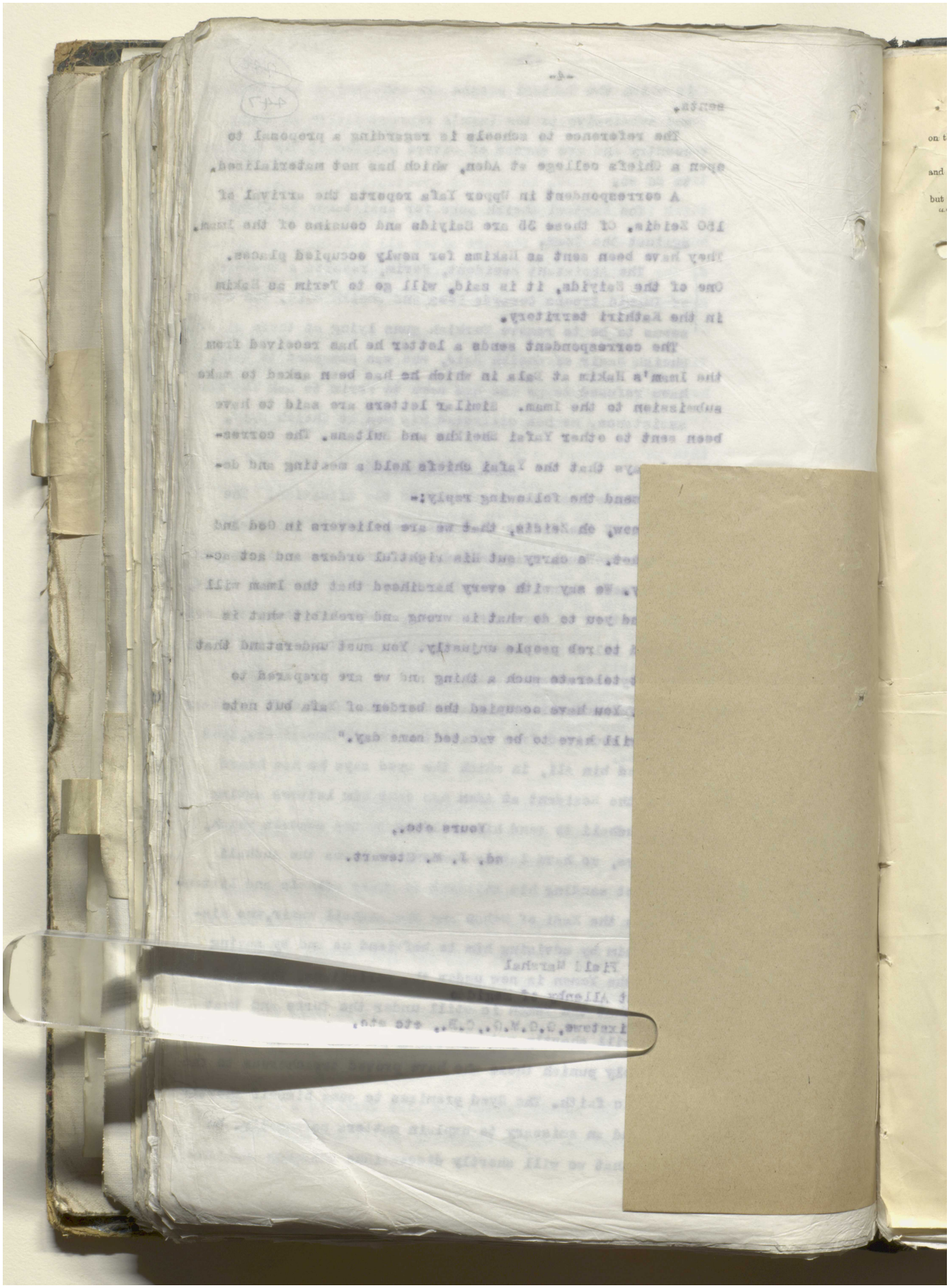

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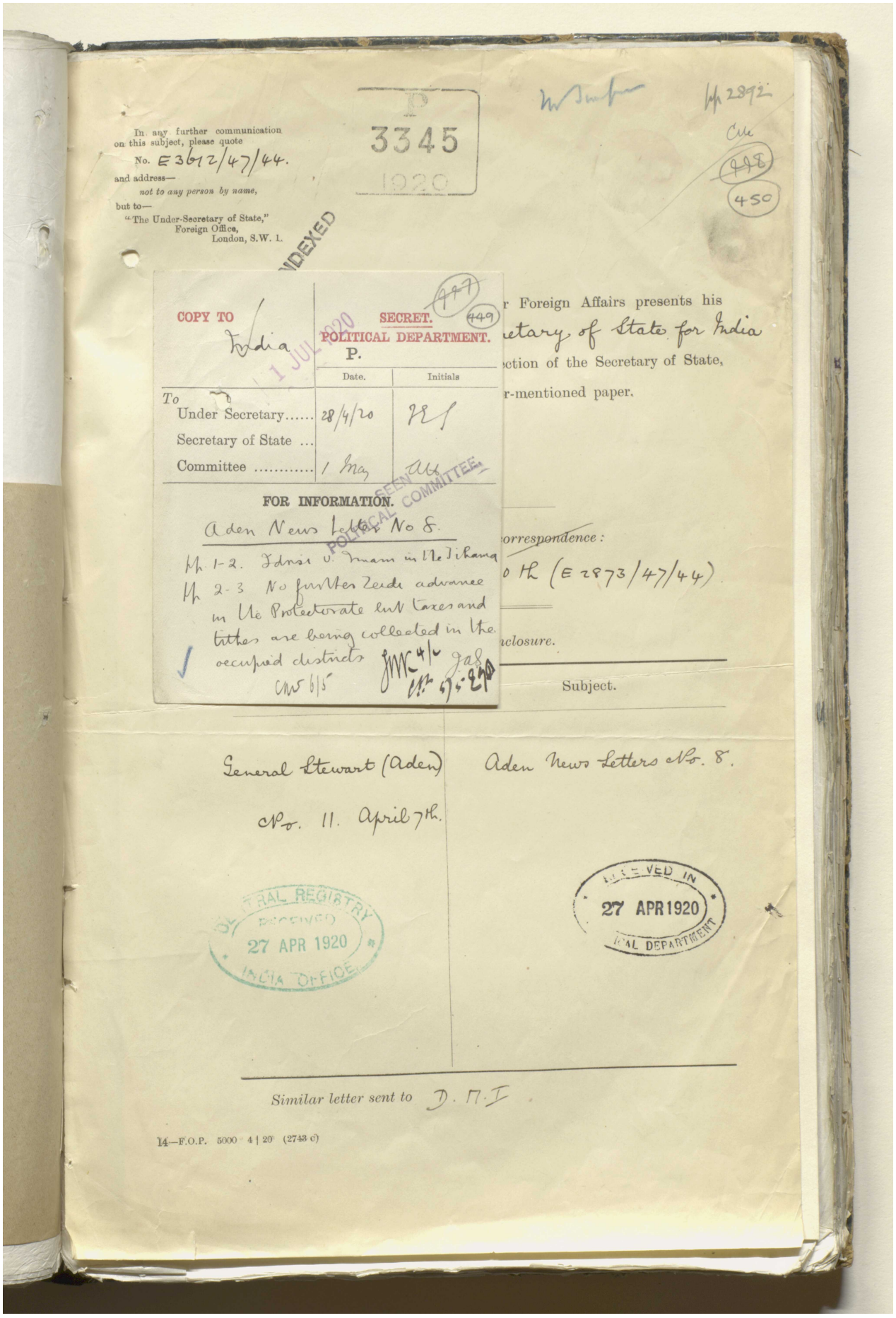

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P 3345 1920

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Secretary of State ...		
Committee	1 May	

1 JUL 1920

POLITICAL COMMITTEE SEEN

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden News Letter No 8.

Mh 1-2. Idrisi v. Imam in Ma Tihama
Mh 2-3 No further Zeidi advance in the Protectorate but taxes and tithes are being collected in the occupied districts

CWS 6/5

r Foreign Affairs presents his
etary of State for India
ction of the Secretary of State,
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orrespondence :
0 Mh (E 2873/47/44)

nclosure.

Subject.

General Stewart (Aden) Aden News Letters No. 8.

No. 11. April 7th.

RECEIVED IN CENTRAL REGISTRY 27 APR 1920 INDIA OFFICE

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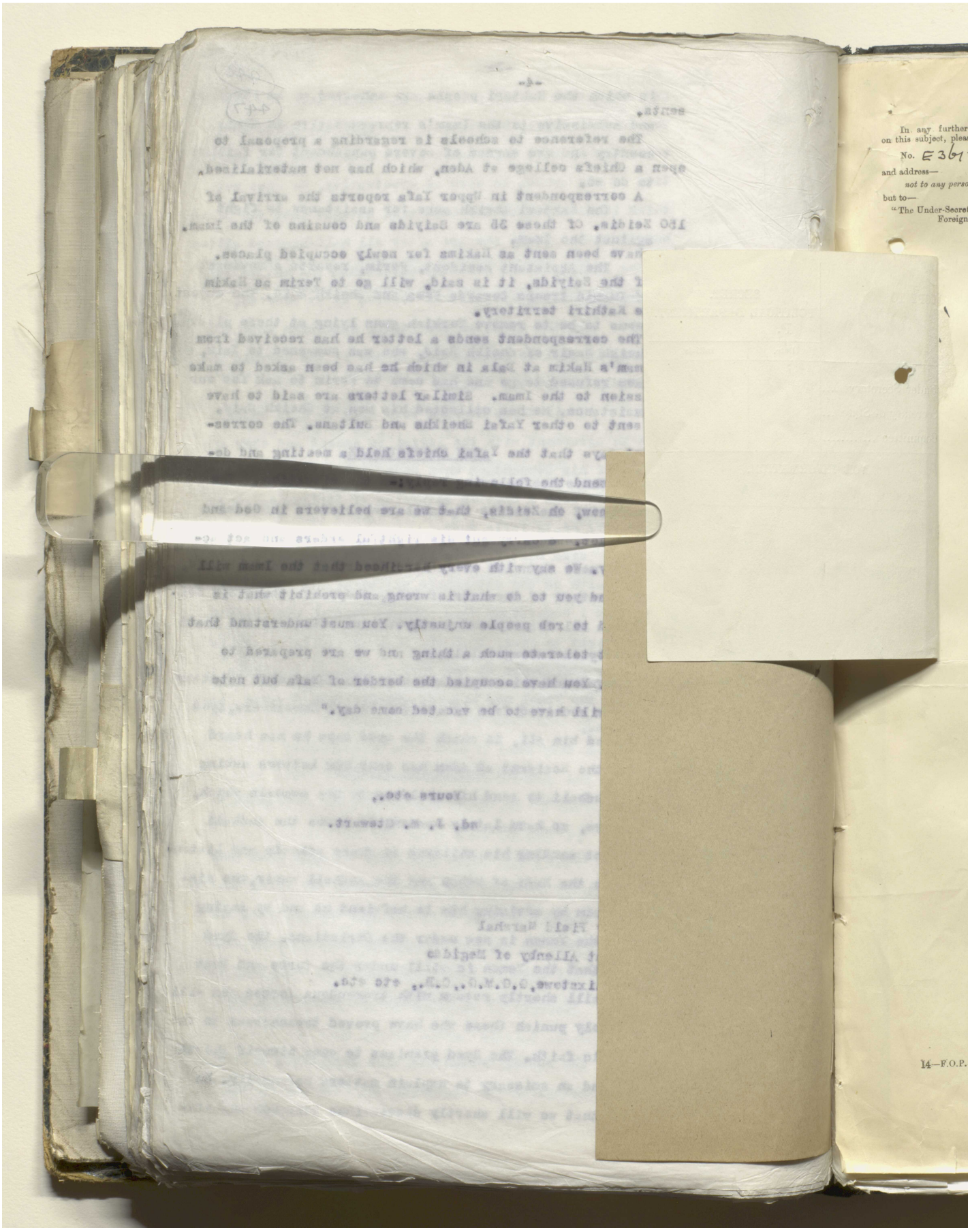

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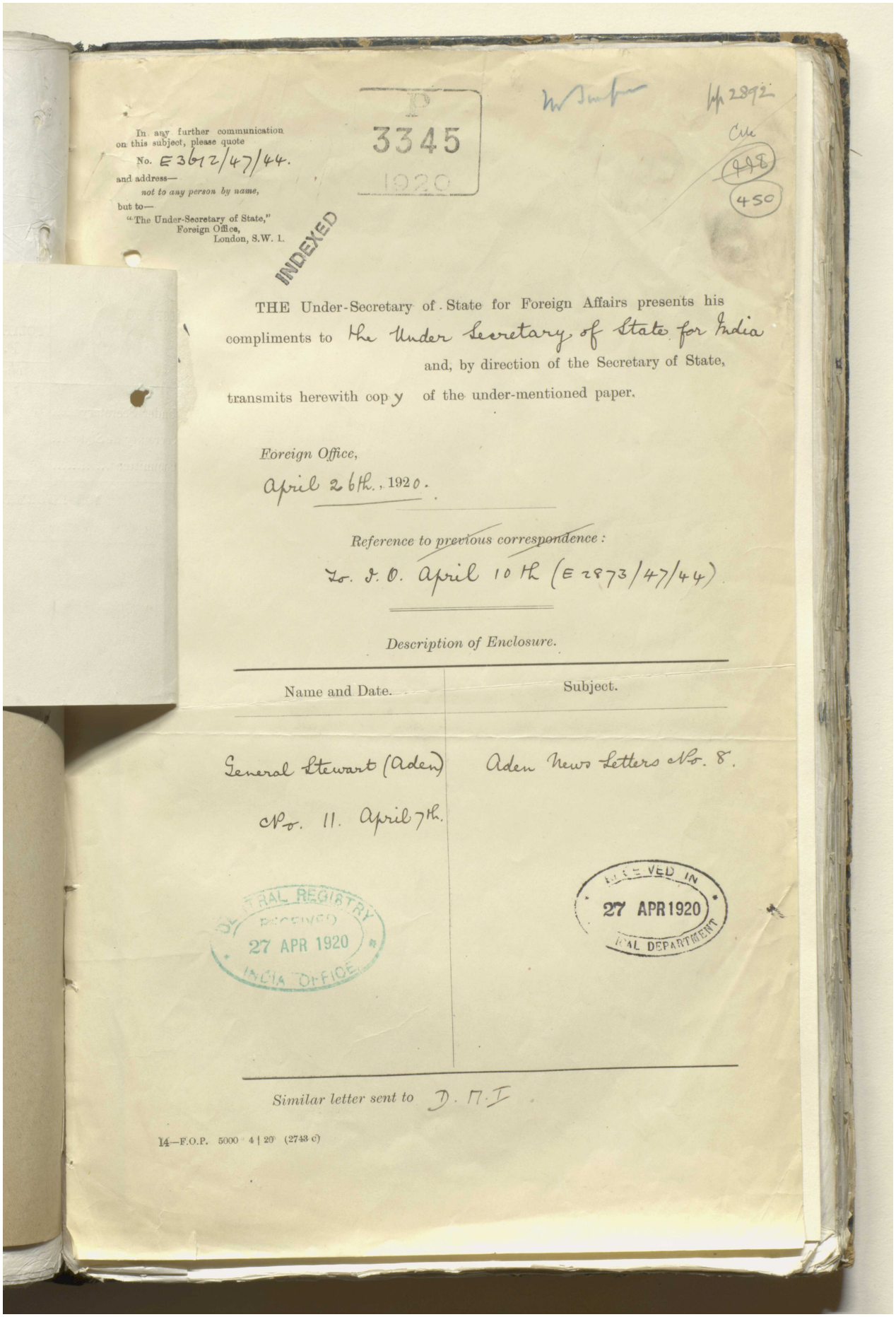

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P 3345 1920

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
April 26th., 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:
To. F.O. April 10th (E2873/47/44)

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
General Stewart (Aden) No. 11. April 7th.	Aden News Letters No. 8.

CENTRAL REGISTRY RECEIVED 27 APR 1920 INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED IN 27 APR 1920 LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Similar letter sent to D. M.I.

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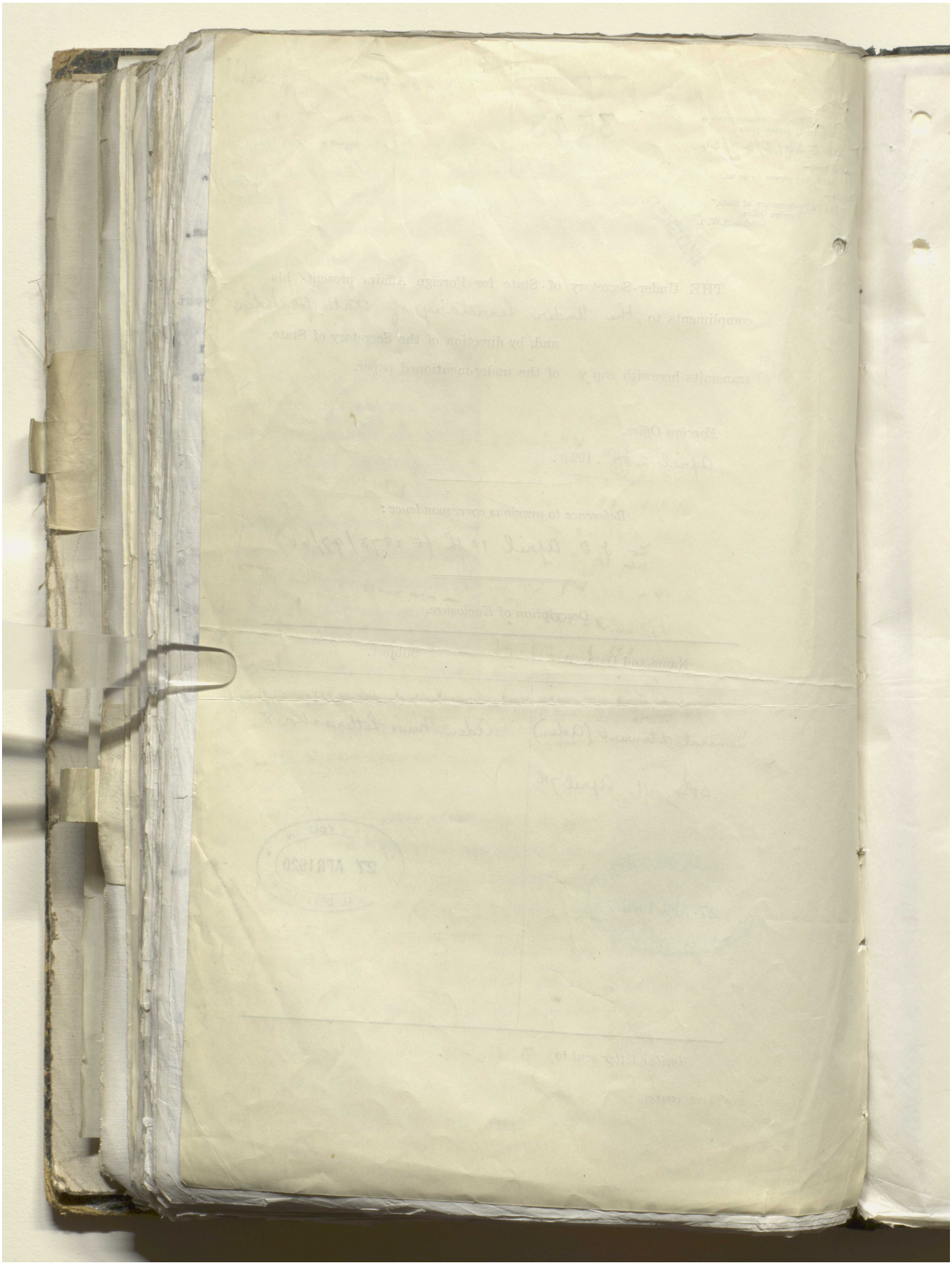

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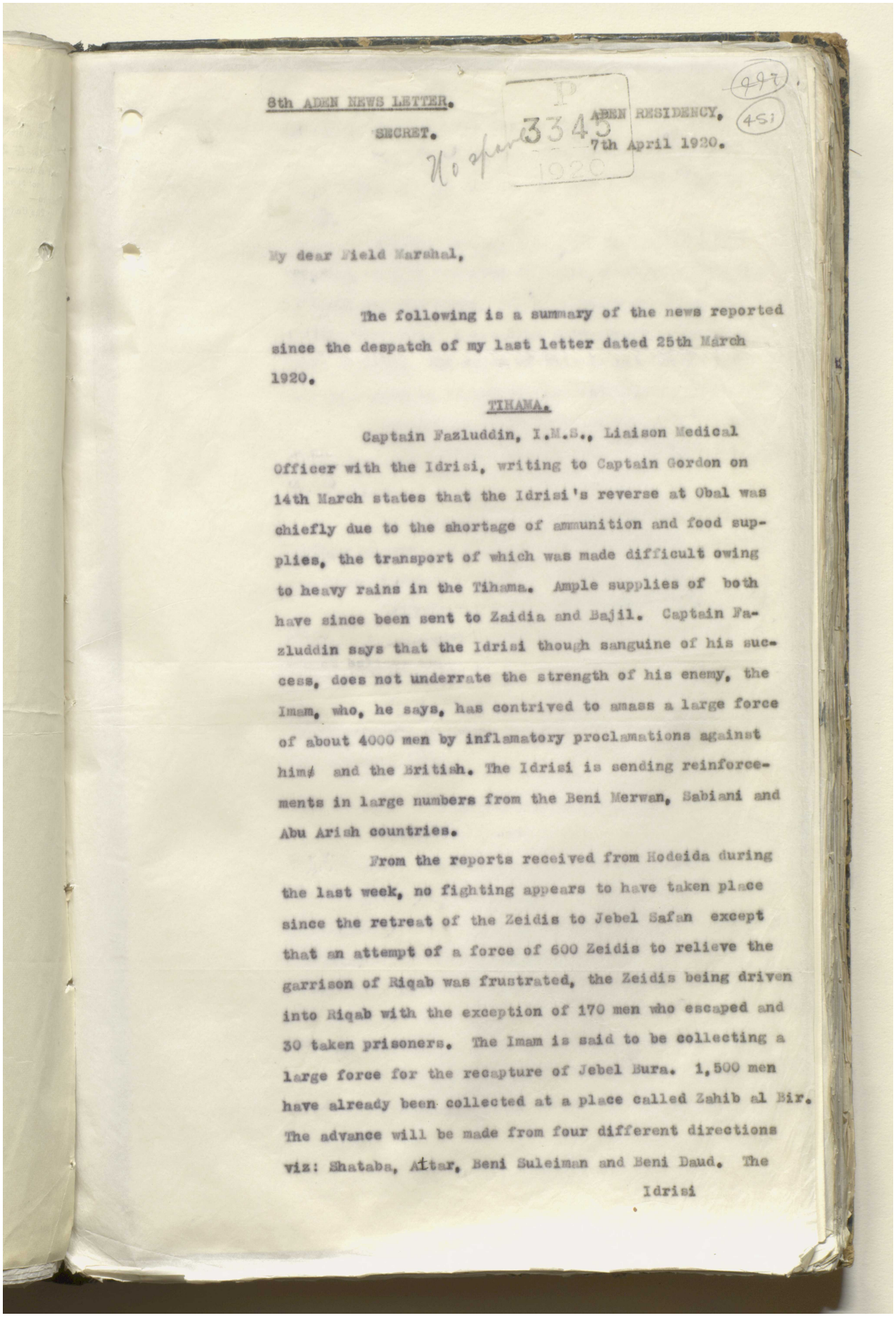

8th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

P 3345 1920

ADEN RESIDENCY,
7th April 1920.

(497) (451)

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 25th March 1920.

TIHAMA.

Captain Fazluddin, I.M.S., Liaison Medical Officer with the Idrisi, writing to Captain Gordon on 14th March states that the Idrisi's reverse at Obal was chiefly due to the shortage of ammunition and food supplies, the transport of which was made difficult owing to heavy rains in the Tihama. Ample supplies of both have since been sent to Zaidia and Bajil. Captain Fazluddin says that the Idrisi though sanguine of his success, does not underrate the strength of his enemy, the Imam, who, he says, has contrived to amass a large force of about 4000 men by inflamatory proclamations against him and the British. The Idrisi is sending reinforcements in large numbers from the Beni Merwan, Sabiani and Abu Arish countries.

From the reports received from Hodeida during the last week, no fighting appears to have taken place since the retreat of the Zeidis to Jebel Safan except that an attempt of a force of 600 Zeidis to relieve the garrison of Riqab was frustrated, the Zeidis being driven into Riqab with the exception of 170 men who escaped and 30 taken prisoners. The Imam is said to be collecting a large force for the recapture of Jebel Bura. 1,500 men have already been collected at a place called Zahib al Bir. The advance will be made from four different directions viz: Shataba, Attar, Beni Suleiman and Beni Daud. The

Idrisi

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Idrisi is prepared for the attack.

The Idrisi is reported to be advancing on Jebel Safan and the Zeidis are said to have fled to Haraz.

The Idrisi Commanders at Obal and Ain are reported to have returned to Bajil demanding arrears of their pay and asking to be relieved of their respective commands. A hitch is also reported among the Quhra Sheikhs. The cause of this is not known but Captain Gordon is trying to find it out.

Fighting is again reported at Jebel Milhan. About one third of the place is said to be in the hands of the Imam.

A number of clans in the neighbourhood of Zabeed are reported to have revolted against the Imam and have joined the Sheikh of Rikb, Awad Ali.

There is a vague rumour which lacks confirmation that Menakha has been occupied by the Idrisi. I cannot believe it.

Sayed Mustafa is due in Aden shortly. The Administrator, Kamaran, has wired that reasons of health are bringing him.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

There have been no further encroachments but the Zeidis are reported to be busy collecting tithes and other taxes from the Amiri people. The tithes are collected at the rate of one kela for every ten kelas of grain. The tax on a goat is ₹ 1/8. In addition to this the Hakim makes continuous demands for special contributions under various pretexts. Loans are being taken from rich people and a tax is imposed on jewellery.

There are two Customs posts and transit dues are levied varying from ₹ ¼ to 3⅓ per donkey and camel load.

There are at present two representatives of the

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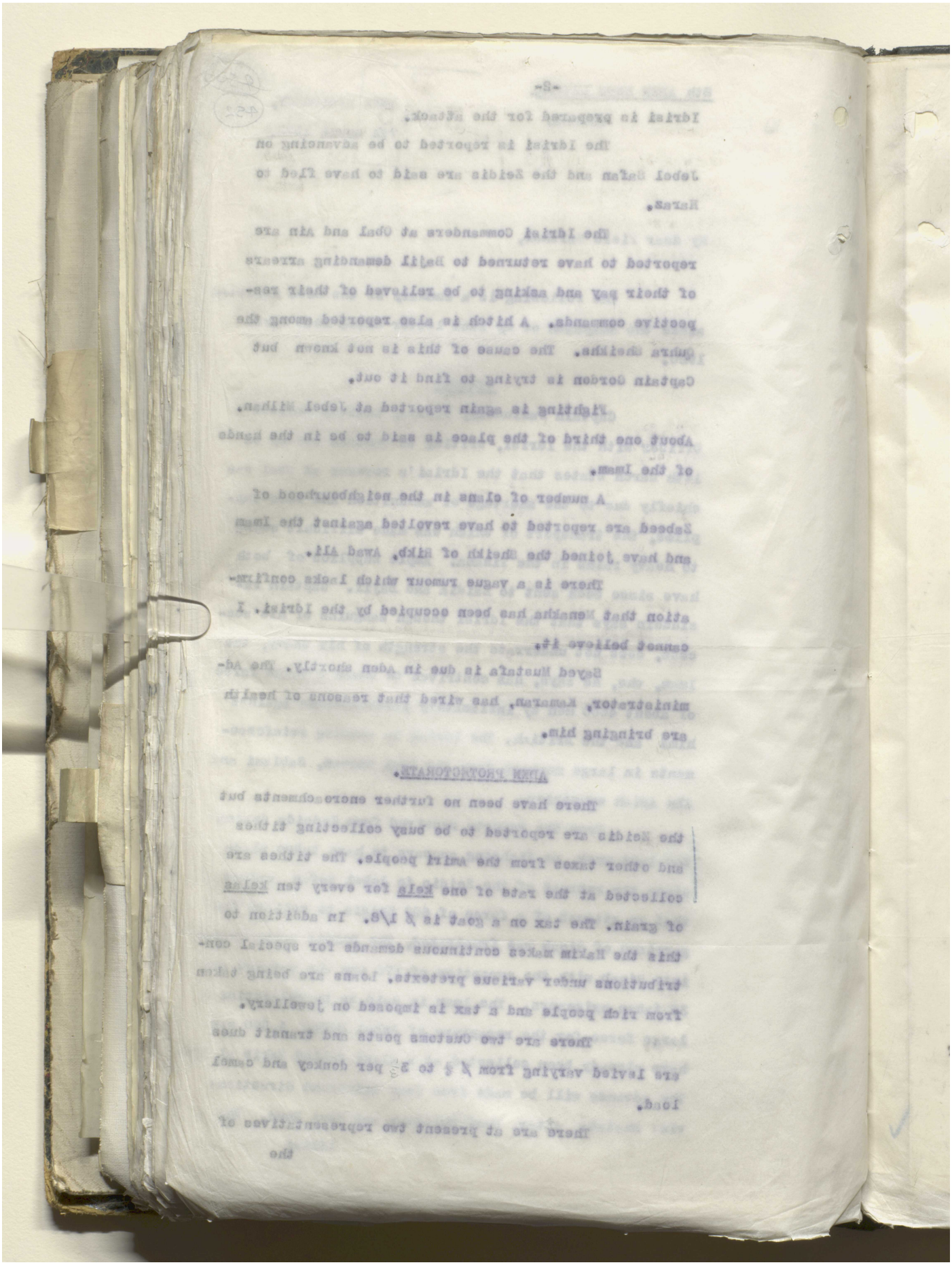

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the Imam in the Amiri territory. Their headquarters is at Jalila. Their names are Saiyid Yahia bin Mahomed Abbas and Kadi Ahmed bin Saleh Al Ansi. The former, who is a relative of the Imam, is the Hakim and Commandant of the troops. The latter is the Amil and is under the Hakim. There are 200-300 Zeidis in Jalila. Their rations etc are supplied by the people through the Akil of the place.

In consequence of complaints submitted by the people of Dala re looting etc, the Imam is said to have sent express orders to the Hakim at Jalila to stop the collection of tithes etc pending further orders and to send to him the Zeidis concerned in the looting. The Zeidis, however, continue to collect the tithes etc.

The Alawi Sheikh and the nephew of the Kotaibi Sheikh who had been detained at Dabab were sent to Sana on the 25th March by order of the Imam.

The Zeidis have not carried out their threats to the Haushabi to invade his country. They now give out that they have received orders from the Imam not to advance as the Imamic troops are engaged fighting the Idrisi. In fact there is a rumour that the Imam has recalled his troops from the Amiri territory and has asked the Hakim to leave Abdul Hamid, the Amir's brother, to manage the Amiri affairs.

Indications at present are that no further advance will take place in our Protectorate in the near future. The signs of a possible withdrawal are interesting as showing the effect of the Idrisi's action in the Hodeida neighbourhood.

The Imam has written another letter which is practically a repetition of what he has said before.

To,

His Excellency Field Marshal
The Viscount Allenby of
Megiddo and Felixstowe,
G.C.M.G., C.B., etc. etc.

Yours
sincerely,

sd. C.C.J. Barrett,
for Major-General Sir James Stewart
on tour.

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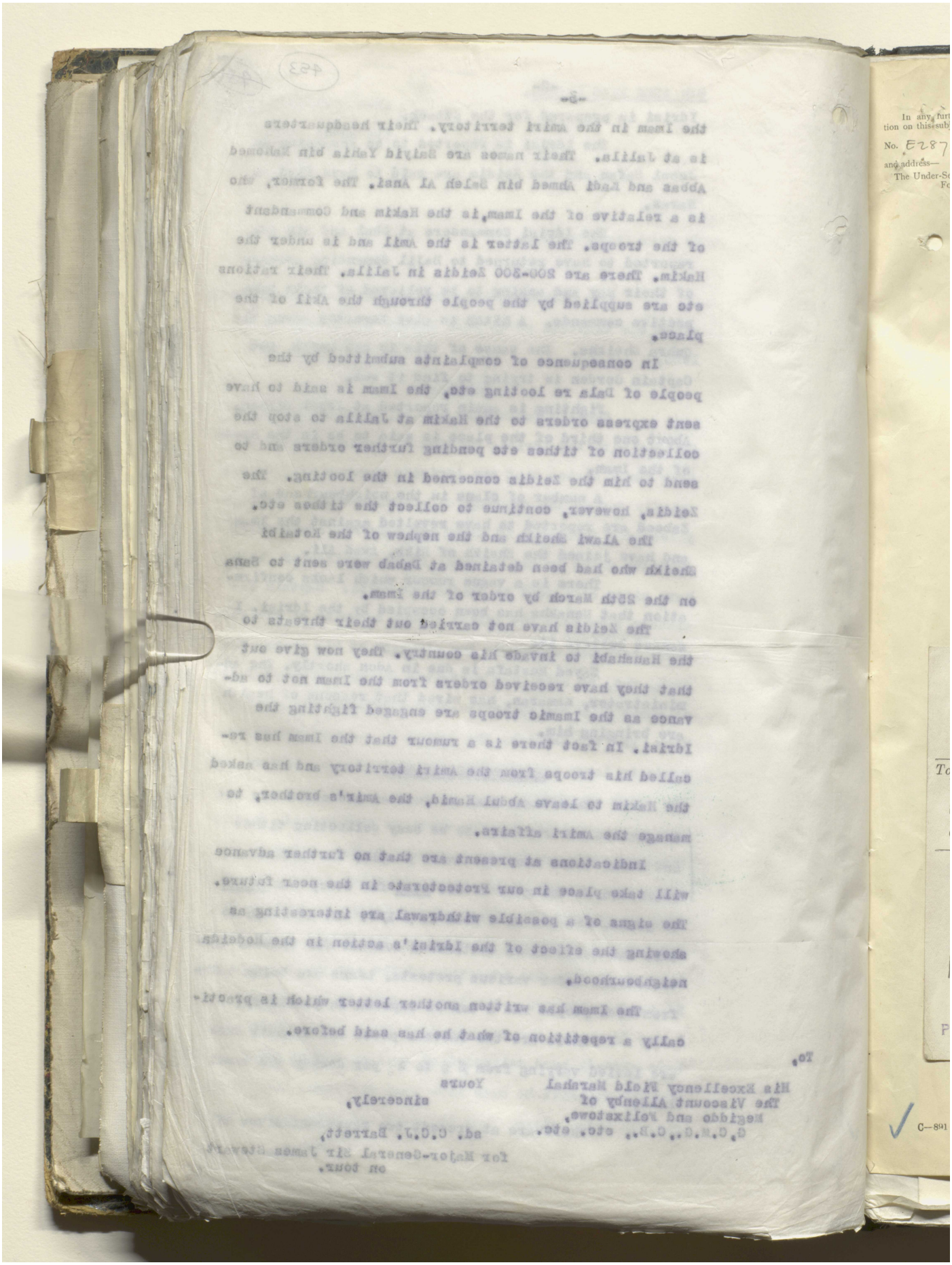

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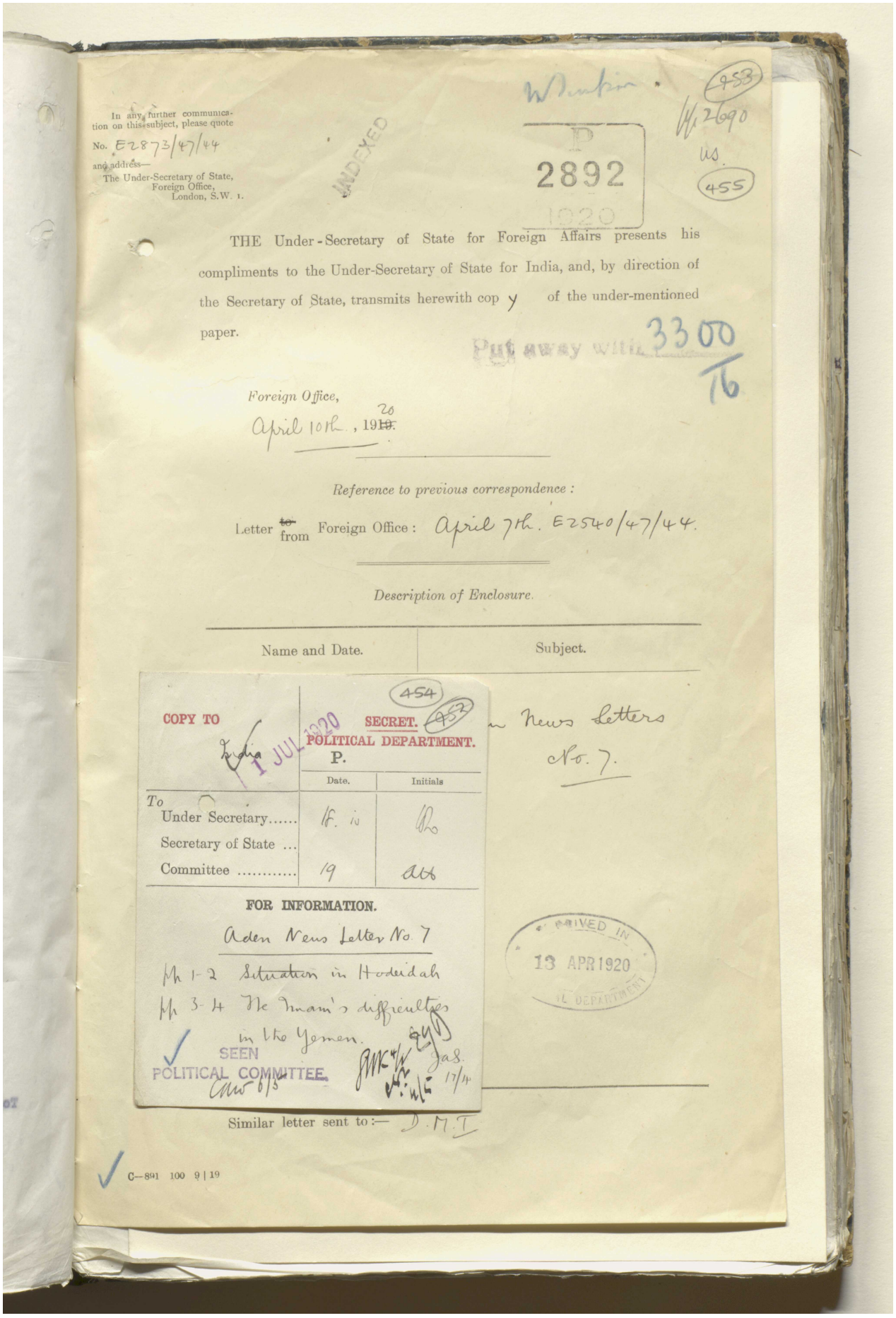

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	n News Letters No. 7.

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454 453 SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. P.

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Secretary of State ...		
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FOR INFORMATION.
Aden News Letter No. 7
Pp 1-2 Situation in Hodeidah
Pp 3-4 The Imam's difficulties in the Yemen.
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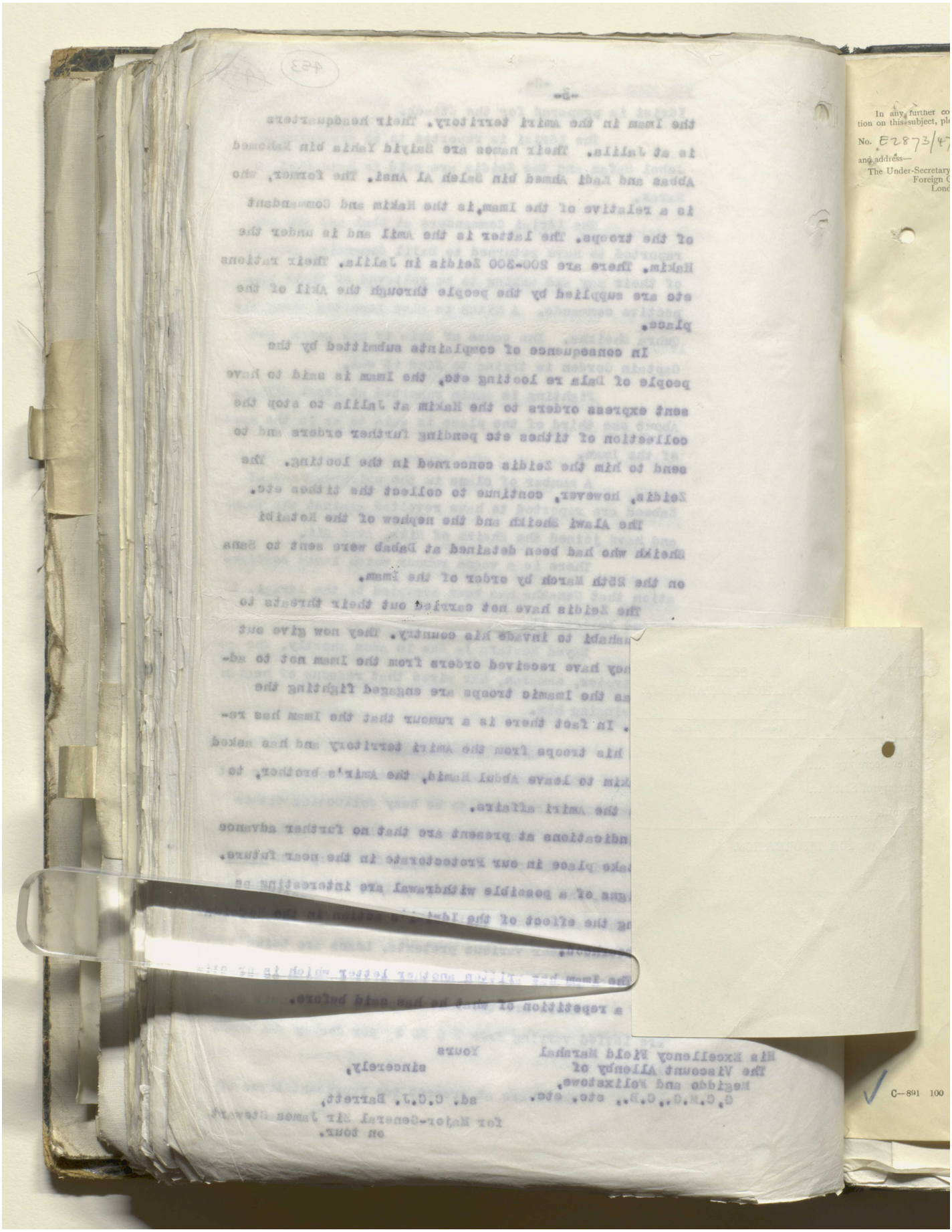

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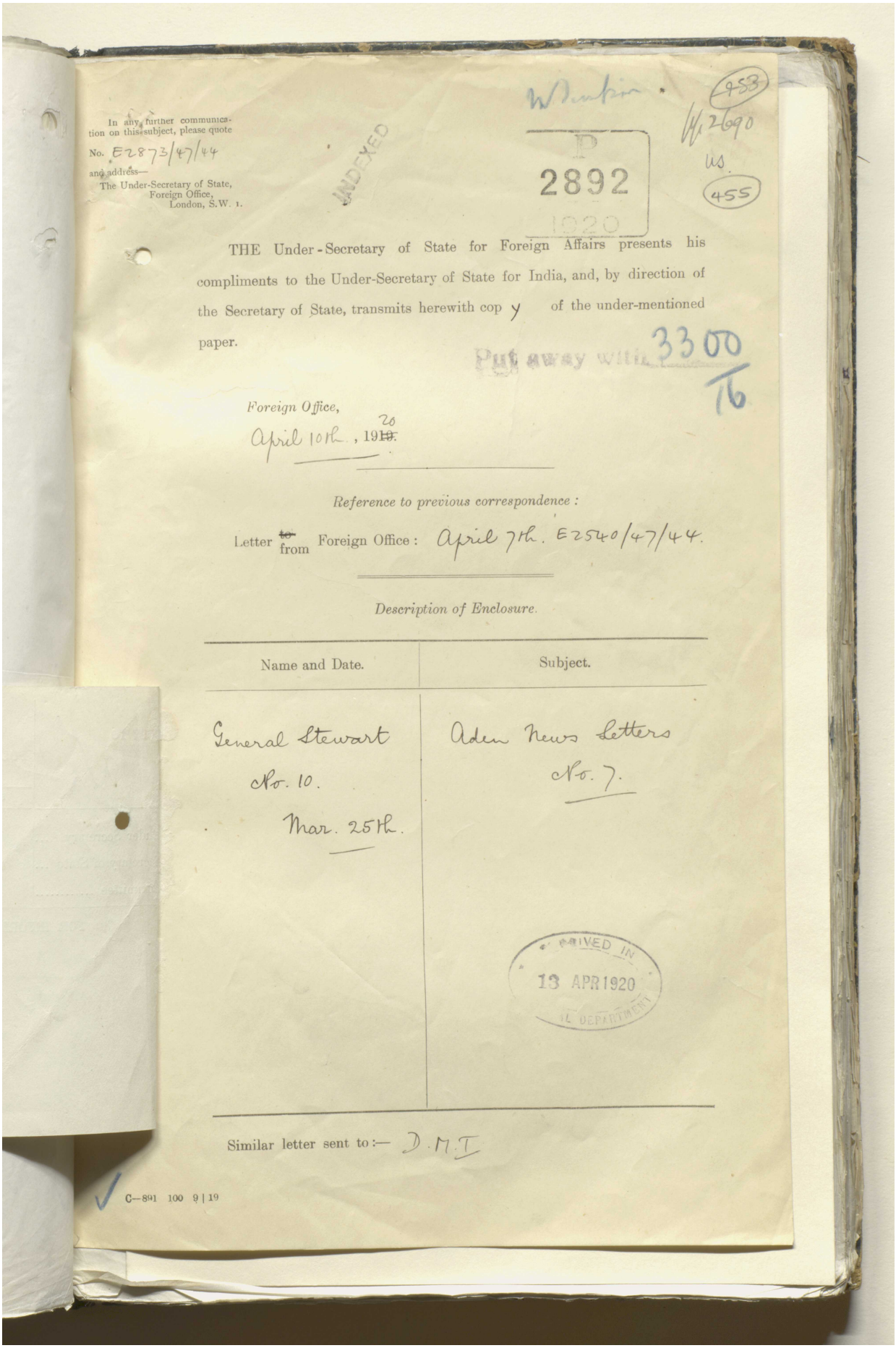

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General Stewart No. 10. Mar. 25th.	Aden News Letters No. 7.

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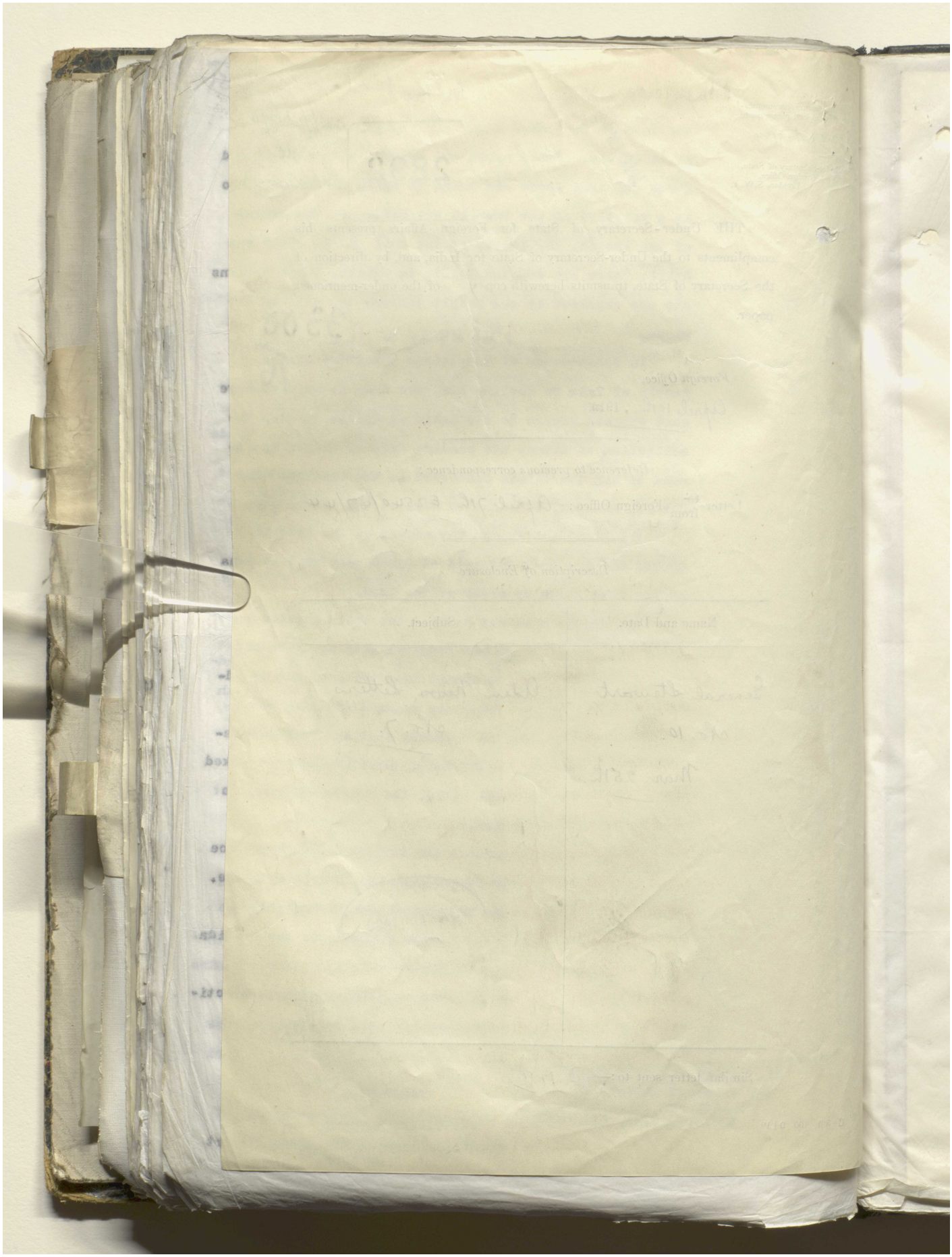

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7th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET. ADEN RESIDENCY,

25th March 1920.

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My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 18th March 1920.

TIHAMA.

From the reports received from Hodeida during this week, it appears that the Imam's men are still besieged at Riqab on Jabel Bura. Their early surrender is expected as they appear to be short of food. No fresh activity has been reported since the retreat of the Imam's troops to Jabel Safan. The Quhra country is said to be entirely free of the Zeidis.

Showkat Bey's report re the communication addressed by the Imam to the Quhra Sheikhs and others, mentioned in the last News Letter, has been confirmed. Captain Gordon is trying to get a copy of the proclamation. There is a rumour that Mahmud Nadhim has arrived at Menakha with a view to having a personal discussion with the Quhra Sheikhs.

An agent at Beit-al-Fakih reports that a local merchant, Mahomed Ibrahim Mokhawi, has been informed by some one from Hodeida that Syria, Smyrna and Aleppo have been returned to the Turks and that the latter will shortly arrive at Medina. The merchant has also been told that Enwar Pasha has conquered half of India, that the Turkish notes are honourably accepted in India and that the value of £ 1/- English Note has been reduced to seven rupees.

The Imam's soldiers at Beni Saad are reported

to

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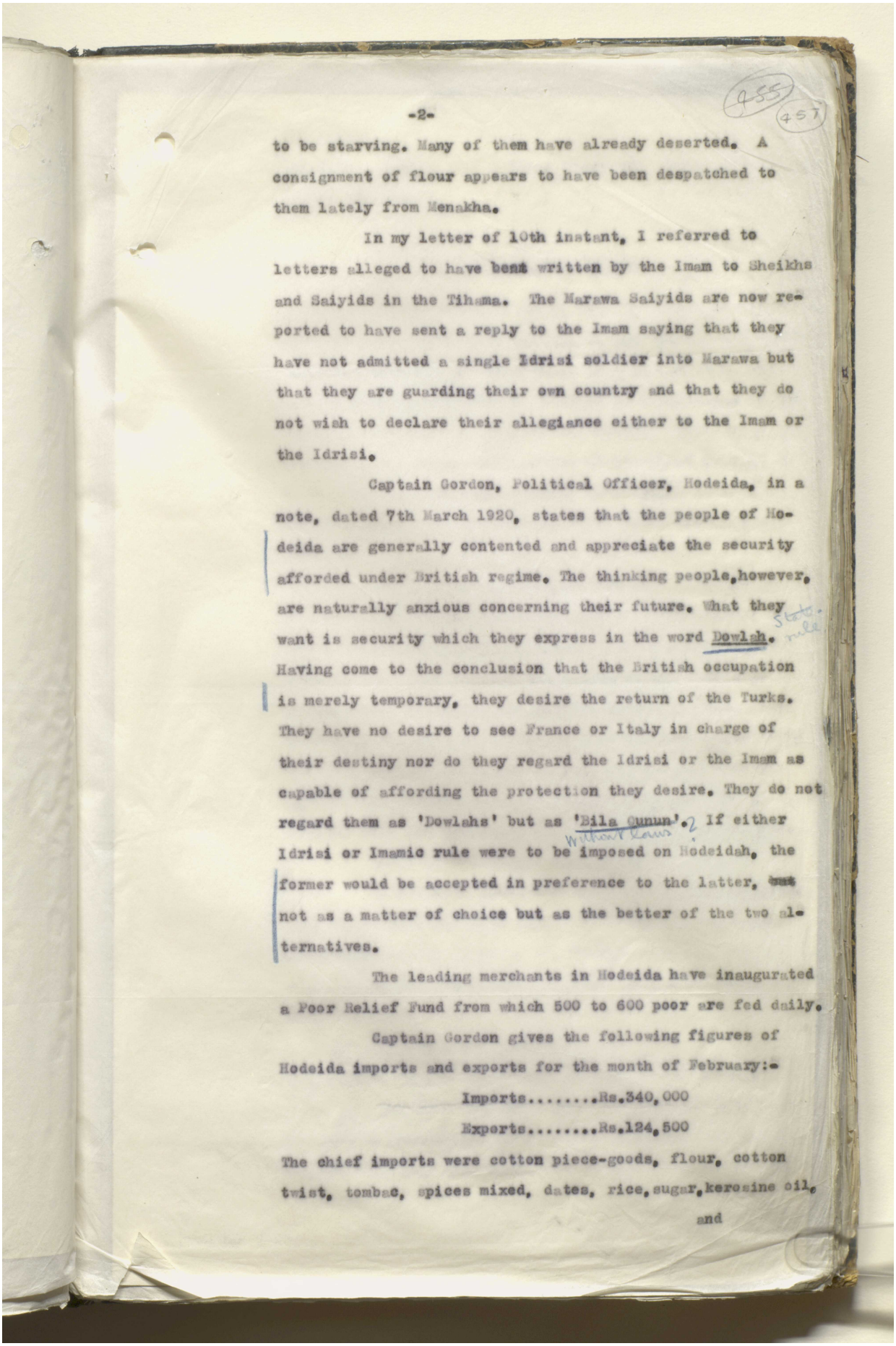

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to be starving. Many of them have already deserted. A consignment of flour appears to have been despatched to them lately from Menakha.

In my letter of 10th instant, I referred to letters alleged to have been written by the Imam to Sheikhs and Saiyids in the Tihama. The Marawa Saiyids are now reported to have sent a reply to the Imam saying that they have not admitted a single Idrisi soldier into Marawa but that they are guarding their own country and that they do not wish to declare their allegiance either to the Imam or the Idrisi.

Captain Gordon, Political Officer, Hodeida, in a note, dated 7th March 1920, states that the people of Hodeida are generally contented and appreciate the security afforded under British regime. The thinking people, however, are naturally anxious concerning their future. What they want is security which they express in the word Dowlah. State. rule Having come to the conclusion that the British occupation is merely temporary, they desire the return of the Turks. They have no desire to see France or Italy in charge of their destiny nor do they regard the Idrisi or the Imam as capable of affording the protection they desire. They do not regard them as 'Dowlahs' but as 'Bila Qunun'. 2 If either Idrisi or Imamic rule were to be imposed on Hodeidah, the former would be accepted in preference to the latter, but not as a matter of choice but as the better of the two alternatives. Without Laws

The leading merchants in Hodeida have inaugurated a Poor Relief Fund from which 500 to 600 poor are fed daily.

Captain Gordon gives the following figures of Hodeida imports and exports for the month of February:-

Imports.....Rs.340,000

Exports.....Rs.124,500

The chief imports were cotton piece-goods, flour, cotton twist, tombac, spices mixed, dates, rice, sugar, kerosine oil, and

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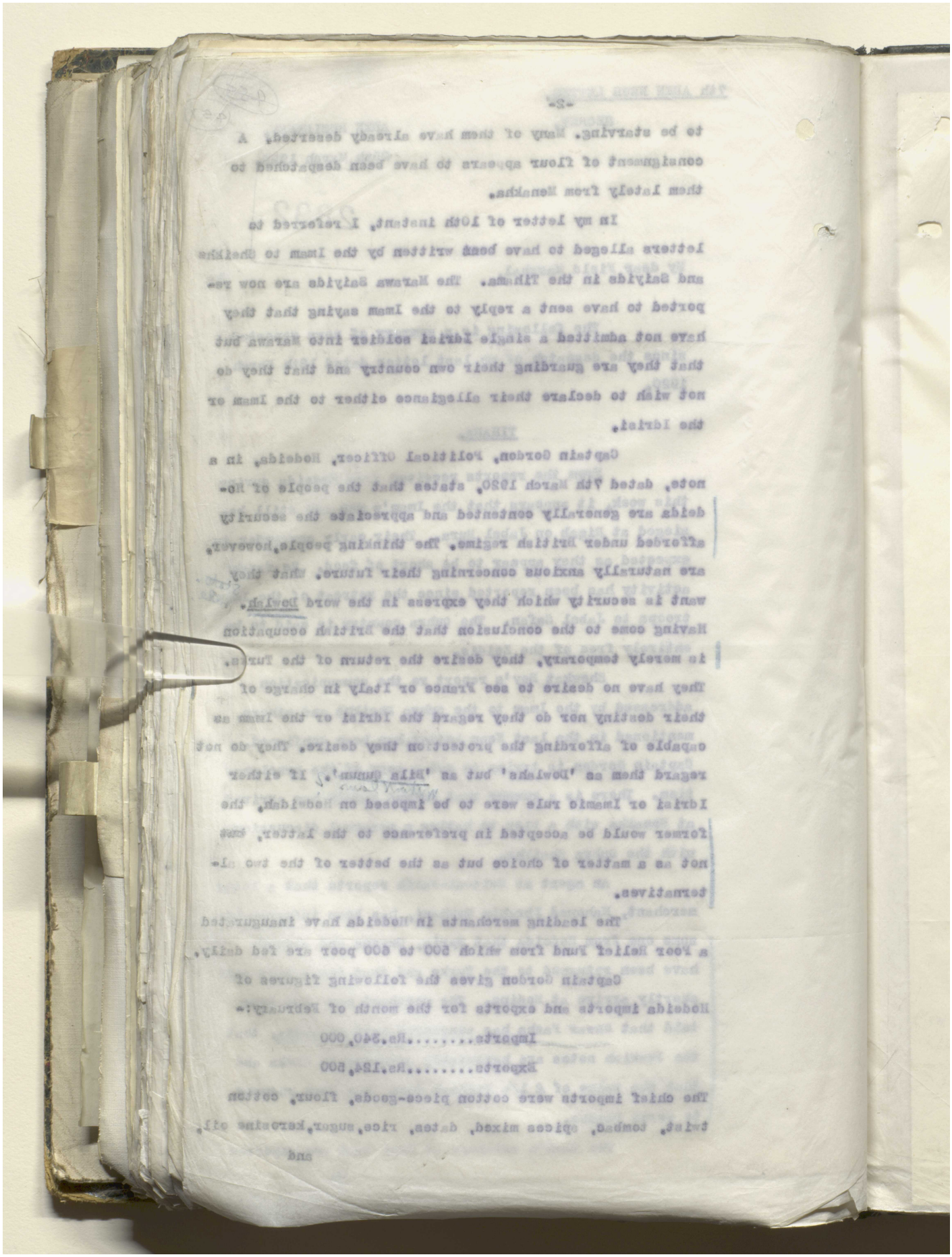

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and jowari.

The chief exports were coffee, hides and skins, mat basket cotton and sheep.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

Mahommed ibn Ahmed al Mikdad, Sheikh of Bilad Anis is reported to have written to all the leading Zeidis advising them not to allow their sons to enlist in the Imam's army as his (Imam's) warfare is detrimental to the country's interests. Many of the leading Zeidis have accepted this advice. This action of Al Mikdad is said to have made the Imam very nervous, as he fears an alliance between Mikdad and the Idrisi, which would endanger his capital.

An agent at Menakha reports that an arrangement has been arrived at between the son of Nasir Mabkhut and Saleh Husain al Haidari of Arhab on the one side and the Imam on the other through the medium of the Sheikh of Amran, under which the two Sheikhs revert to their allegiance to the Imam on condition that the latter pays them the same monthly allowance as they now receive from the Idrisi. The Sheikhs are said to have left for Sana in company with the ex-Imamic Amir of Hajja, Ahmed Shaiban.

This report is not confirmed.

A few more Turks have arrived for repatriation. They state that the Imam will not permit the following Turkish officials to leave the country till his account with Turkey and his affairs with the European Powers have been settled:-

Mahmud Nedim, the ex-Vali.
Asaad Effendi, ex-Appeal Judge of the Sheria Court.
Tewfiq Bey, ex-Accountant General of the Vilayat.

The Imam's arsenal does not turn out very much ammunition now-a-days. It is still under the same Austrian George, who also supervises the working of the flour mills in Sana.

One

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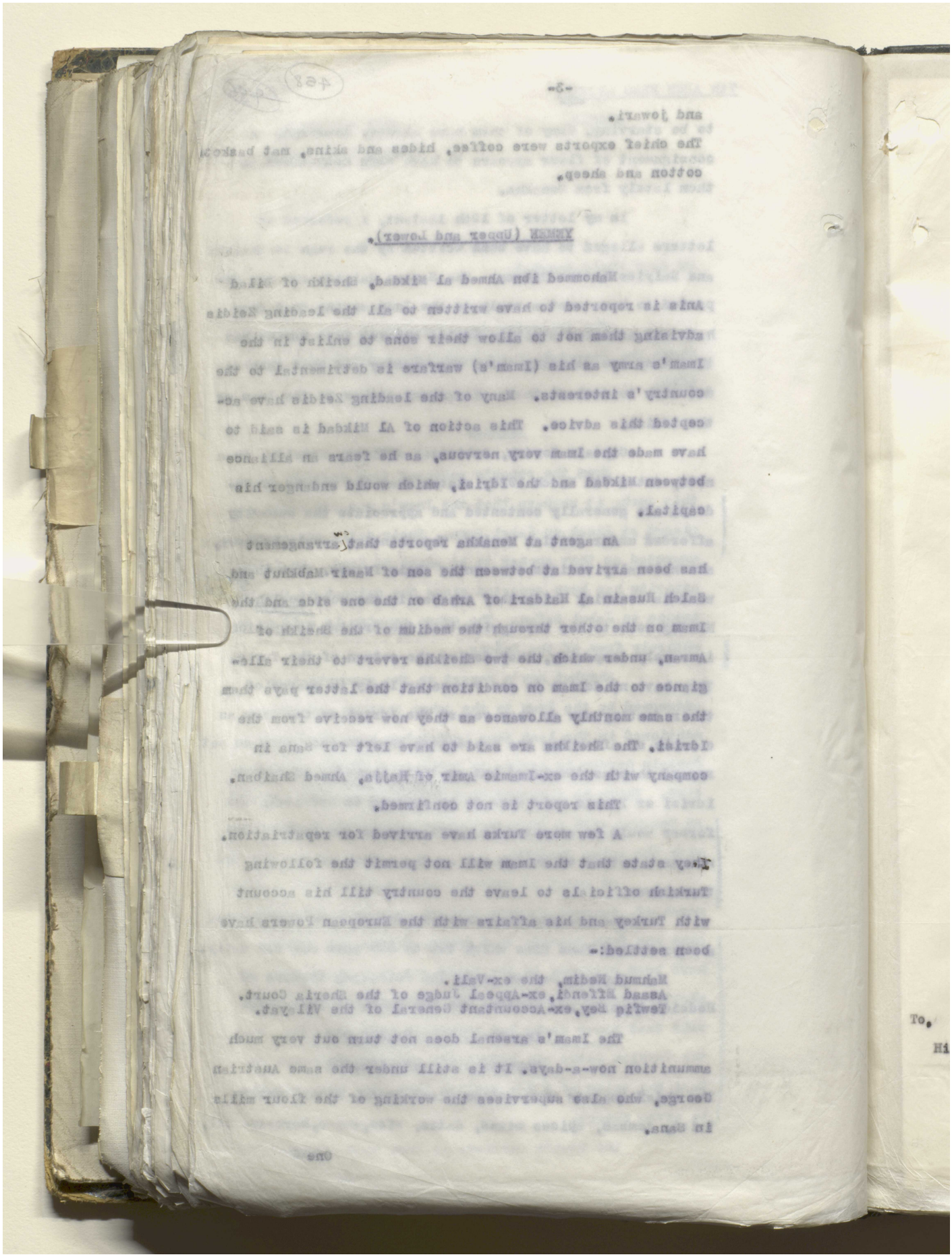

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One of the Turks, Tewfiq Bey, stated that only part of the Hajja district was in the hands of Syed Idrisi and that there was no foundation for the reports in regard to the fall of Taweela and Kaukaban.

Sheikhs Sadik bin Abdalla Ali Ba Abdalla Pasha, Mahomed bin Hamid bin Ali Ba Abdalla Pasha and Mohsin bin Mansoor bin Ali Ba Abdalla Pasha, sons of the Chiefs of Udain, have come in to Aden to find out our wishes informally with regard to the Yemen. If Government are willing to countenance their overtures, they are prepared to act as we wish.

They say that the Imam's forces in the Tihama are small and if Government were to move via Yafa, they would engage him in the Zabid district, the people of which are conspiring with the Idrisi. They can withstand the Imam for 6 months on their own resources, but thereafter they would need Government support in the way of material only. They are confident that the whole of the Shafai Tihama would be with them. Finally they said that if we were not in accord with their plans, they would quietly leave Aden at once without exciting suspicion. I have given them to understand that we can do nothing for them at present.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

There has been no change in the situation which remains the same as reported last week. The Alawi Sheikh and others are still detained by the Zeidis.

The Mausatta Naqibs and the son of the Lower Yafai Sultan have gone to Mokalla to seek aid against the Zeidis from the Kaiti Sultan. They are expected to return to Aden shortly and will be accompanied to their country by Ressaidar Mahamad Esa Khan.

To,

His Excellency Field Marshal
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo
and Felixtowe, G.C.M.G., C.B.,
etc. etc. etc.

Yours etc.,
sd. J.M.Stewart,

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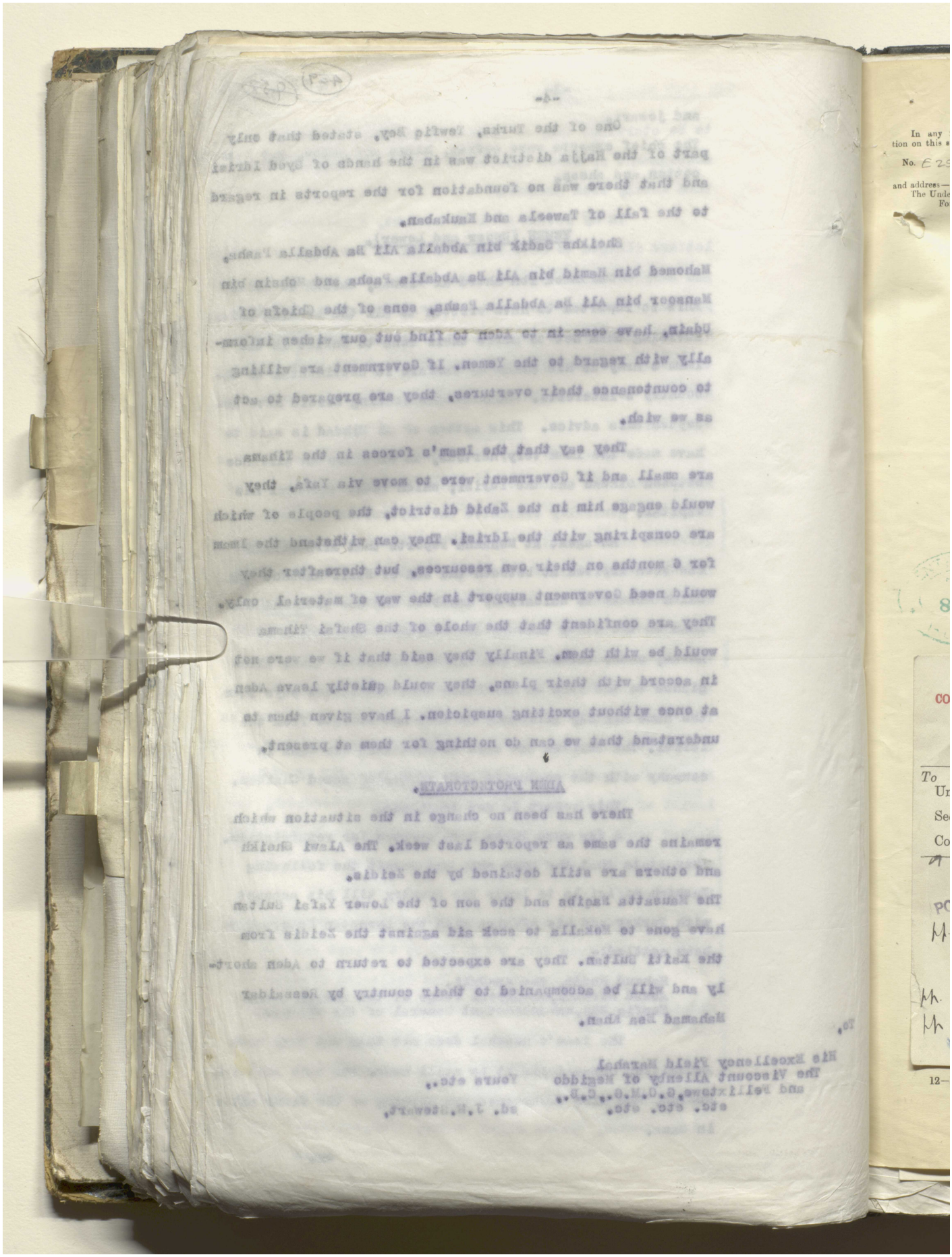

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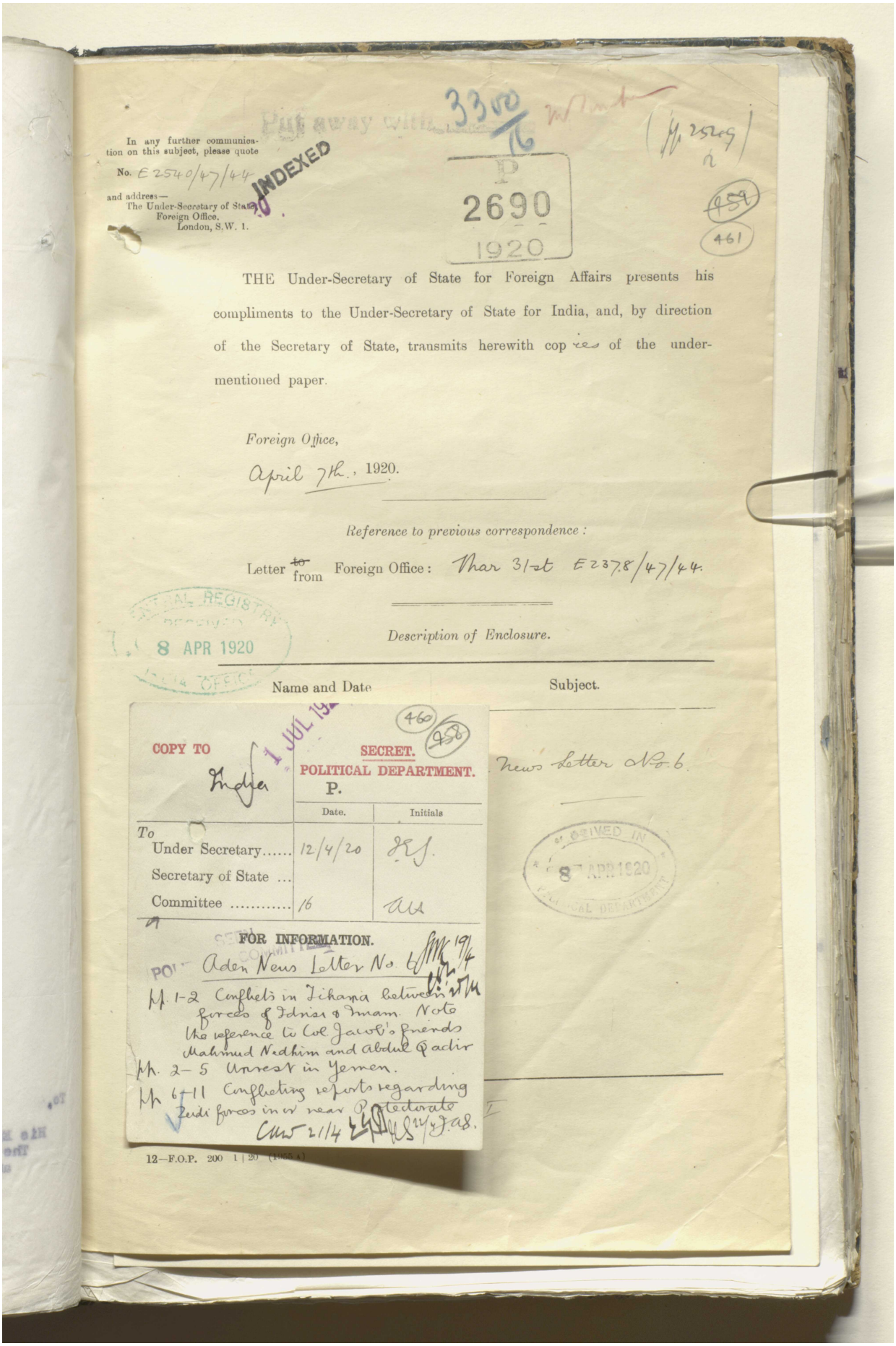

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(Mr. 2540)

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Secretary of State ...		
Committee	16	AU

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Aden News Letter No. 6 [illegible] 19/4

Pp. 1-2 Conflicts in Jihana between forces of Idrisi & Imam. Note the reference to Col Jacob's friends Mahmud Nedhim and Abdul Qadir

Pp. 2-5 Unrest in Yemen.

Pp. 6-11 Conflicting reports regarding Zeidi forces in or near Protectorate

CWS 21/4 [illegible]

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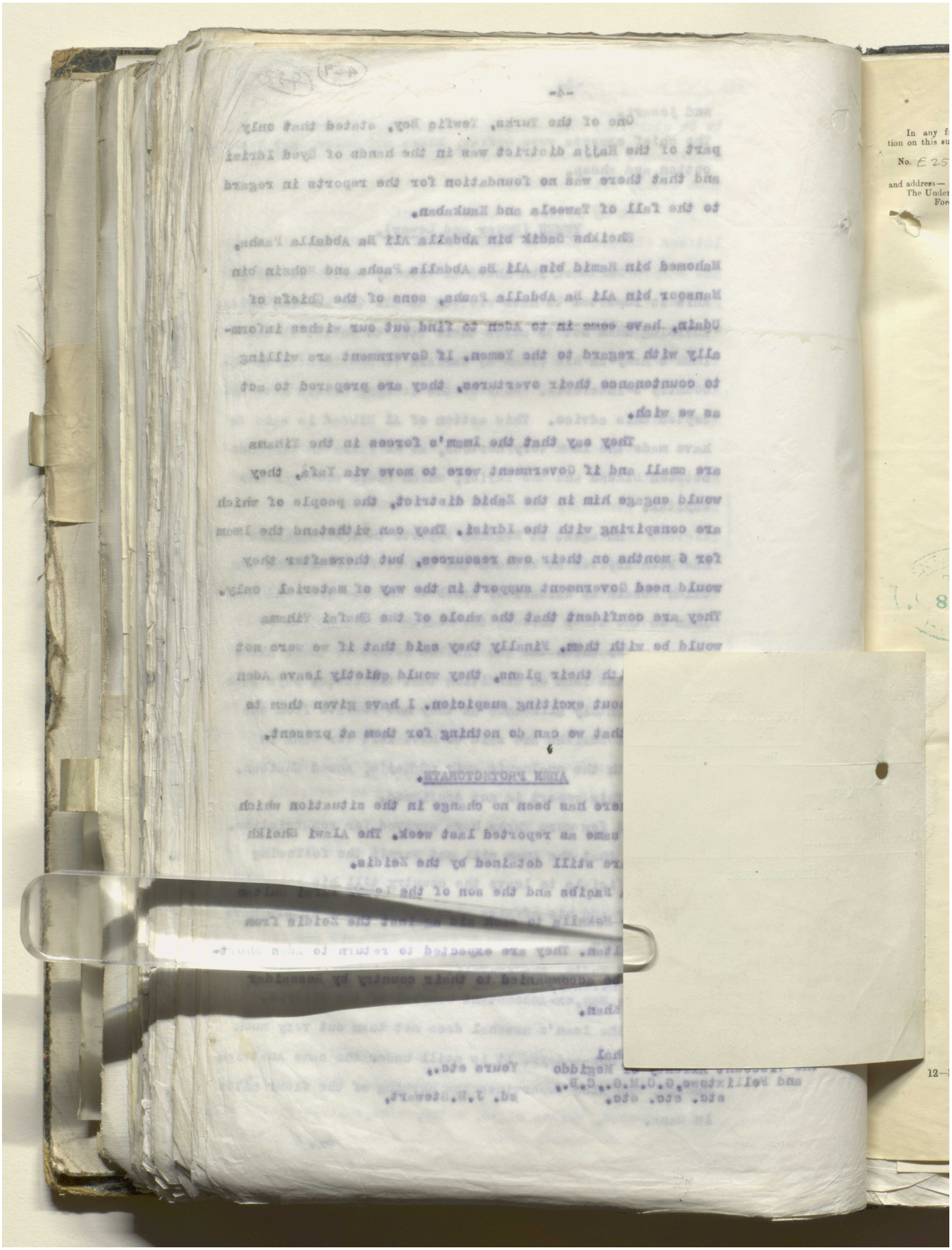

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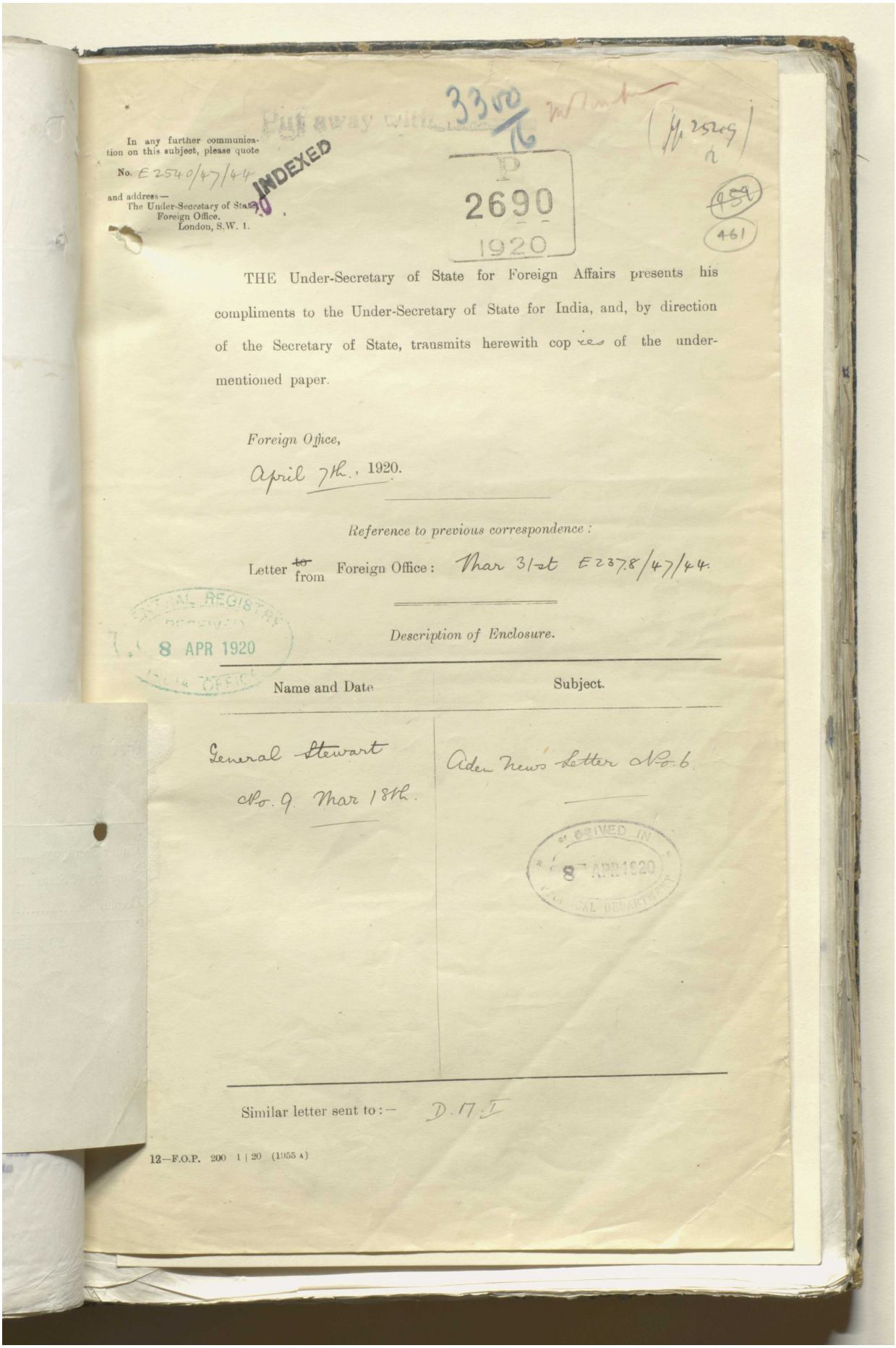

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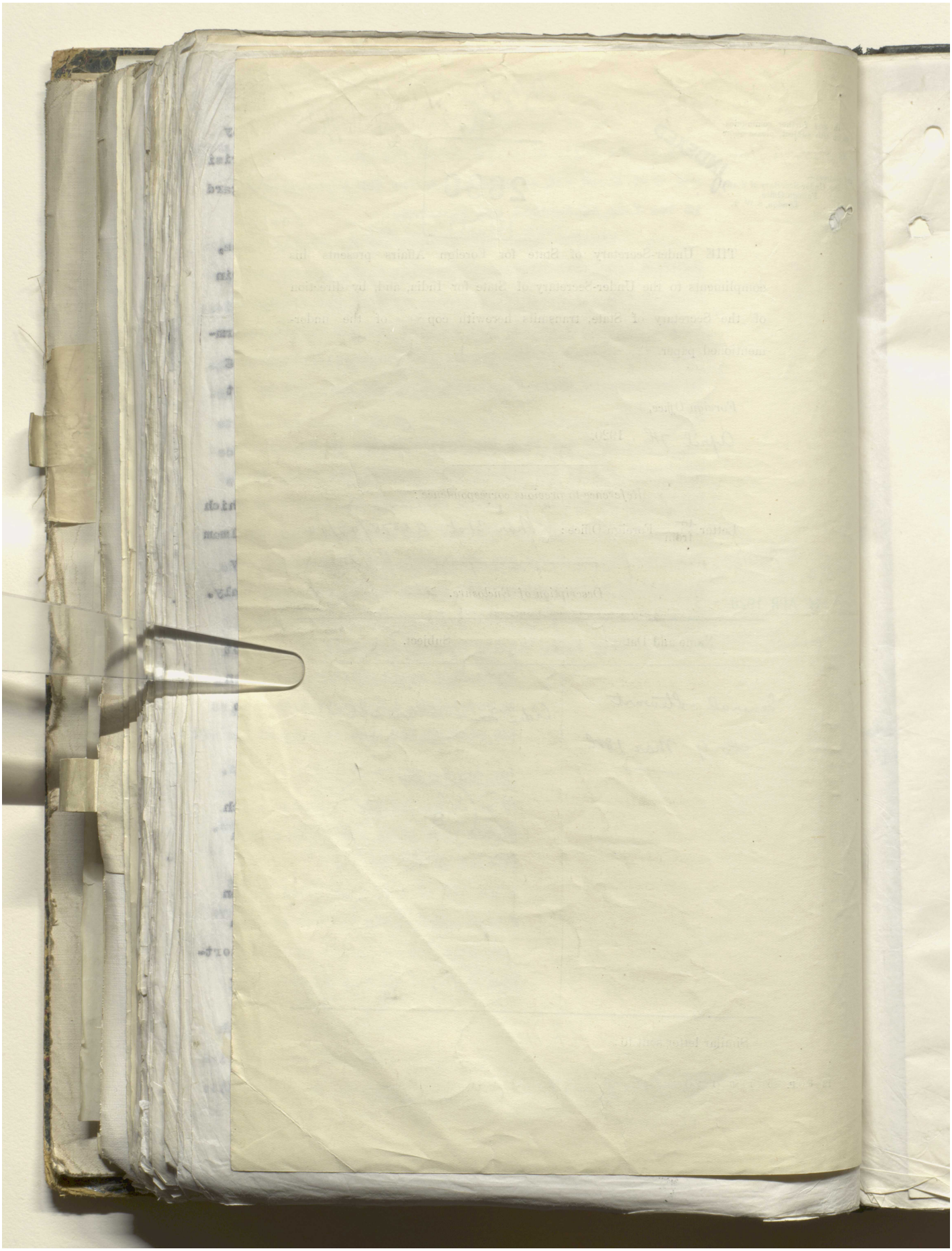

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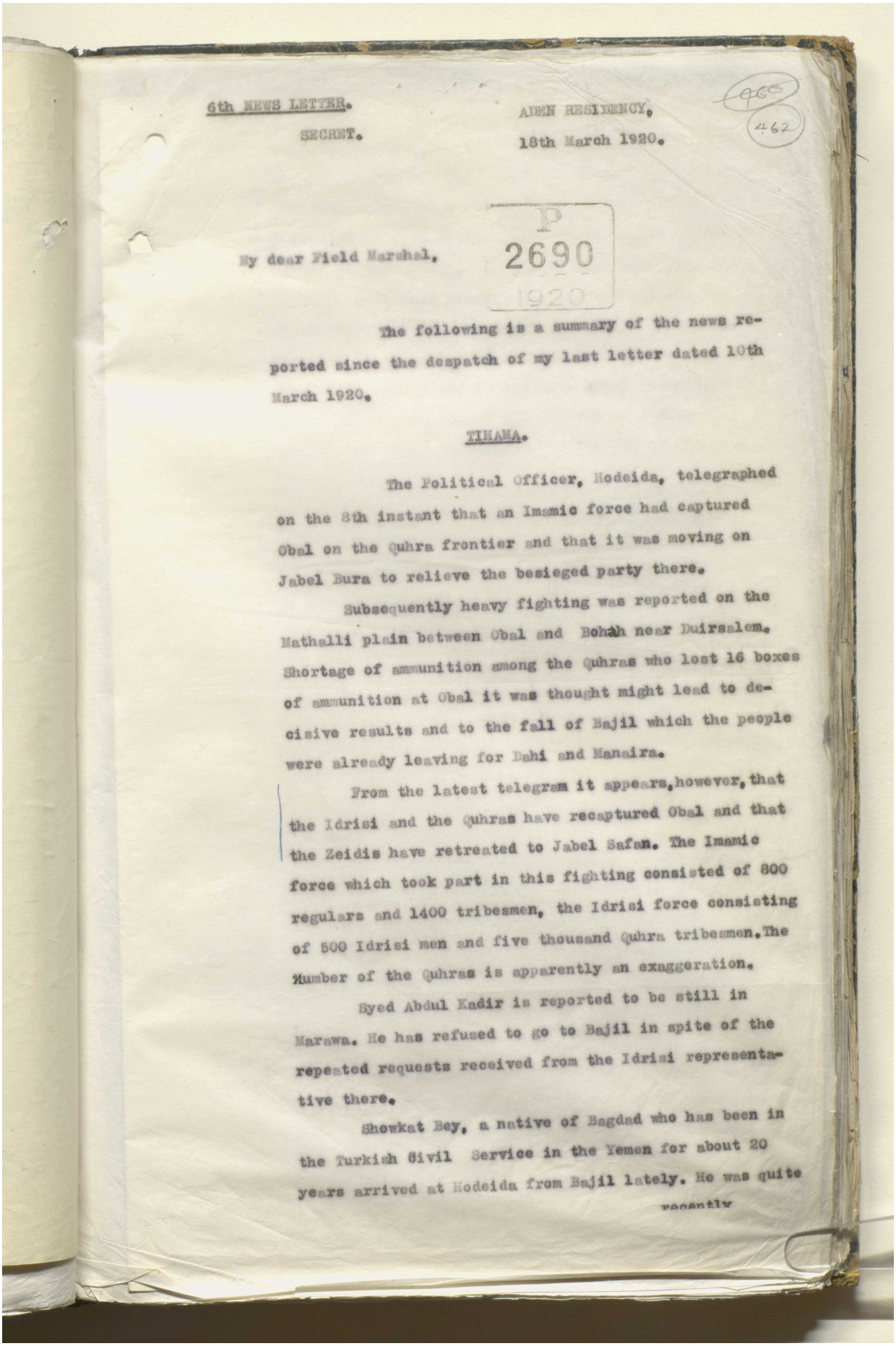

6th NEWS LETTER.
SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
18th March 1920.

462

P
2690
1920

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 10th March 1920.

TIHAMA.

The Political Officer, Hodeida, telegraphed on the 8th instant that an Imamic force had captured Obal on the Quhra frontier and that it was moving on Jabel Bura to relieve the besieged party there.

Subsequently heavy fighting was reported on the Mathalli plain between Obal and Bohah near Duirsalem. Shortage of ammunition among the Quhras who lost 16 boxes of ammunition at Obal it was thought might lead to decisive results and to the fall of Bajil which the people were already leaving for Dahi and Manaira.

From the latest telegram it appears, however, that the Idrisi and the Quhras have recaptured Obal and that the Zeidis have retreated to Jabel Safan. The Imamic force which took part in this fighting consisted of 800 regulars and 1400 tribesmen, the Idrisi force consisting of 500 Idrisi men and five thousand Quhra tribesmen. The number of the Quhras is apparently an exaggeration.

Syed Abdul Kadir is reported to be still in Marawa. He has refused to go to Bajil in spite of the repeated requests received from the Idrisi representative there.

Showkat Bey, a native of Bagdad who has been in the Turkish Civil Service in the Yemen for about 20 years arrived at Hodeida from Bajil lately. He was quite recently

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recently employed by the Imam at Hujjaila and Jabel Safan. He reports having seen a communication (date not known) in Abu Hadi's hands from the Imam and Mahmud Nadhim, which was addressed to Syed Abdul Kadir and the other Syyeds and tribesmen of the Tihama. It stated that the Imam had no desire to cause bloodshed amongst the Muslims and that he intended to suspend operations against the Tihama tribesmen. The Imam proposed to appoint Syed Abdul Kadir ruler of the whole of the Tihama and to assist him with guns, ammunition and money in the administration of the country on condition that the inhabitants would abandon the Idrisi who at one time fought against the Turks, who are also Muslims.

The Imam undertakes, in case the local inhabitants expel the Idrisi from their country, not to exact taxes from the people of the Tihama, including tithes and the 'fitra' or Ramadan levy and also octroi dues and customs duties. He only expects their assistance in turning out the Idrisi and also the Christians from Hodeida.

The Imam, moreover, promises not to appoint Zeidi Amils in the Tihama, which will be under the full and independent control of Syed Abdul Kadir.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower)

Syed Ahmed ibn Mahomed Sharafuddin who lately accompanied his aunt, the widow of a Turkish officer, to Aden considers the state of Sana and the Yemen Highlands to be far worse and more unsettled than it was in the time of the Turks and describes the condition of the tribesmen as deplorable. He thinks that Mahmud Nadhim has not the same influence with the Imam as formerly.

Syed Ahmed estimated the regular garrison of the capital at 1000 men. According to him, the Imam's most trusted advisers are Abdulla-El-Amri and Syed Abdulla bin Ibrahim.

Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali Baham, a petty Sheikh of El-

Uzla

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Uzla in Yerim came in to Aden lately. He states that he had fled from the Imam's oppression and has come in to seek British protection and incidentally to receive of His Majesty's Government's generosity. I understand that he is in search of a monthly stipend too.

The Sheikh says that he can muster 1000 men armed with rifles and has a certain amount of ammunition but no money for the up-keep of his men. He asks for armed intervention on our part. His complaint against the Imam is that the latter is demanding exorbitant taxes. The Sheikh was called upon to raise troops in his district for service against the Idrisi or in the Yafa country, but he declined to respond. He is afraid that the Imam will now take action against him.

This Sheikh does not appear to be a man of any importance or influence. Being dissatisfied like the rest of the province with Imamic rule, he has come here to enlist our sympathy and assistance on behalf of his clan and at the same time to see what he can get out of us for himself.

Rojaiya 2 about half-way between Jaiz and Perim

Sheikh Abdul Wahab, the Kaimmakam of Hujjaryia has sent a letter to our principal intelligence agent, Farah Saeed. The letter is intended for communication to us. The Sheikh complains having addressed us on several occasions in the past but without result. He mentions that he is living in hopes that we will come to the salvation of his country. He hints that if we have any intention of making a forward move in the Taiz direction, he is ready to assist and co-operate with us. In such case he expects us to send him an official letter. He adds that there is a movement in Sana against the Imam and that internal dissensions in his camps in the Highlands are increasing and many sections of the Zeidis are ready and watching an opportunity to overthrow his power and free the country from his presence.

I have sent him a polite reply. As his country is outside our Protectorate, we can do nothing for him.

The

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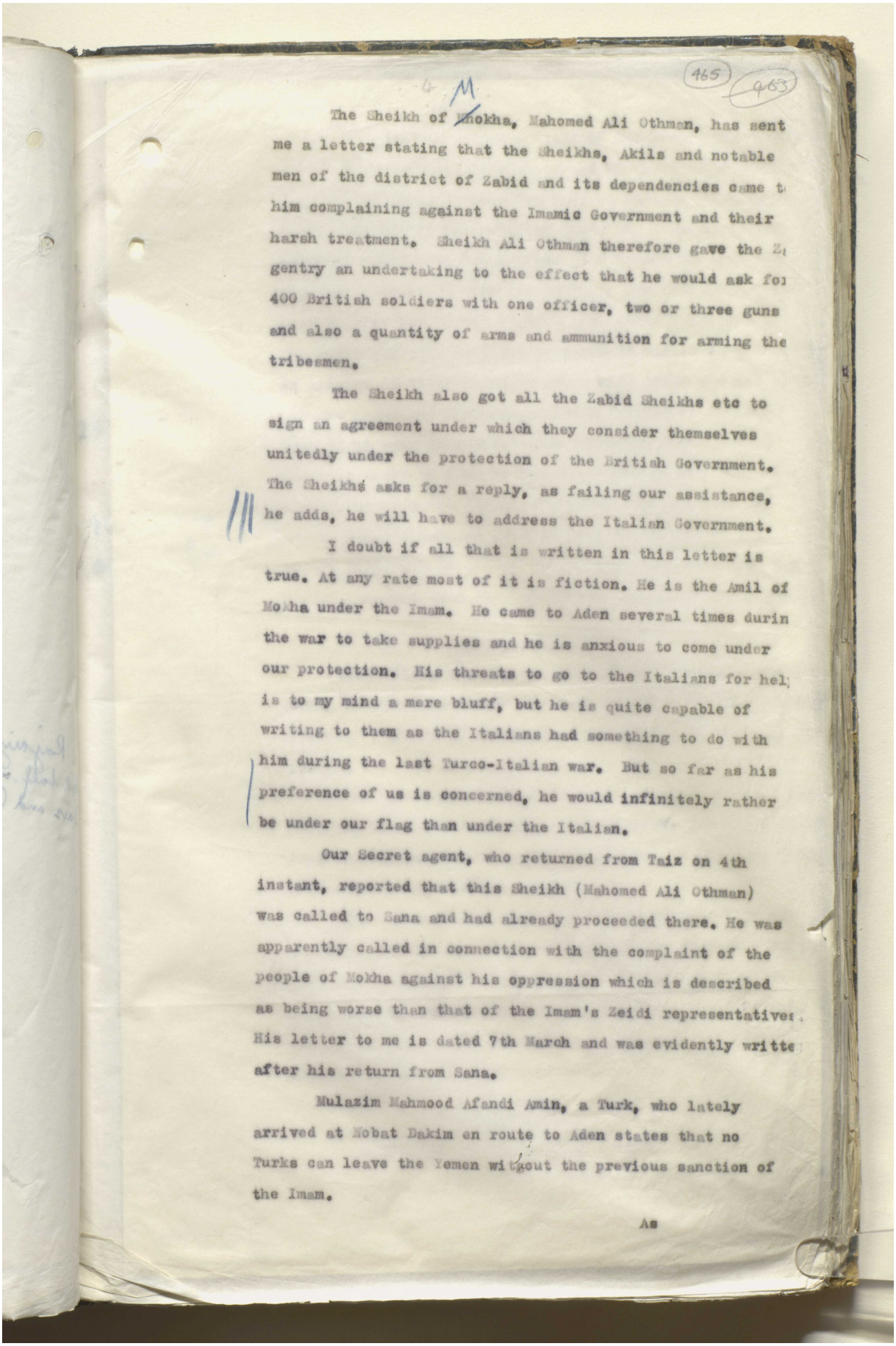

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The Sheikh of Mokha, Mahomed Ali Othman, has sent me a letter stating that the Sheikhs, Akils and notable men of the district of Zabid and its dependencies came t him complaining against the Imamic Government and their harsh treatment. Sheikh Ali Othman therefore gave the Z gentry an undertaking to the effect that he would ask fo 400 British soldiers with one officer, two or three guns and also a quantity of arms and ammunition for arming the tribesmen.

The Sheikh also got all the Zabid Sheikhs etc to sign an agreement under which they consider themselves unitedly under the protection of the British Government. The Sheikhs asks for a reply, as failing our assistance, he adds, he will have to address the Italian Government.

I doubt if all that is written in this letter is true. At any rate most of it is fiction. He is the Amil of Mokha under the Imam. He came to Aden several times durin the war to take supplies and he is anxious to come under our protection. His threats to go to the Italians for hel is to my mind a mere bluff, but he is quite capable of writing to them as the Italians had something to do with him during the last Turco-Italian war. But so far as his preference of us is concerned, he would infinitely rather be under our flag than under the Italian.

Our Secret agent, who returned from Taiz on 4th instant, reported that this Sheikh (Mahomed Ali Othman) was called to Sana and had already proceeded there. He was apparently called in connection with the complaint of the people of Mokha against his oppression which is described as being worse than that of the Imam's Zeidi representative: His letter to me is dated 7th March and was evidently writte after his return from Sana.

Mulazim Mahmood Afandi Amin, a Turk, who lately arrived at Nobat Dakim en route to Aden states that no Turks can leave the Yemen without the previous sanction of the Imam.

As

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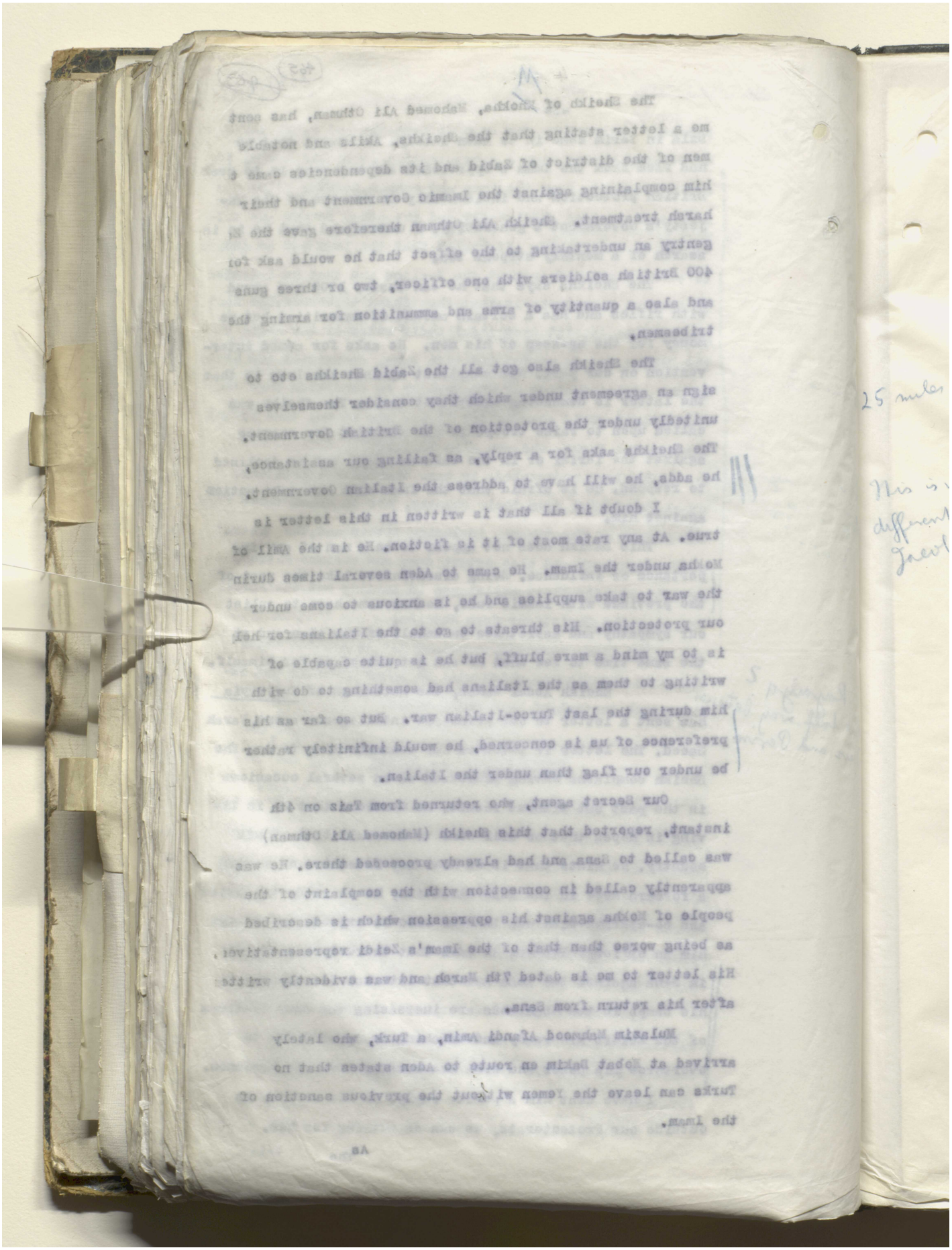

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As regards the internal state of the Yemen, the Turk said that the people were oppressed by the Imam's soldiers who fleeced them. He ascribed this to the men (including their Commanders) being poorly paid. The result was they extorted money from the people. The people who suffered more at their hands were the Shafais, but they were helpless as they had no one to look into their grievances. The Turks who were at first resolved to settle in the Yemen on account of their intermarriages with Arabs are now sick of the place and leaving. Mulazim Mahmood is positive that if we were only to advance as far as Mavia actual fighting would be done by the Arabs themselves. They are, indeed, praying for the advent of the British into the Yemen. Mulazim Mahmood advised that no stories of the Imam's intention to attack the British Camp should be believed. He said that the Zeidis were afraid of the British.

25 miles E. of Jaiz

This is very different from Jaeta

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

Conflicting reports continue to come in regarding the Zeidi intention to attack our Camp at Nobat Dakim. No extraordinary activity on the part of the Zeidis is, however, reported.

The Haushabi Sultan continue to send in alarming reports of the Zeidi movements on his border. The Zeidis have been sending him messages continually but so far they have not actually entered his territory.

The Haushabi has sent in a letter addressed to him by the Imam's Commander in Mavia enclosing copy of a letter from the Commander at Dala in which the latter requests permission of the former to proceed against the Haushabi. The Mavia Commander warns the Haushabi that unless he comes and sees him, he will be attacked.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Captain Jamdat Effendi, who arrived here on the 3rd instant from Taiz via Mavia for repatriation, was interviewed

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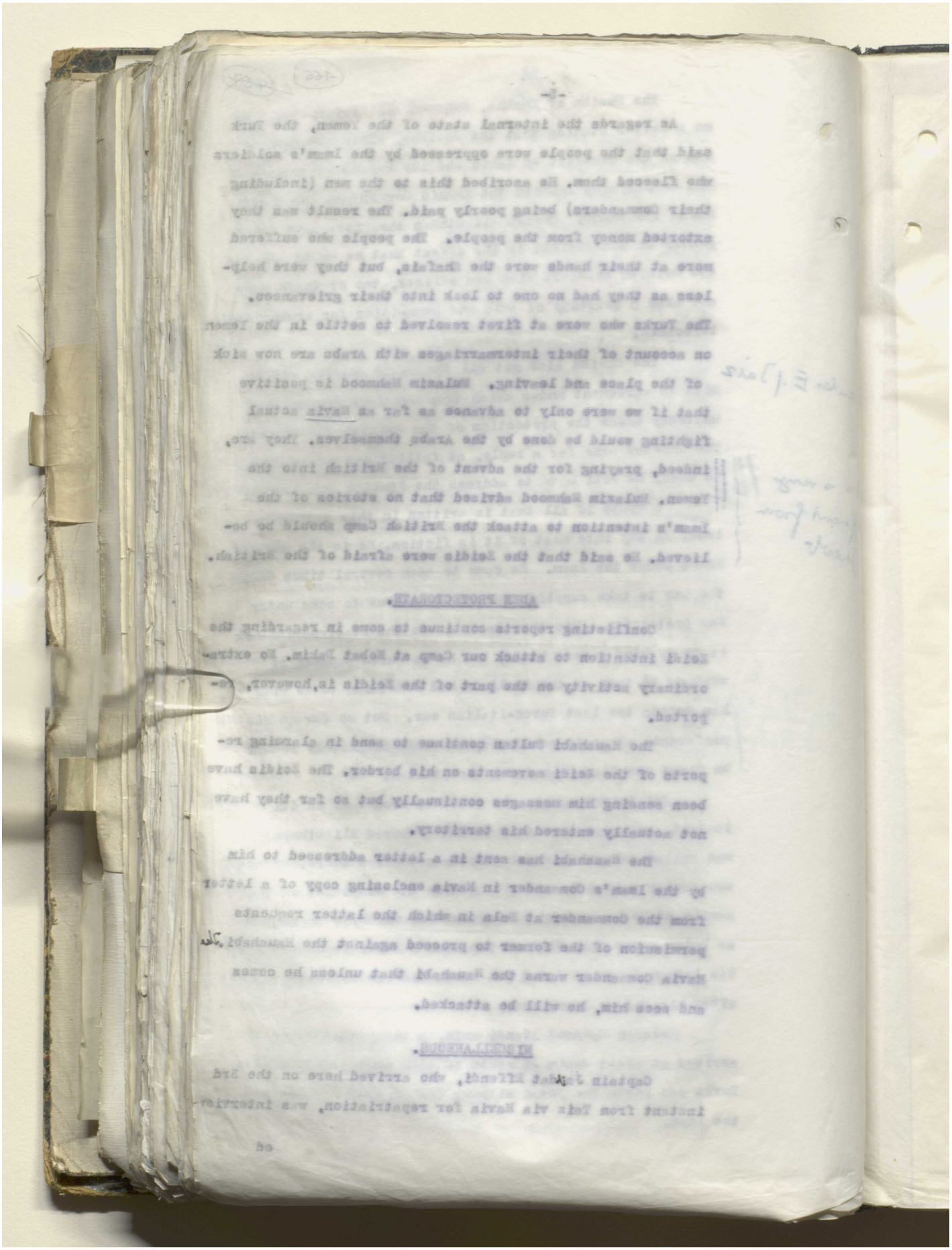

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ed. The following are the notes of interview:-

Captain Jaudat formerly belonged to the 2/119 of the Yemen Army Corps, and was stationed at Menakha. Early in 1914, he was appointed to command a 'Milli' battalion of Shafa'i Arabs at Taiz.

In May 1915, he accompanied General Saeed Pasha with the Lahej Expeditionary Force. On the occupation of Lahej, he was attached to Headquarters as Arabic Interpreter, and was frequently despatched ~~on missions~~ to the Fadli, Yafai and Subehi districts on various missions.

He was at Taiz on leave when the armistice with Turkey was signed. On being recalled to Lahej, he refused to proceed as he learnt that one of the terms of the armistice demanded the evacuation of Syria by the Turks.

Jaudat Bey is a Syrian and a native of Nablus.

Later, he was summoned to Sana by General Tewfiq Pasha and Mahmud Nadhim Bey, but declined to have anything further to do with the Turks, as it was generally believed that Syria would be freed from Ottoman suzerainty.

For the same reason, he refused to be evacuated with the other Turks from the Yemen and decided to remain on at Taiz till the Treaty with Turkey was signed when he intended to return to his native land.

In October last year, Syyed Kasim-el-Izzi was sent by the Imam on a mission to the Taiz district. He called on Jaudat Bey with a view to inducing him to enter the Imam's service, but met with no success.

TAIZ. The Amil is Syyed Ahmed Pasha, who with Naib Abdurrahman Effendi and Kadi Abdul Aziz, notables of that town, is in Sana at present on an important visit.

The makdami or Imamic military commander is Syyed Ali ibn El-Wazir, who has a force of about 5000 Zeidis under him in the whole district, 12 guns and 7 maxims.

2500 men with Syyed Ali are in Taiz itself. 500 men under Sheikh Abdul Wahab and Mahomed Ahmed Noman left on

the

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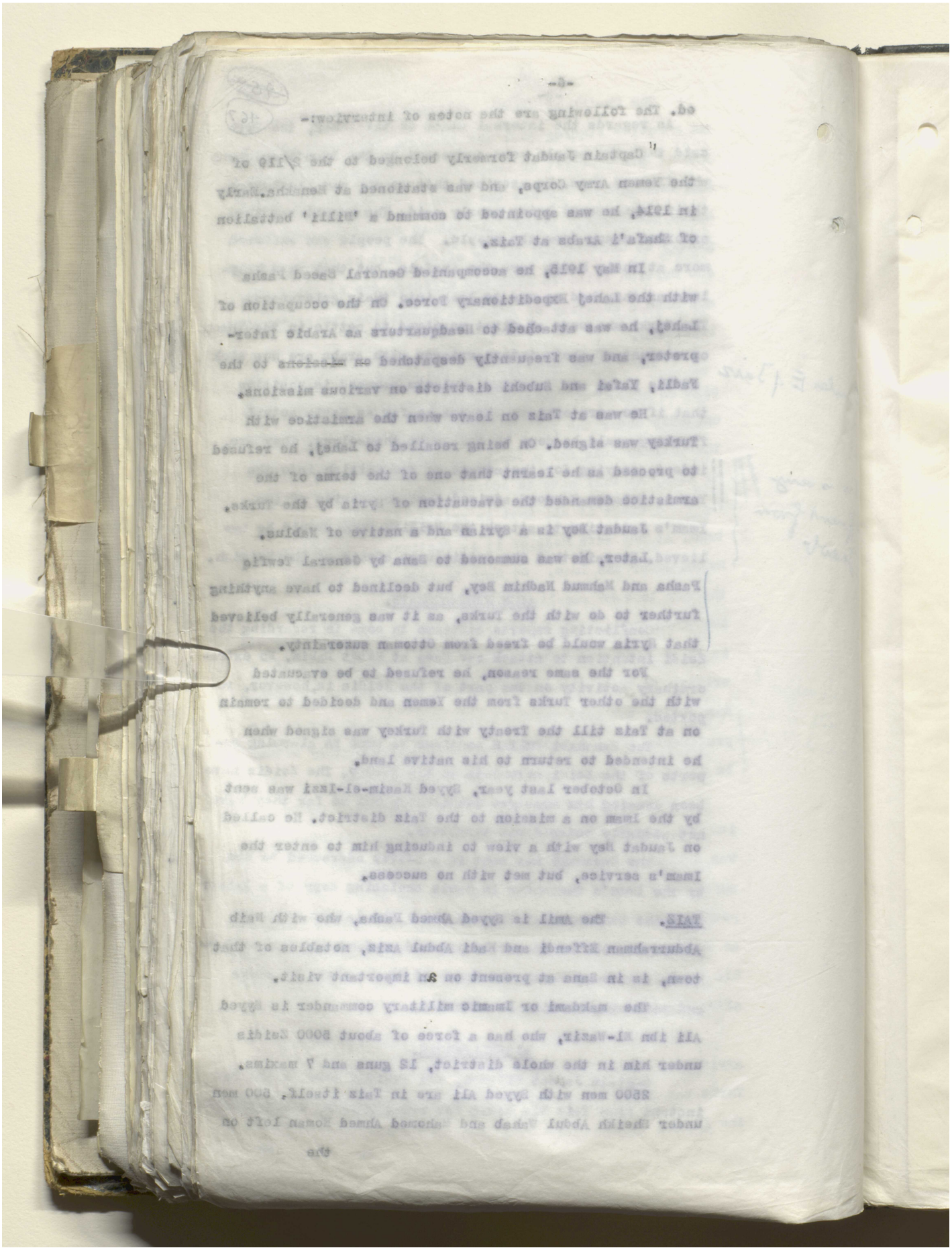

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the 24th February for Hujjaryiaen route to Mufailis. It is hoped to strengthen this force with about another 2,000 Shafa'is from the adjacent districts and to utilize it in the contemplated attack on Lahej. It is expected that this army will operate from the direction of El-Farsha.

Jaudat Bey informed that Syyed Ali intended to descend on Lahej very shortly via Mavia, and that he is waiting a consignment of flour from Yerim. Further that Ali El-Mikdad with another Zeidi contingent will come down to join Syyed Ali's forces. Jaudat Bey was offered a salary of 300 dollars a month for his services with the expeditionary force referred to.

There are at present 500 Zeidis at Mavia under Syyed Hasan el-Warith of Damar.

The remainder of the Taiz army is distributed as follows:-

500 men at Uddain under Makdami Abdulla Saeed El-Jabri; 700 at Ibb under Syyed Muttahar (a brother of Syyed Mahomed Ibn El-Hadi, commonly known as Abu Naib); and 300 at Makbana in the direction of El-Uraish.

The guns at Taiz consist of:-

4 Mantels, three of which were recently recovered from Ali Othman and the fourth from Hujjuryia.

2 Howitzers. 12.5cm. that were formerly at Mavia with Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Muqbil.

4 Q.F.Mountain guns; two of these were brought from Mavia where they were with Nasir Muqbil and the other two came down from Sana with the Makdami Syyed Ali last September.

2 ordinary mountain guns. These were brought down from Sana.

Three of the seven maxims had been recovered fr Ali Othman of Mokha and two from Sheikh Mahomed Nasir of Mavia; the remaining two came from Sana.

The Imam has the following quantities of ammunition at Taiz:-

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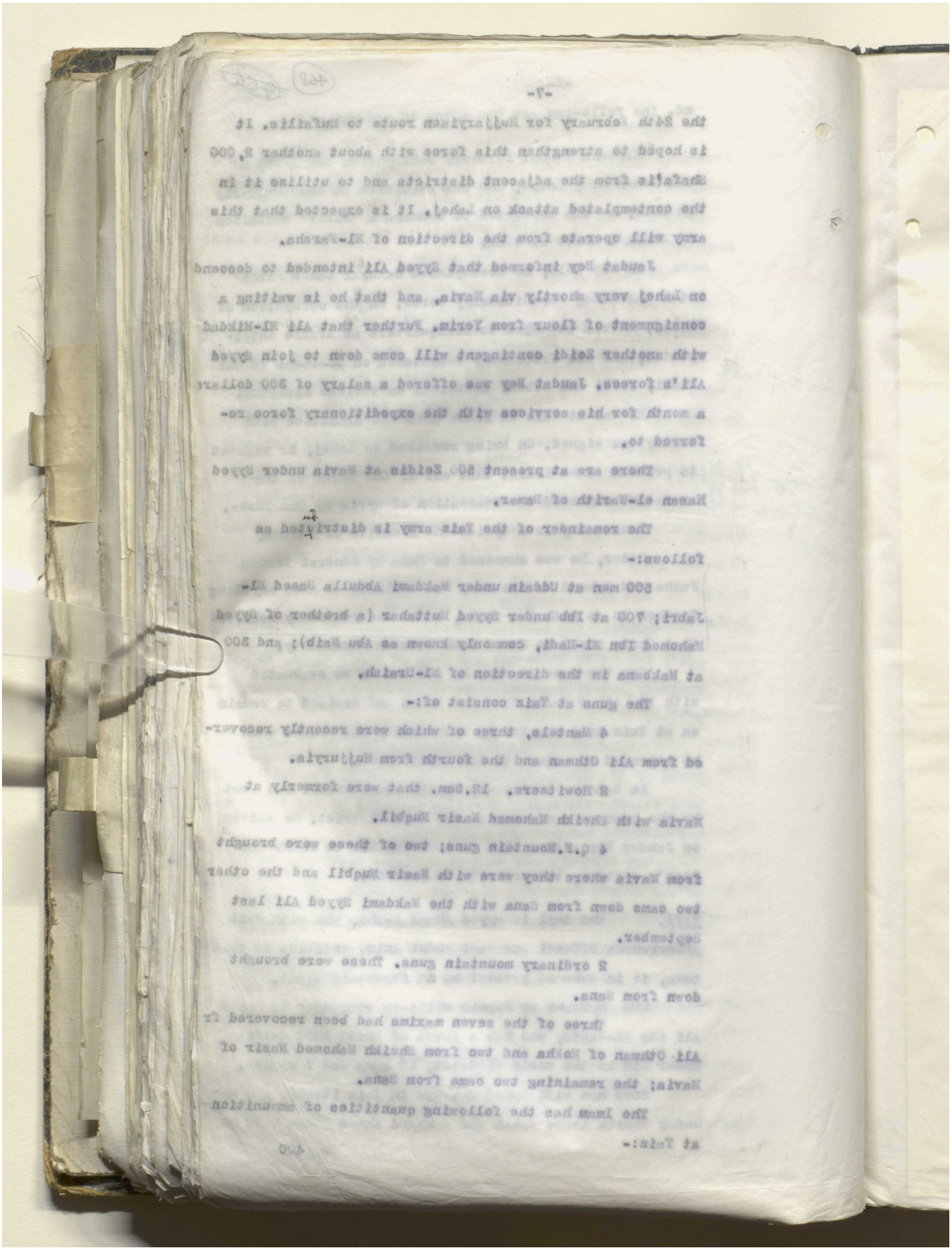

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400 cases of Mauser ammunition, 262 of which had been surrendered by the Turks on evacuation and the remainder obtained from Mahomed Nasir and Ali Othman.

300 cases of big gun ammunition, of which 200 had been obtained from the Turks and 100 cases from Ali Othman.

The Turks under Syyed Ali at Taiz consist of Lieut. Saleh Effendi (lately of the 1/119) Captain of Artillery Allahudin (described by Jaudat Effendi as an useless officer) and Zaid Agha, a Hashid Arab who served in the Turkish gendarmerie. It is possible other Turks may be sent down from Sana to join the force.

There are neither Turks nor guns with the force in Hujjaryia or Mavia.

The other Turkish Officers now resident in Taiz are Captain Mahomed Ali Effendi Sharamanda, Ibrahim Effendi, formerly Mudir at Ibi Sufal, Hamdi Effendi, who was a Professor in the Military School and two other civilians named Anwar and Sidki.

All the above Turks are desirous of coming in to Aden but are waiting news as regards the treatment they may expect on arrival here, as certain mischievous persons have been circulating very unfavourable reports concerning prisoners of War.

Jaudat Bey stated that the Imam was bent on conquering the Hinterland and was preparing his armies for the attack on Lahej which he expected would take place very shortly i.e. within the next fortnight if not before. He states he warned the Officer Commanding Tiban Column against a surprise attack by the Zeidis, which would most probably occur at night.

The Imamic Makdami has summoned Ali Mana of the Haushabi to Taiz but up to March 1st he had not left and was still at Museimir.

Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Muqbil and his Secretary, Mahomed Abdoo Salam, arrived in Taiz on the 22nd February. It would appear that the latter was responsible for the Zeidi occupation of the Mavia and surrounding districts.

Sheikh

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Sheikh Kayid bin Saleh of Mavia is also at Taiz, and has gone there in connection with some dispute he has had with his uncle, Mahomed Nasir Muqbil.

IBB. The following officers are stationed here:-

Lt-Colonel Rafiq Bey, Inspector of Imamic troops.
Lieut. Mahmud Effendi
Lieut. Idris Effendi.

MOKHA. There are no troops posted here, the nearest Imamic garrison being at Makbana.

DALA. The Zeidis are commanded by Syyed Yahya ibn Mahomed ibn El-Mutawakkal. Their strength is not known to Jaudat. The advance guard of this force is said to have reached Thumeir in the Kotaibi country and only three hours' march from Nobat Dakim.

TAIZ District. The conditions are not described as being very favourable and are attributed to shortage in the rainfall. Economic.

Food is very dear owing to the presence of Zeidis in the district.

Foreign merchandise reaches Taiz in fair quantities but prices are still very high.

The trade routes are unsafe and the roads throughout the Taiz liwa are infested with highwaymen.

Telegraph. The Taiz to Sana line is in working order, and that between the former mentioned place and Mavia is being put into repair. It is working up to Areeba.

Jaudat Effendi attributed all the trouble in the Shafa'i districts of Yemen to the intrigues of Mahmud Nadhim. The Sheikhs and tribesmen who had a high opinion of Mahmud Nadhim at one time had begun to find him out and now took no notice of his advice and warnings addressed to them on behalf of the Imam.

The feeling at Taiz is very strong against the Zeidis and the Imam and the people are longing for a liberator, whoever he may turn out to be.

Sheikh

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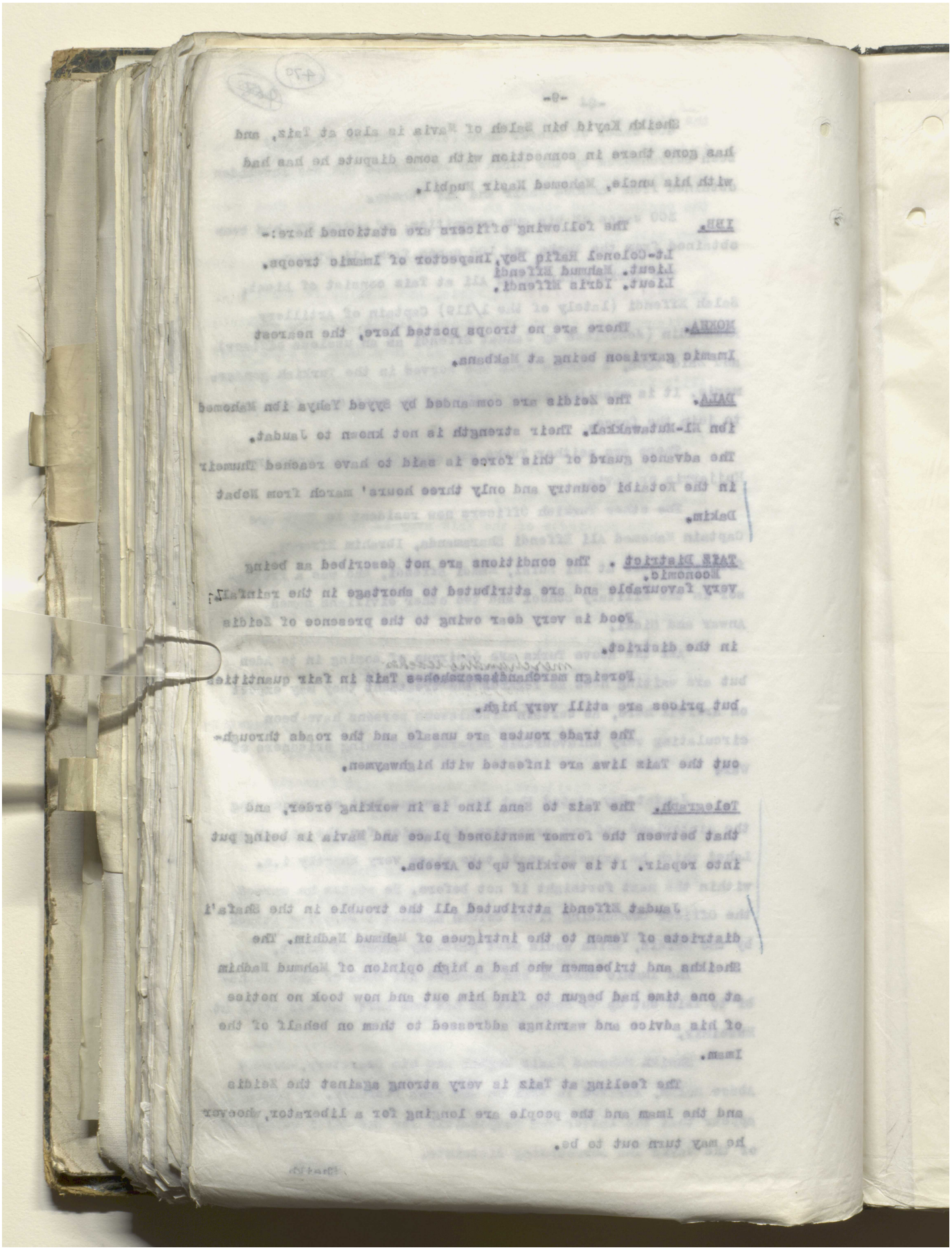

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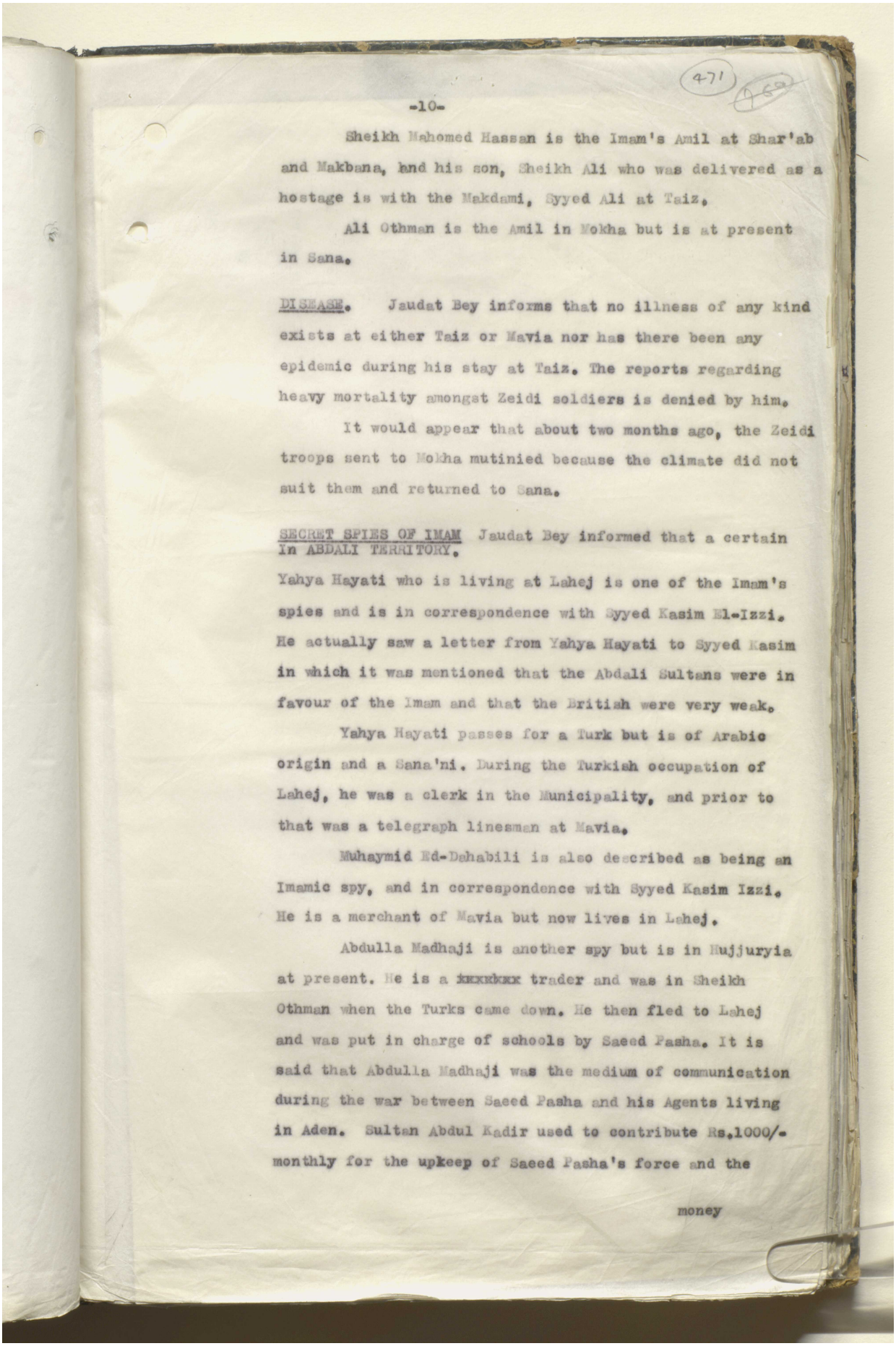

Sheikh Mahomed Hassan is the Imam's Amil at Shar'ab and Makbana, and his son, Sheikh Ali who was delivered as a hostage is with the Makdami, Syyed Ali at Taiz.

Ali Othman is the Amil in Mokha but is at present in Sana.

DISEASE. Jaudat Bey informs that no illness of any kind exists at either Taiz or Mavia nor has there been any epidemic during his stay at Taiz. The reports regarding heavy mortality amongst Zeidi soldiers is denied by him.

It would appear that about two months ago, the Zeidi troops sent to Mokha mutinied because the climate did not suit them and returned to Sana.

SECRET SPIES OF IMAM IN ABDALI TERRITORY. Jaudat Bey informed that a certain Yahya Hayati who is living at Lahej is one of the Imam's spies and is in correspondence with Syyed Kasim El-Izzi. He actually saw a letter from Yahya Hayati to Syyed Kasim in which it was mentioned that the Abdali Sultans were in favour of the Imam and that the British were very weak.

Yahya Hayati passes for a Turk but is of Arabic origin and a Sana'ni. During the Turkish occupation of Lahej, he was a clerk in the Municipality, and prior to that was a telegraph linesman at Mavia.

Muhaymid Ed-Dahabili is also described as being an Imamic spy, and in correspondence with Syyed Kasim Izzi. He is a merchant of Mavia but now lives in Lahej.

Abdulla Madhaji is another spy but is in Hujjuryia at present. He is a xxxxxxx trader and was in Sheikh Othman when the Turks came down. He then fled to Lahej and was put in charge of schools by Saeed Pasha. It is said that Abdulla Madhaji was the medium of communication during the war between Saeed Pasha and his Agents living in Aden. Sultan Abdul Kadir used to contribute Rs.1000/- monthly for the upkeep of Saeed Pasha's force and the

money

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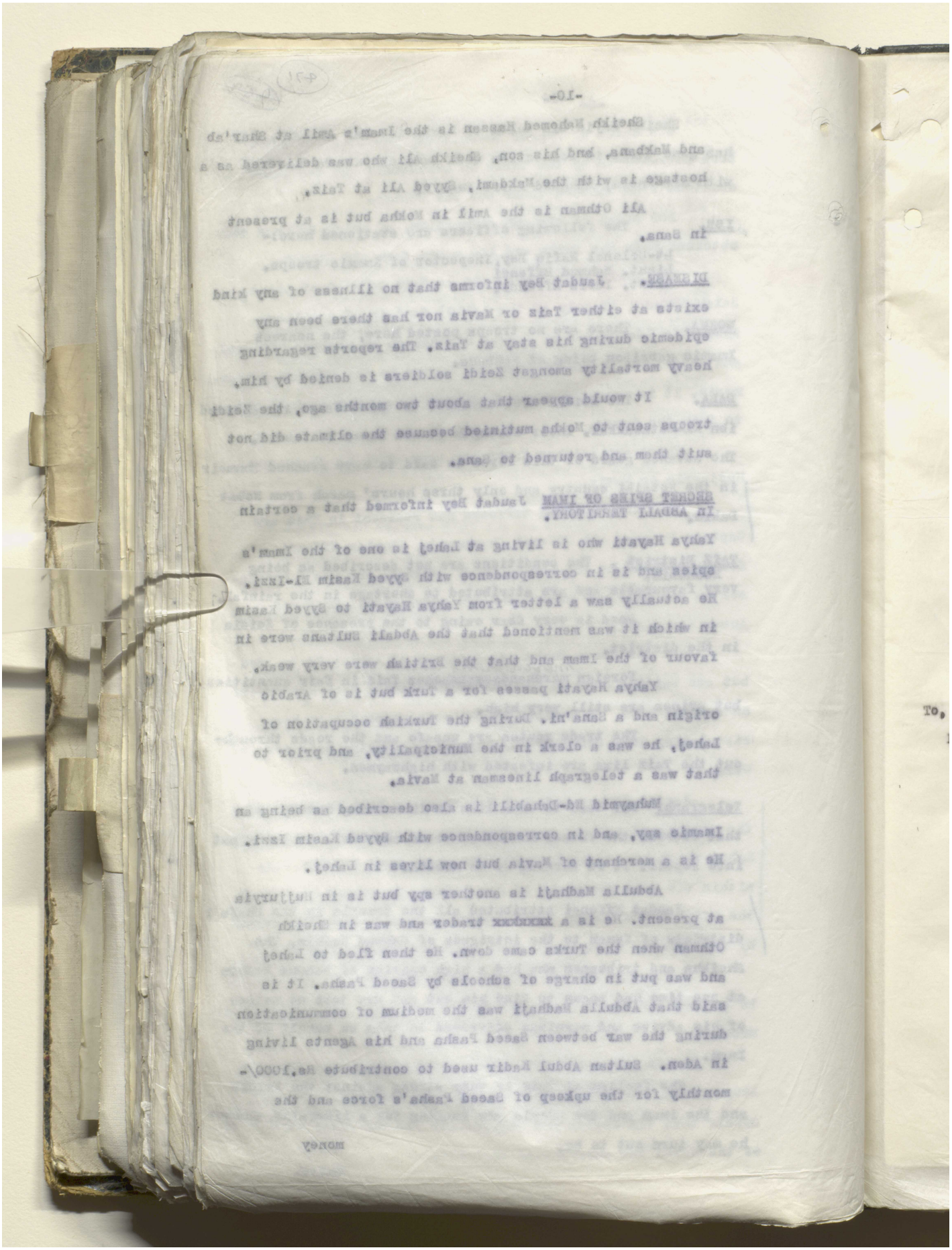

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money used to be remitted to Abdulla Madhaji for disposal.

A secret agent who was lately sent to Taiz, Ibb and Hujjaryia returned to Aden on the 4th March 1920. This agent contradicts the alarmist reports of Captain Jaudat Effendi about Zeidi activity in those districts. The agent estimates the number of Zeidi troops in Taiz at about 800.

Yours etc.
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixtowe,
G.C.M.G., C.B., etc. etc. etc.

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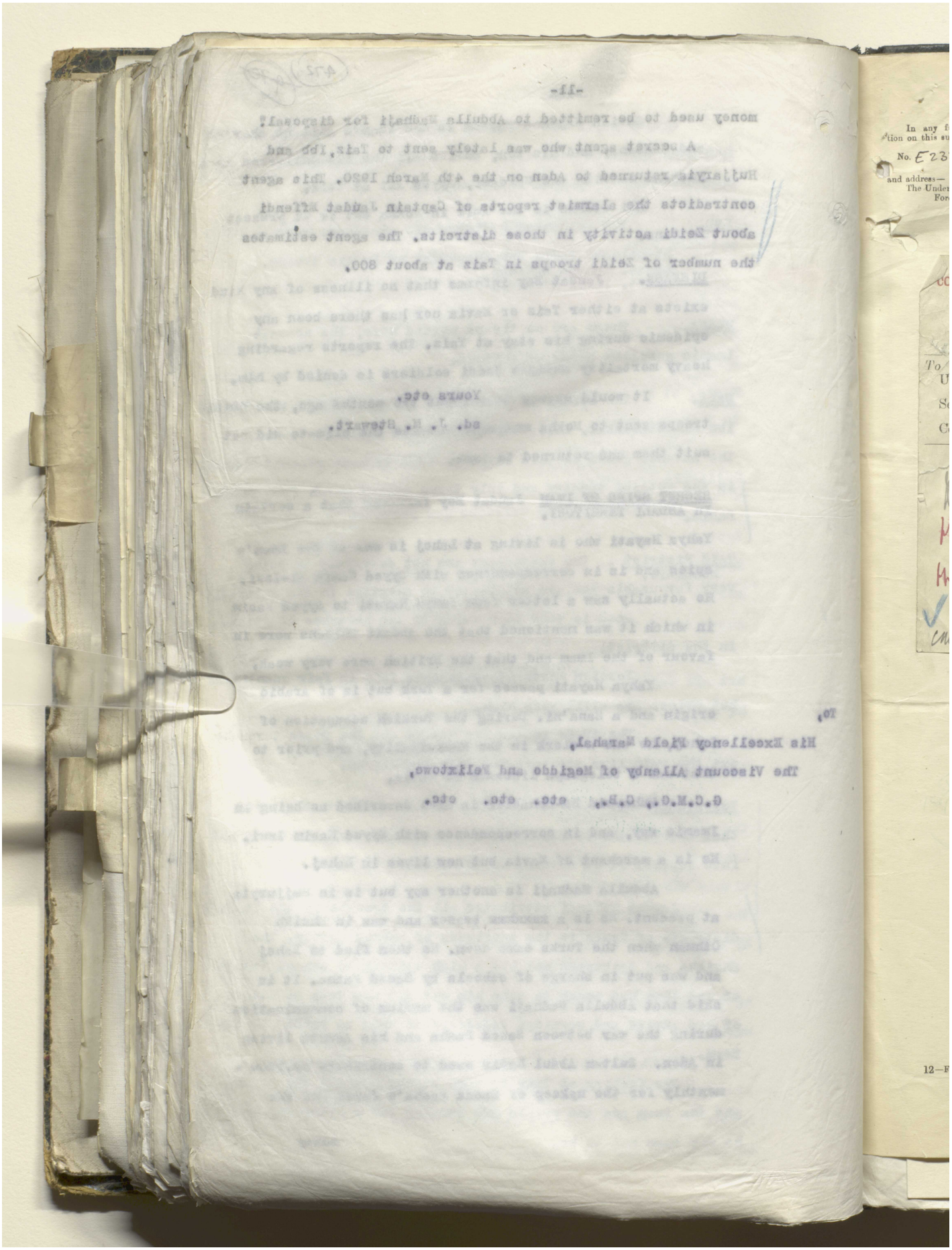

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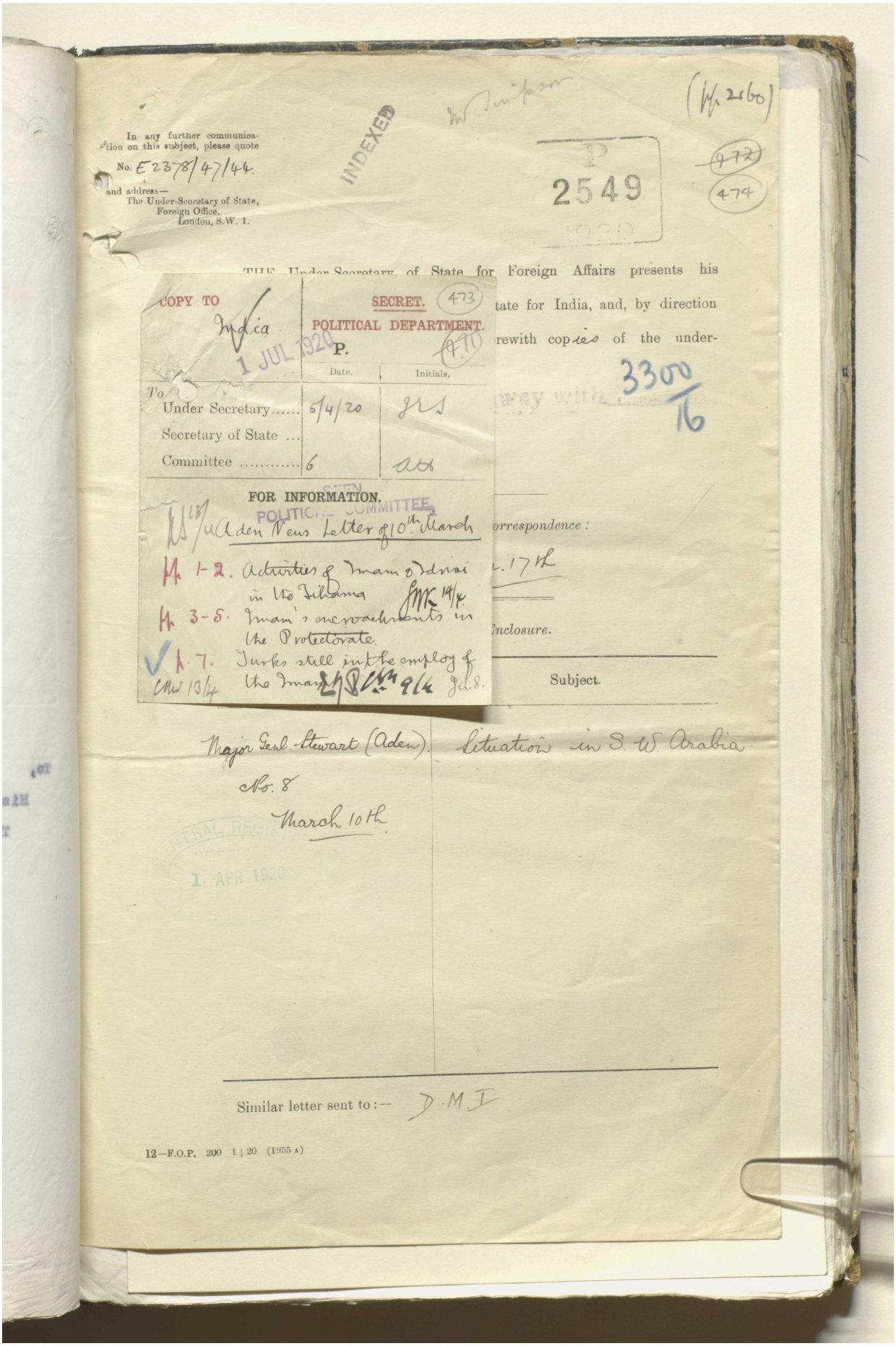

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The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

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THE Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his
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COPY TO India
1 JUL 1920

SECRET. 473
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P. 470

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	5/4/20	
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	6	

FOR INFORMATION.

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Aden News Letter of 10th March

1-2. Activities of Imam of Idrisi in the Tihama

3-5. Imam's encroachments in the Protectorate.

7. Turks still in the employ of the Imam

orrespondence :

2.17 R

nclosure.

Subject.

Major Genl. Stewart (Aden). Situation in S. W. Arabia.
No. 8
March 10th

CENTRAL REGISTRY
1 APR 1920

Similar letter sent to :— D.M.I.

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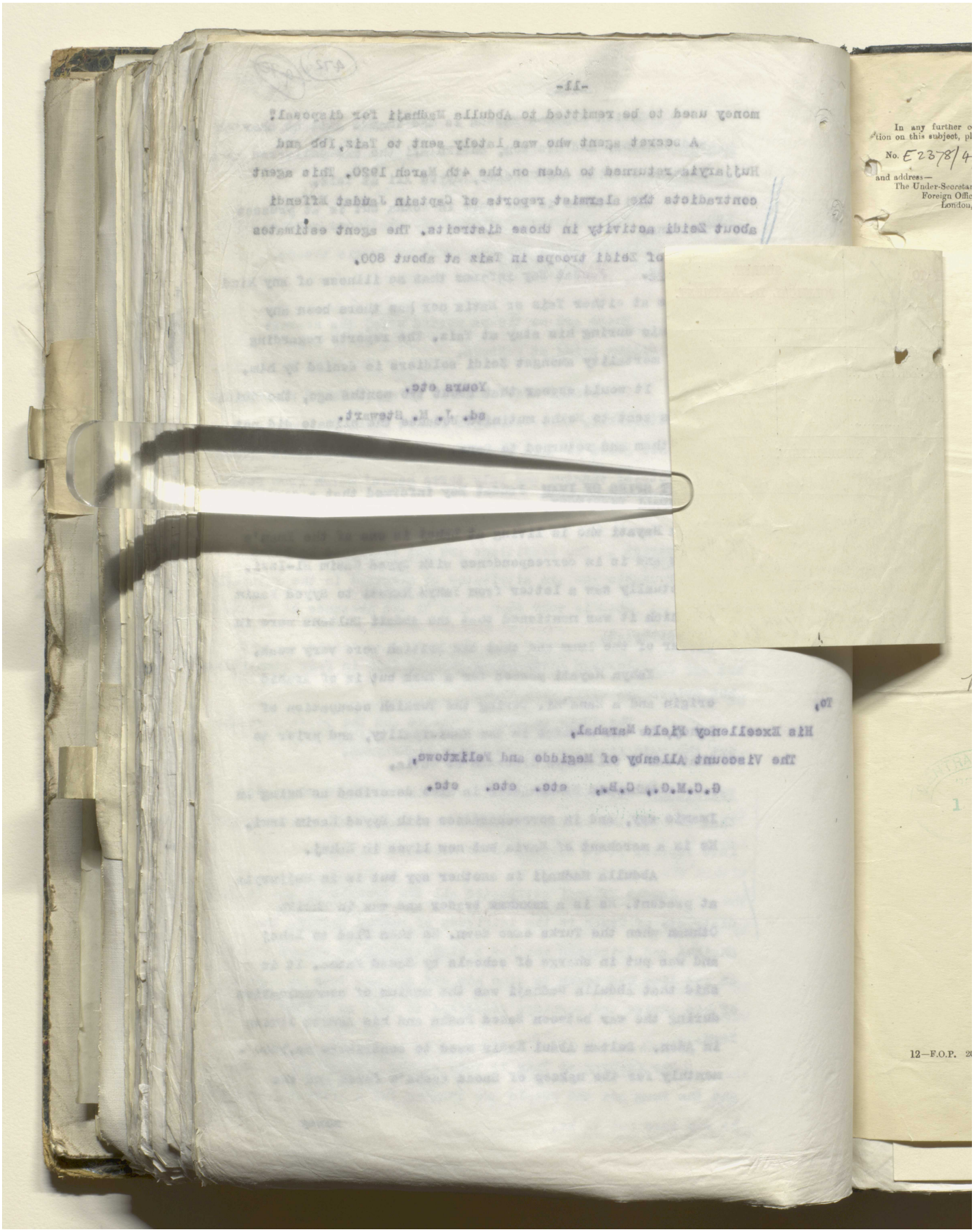

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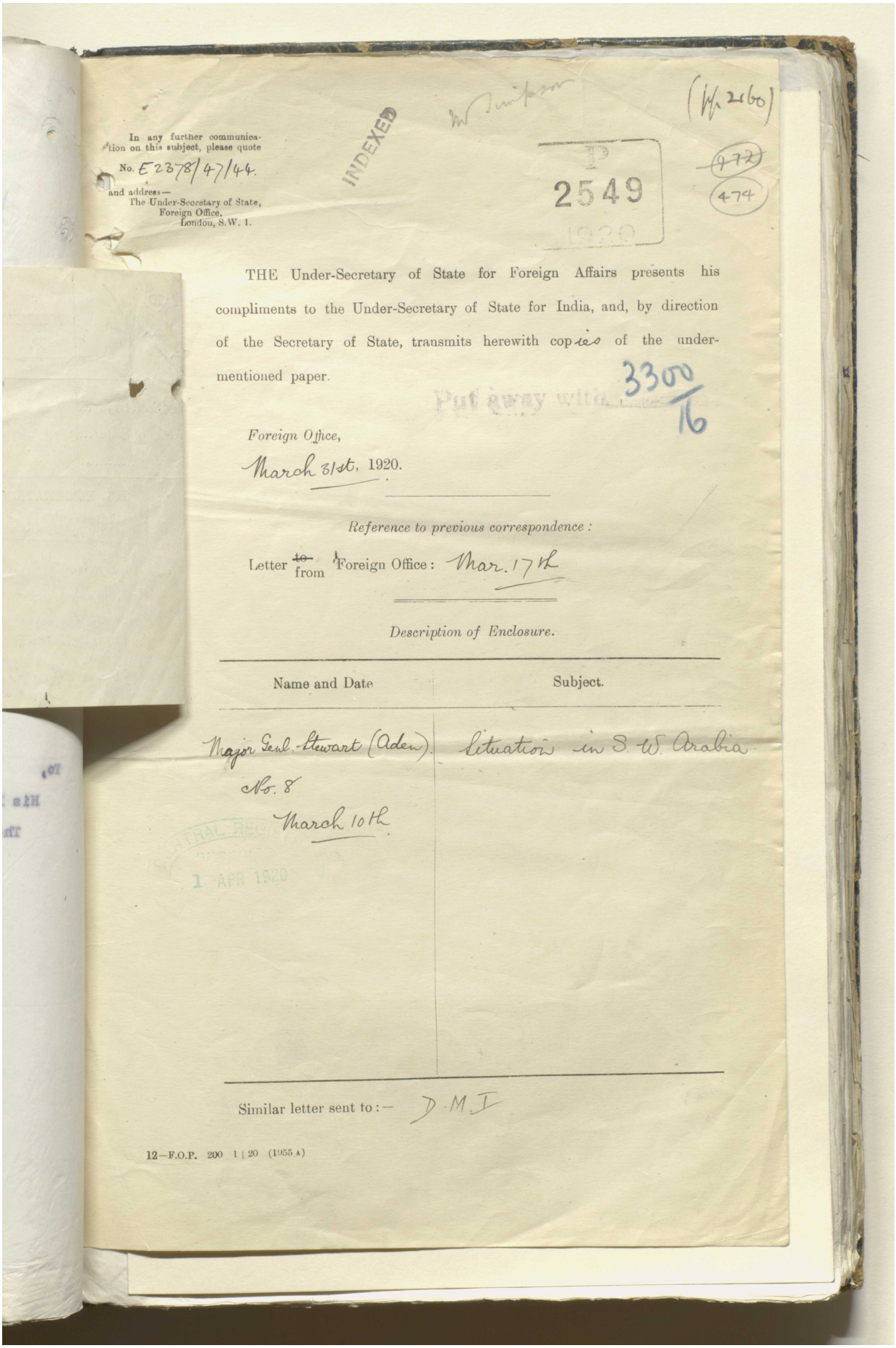

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

3300/16

Foreign Office,
March 31st, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter ~~to~~ from Foreign Office : Mar. 17th

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
Major Genl. Stewart (Aden). No. 8 March 10th.	Situation in S. W. Arabia.

CENTRAL REGISTRY 1 APR 1920

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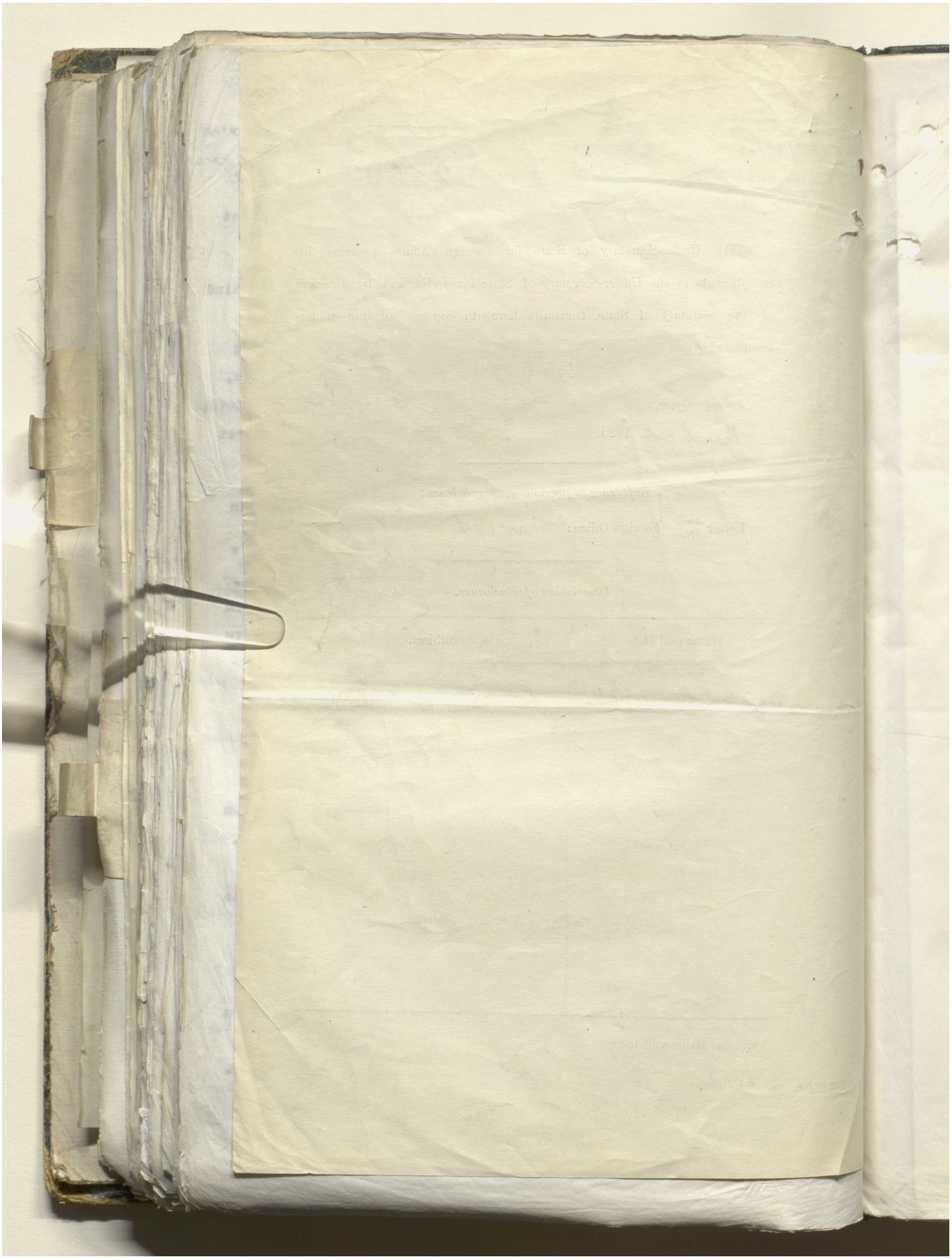

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5th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

(475)

ADEN RESIDENCY,
10th March 1920.

P
2549
1920

My dear Lord Allenby,

The following is a summary of the news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 28th February 1920.

TIHAMA.

From the reports received from Hodeida during this week, Jabel Bura appears to have been re-occupied by the Idrisi. There are, however, conflicting reports about Riqab, the Imam's head-quarters on Jabel Bura. It was reported to have been captured on the 18th February but a later report states that it is besieged by the Quhras.

A large Imamic force is said to have attacked Jabel Dahir and recaptured all the villages, driving away the Idrisi force to the base of the mountain.

The disposition of the Idrisi-Quhra combination on the Quhra border as given in one of the reports is as follows:-

Sheikh Abu Hadi (the Quhra head Sheikh) with his men is stationed at Ain; Sheikh Yehia Ali Muzeria at Shutaba; Omer Sagheer al Attai, Sheikh Ismail Baghawi at Obal, Sheikh Abdullah Mujaikar in the vicinity of Beni Saad; and Sheikh Khuzam at Beni Hamadi.

The people of Reima are reported to have revolted against the Imam.

On 17th February a party of the Imam's men raided and partially burnt Sheikh Abu Hadi's village, Ain, (3 hours from Bajil) retiring after looting the place. Turks formed a strong leaven in this party.

The Idrisi is said to have lately sent one big

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and three small guns to Bajil and Jabel Milhan. Reinforcements of Idrisi troops continually arriving at Zaidiya are sent on to Milhan, Dahir and Bajil.

According to a report from Zabeed, the occupation of Dala by the Imam is regarded as a great victory against the Christians (sic) who are said to have retreated from Dala. The news was published by beat of drums in Zabeed, the place being illuminated and salutes fired. The Imam's Amil in Zabeed was also informed by telegraph of other alleged victories won against the Idrisi.

The reason for this kind of propaganda on the part of the Imam is obvious. The acclamation of the Idrisi by Tihama tribes and his successful advance everywhere have naturally annoyed the Imam and he can do no better than feed the people with news of imaginary victories. He is said to have sent letters to all the Sheikhs and Saiyids in the Tihama denouncing the Idrisi, who as our ally is considered an enemy of Islam who is bent upon shedding the blood of Moslims. The Imam offers the Sheikhs and Saiyids assistance in men, arms and ammunition if they forsake the Idrisi.

Saiyid Ahmed al Ambari referred to in my last letter is reported to have circularized the people of Zabeed saying that through the medium of France, the Turks and Sharif Faisal have concluded peace and that the former will shortly return overland to the Yemen. The notification eulogises the Imam who has stood firmly by his alliance with the Turks up till now, and admonishes the people who are friendly with us and the Idrisi. The notification ends with the good news of the capture of three English provinces by Anwer Pasha.

YEMEN.

Nasir Mabkhut, the friend of the Idrisi, is said to have completed the conquest of Hajja and has approached Kaukaban. He has occupied Jabel Naisa, 35 miles W.S.W. of Sudah, the

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the Imam's stronghold, and Afar, 10 miles N.E. of Hajja.

ASIR.

Captain Fazluddin arrived here on the 29th February. The report mentioned in my last letter about the occupation of the Kaza of Thamir etc by the King of the Hedjaz appears to be groundless.

I am sending by this mail copies of Captain Fazluddin's diary dated 24th February 1920 from which it appears that the Idrisi has now decided on his policy in the Tihama. He has occupied Jabel Bura on account of its strategical position to ensure the safety of the Quhra territory but he has stopped any further advance with Jabel Reima and in fact all other hilly districts as a matter of definite policy. He does not intend to advance beyond Zabeed nor beyond Hujjaila on the Quhra border. In a confidential letter he has addressed to his Commander at Bajil, Sheikh Tahir bin Radwan, the Idrisi reminds him that the main objects of his deputation were threefold viz:-

1. To establish good Government in the place of anarchy.
2. To act as the protector of the lives, property and religion of the Shafiite Tihama who had appealed to him so incessantly and anxiously against the Zeidi ravages.
3. To defend the country of the Quhras whom he had pledged his word to defend(as a condition of the release of the British Mission) against the Zeidi advance in their country.

The Idrisi has also given Sheikh Nasir Mabkhut clearly to understand that the Hajjah affair is entirely his own, though he will continue to give assistance in money and ammunition as far as in his power.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

There has been no further Imamic advance since the date of my last letter, though a report from Upper Yafa states that a reinforcement of 600 Zeidis with 4 guns and other material has arrived at Kataba, destined for Lahej. Another report says that a large force is being collected to go to the Haushabi country.

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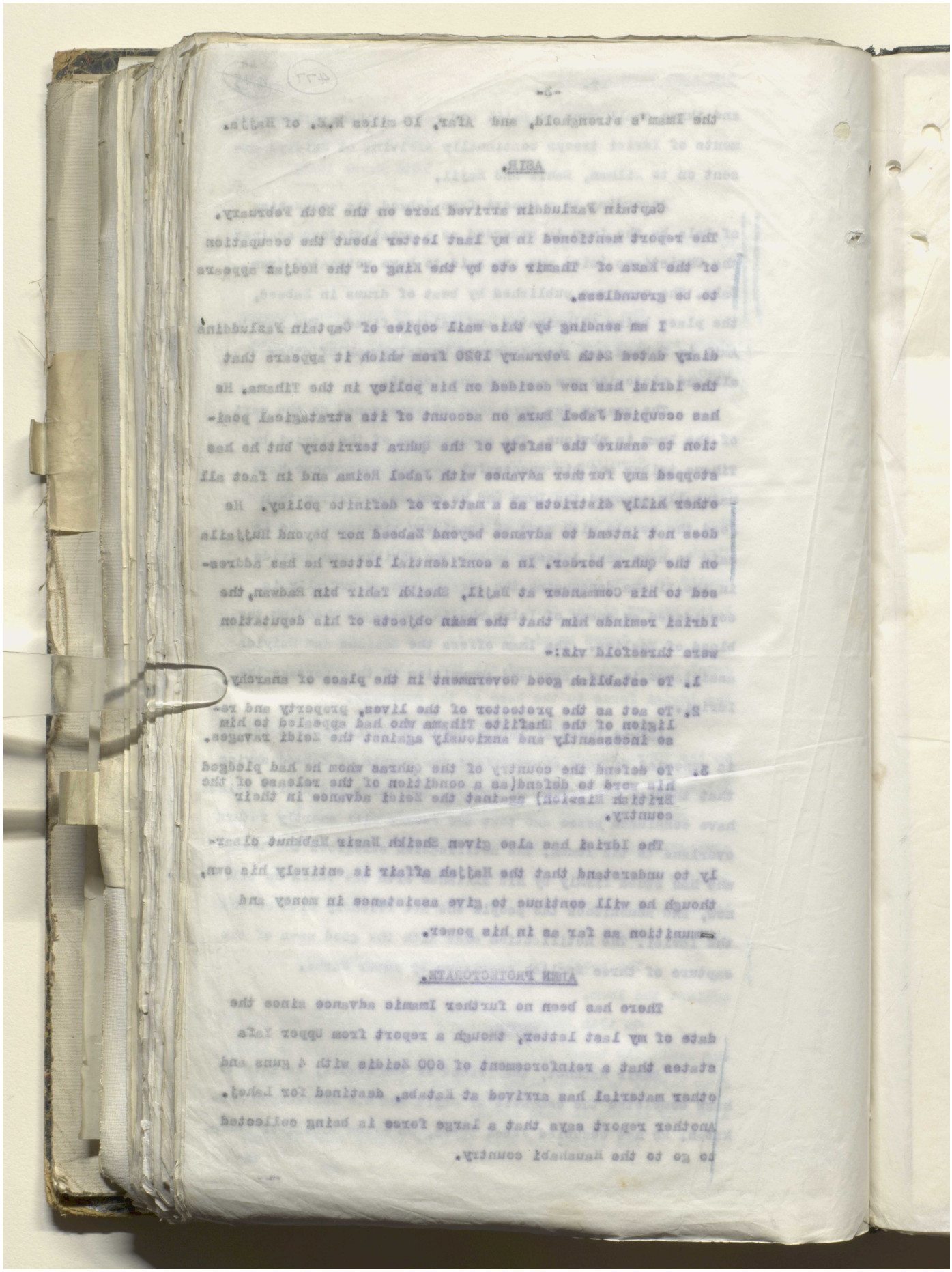

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The Alawi Sheikh is still with the Zeidis as also the Al Bakri Sheikh, Saleh Asad. The Kotaibi Sheikh has not gone over, though communications are said to be passing between him and the Imam's representative. His nephew Mokbil Abdulla, who had fled to the Haushabi country, has since returned and gone to the Zeidis.

The Alawi Sheikh's son has written a letter informing me of his father's detention by the Zeidis and complaining of our indifference to our obligations to protect the Alawis as we are bound to do under the terms of their treaty with us.

The Upper and Lower Yafais are stated to have posted about 1200 men along their borders. Our Upper Yafa correspondent writes that the people of Halmin which has been occupied by the Zeidis, haved removed their live stock to the Yafai territory. Whilst they were doing so, they were pursued by the Zeidis, but the Yafais on the border fired on them and forced them to retire.

The number of the Zeidis within the Protectorate is estimated at 1400.

Later news states that the Alawi Sheikh's brother and others who returned from the Zeidis at Dabab have brought news that 100 Zeidis have been told off to the Alawi country and that they would arrive on Monday the 8th instant. The Alawi's brother has warned the Alawi people not to object to the Zeidis coming into their territory because the Alawi Sheikh personally has come to an understanding with the Imam's Amil at Dabab.

About two thirds of the Koteibis are said to have capitulated. The Koteibi Sheikh and the rest of the Koteibis have refused to do so. The Koteibi Sheikh with the Sheikhs of Hajili and Ibdali have gone to the Yafais to enlist their help.

The Alawi Sheikh when he went to meet the Imam's Amil took with him ₹ 150, ½ maund of tobacco, one bag of gingily seed etc. as presents to the Amil.

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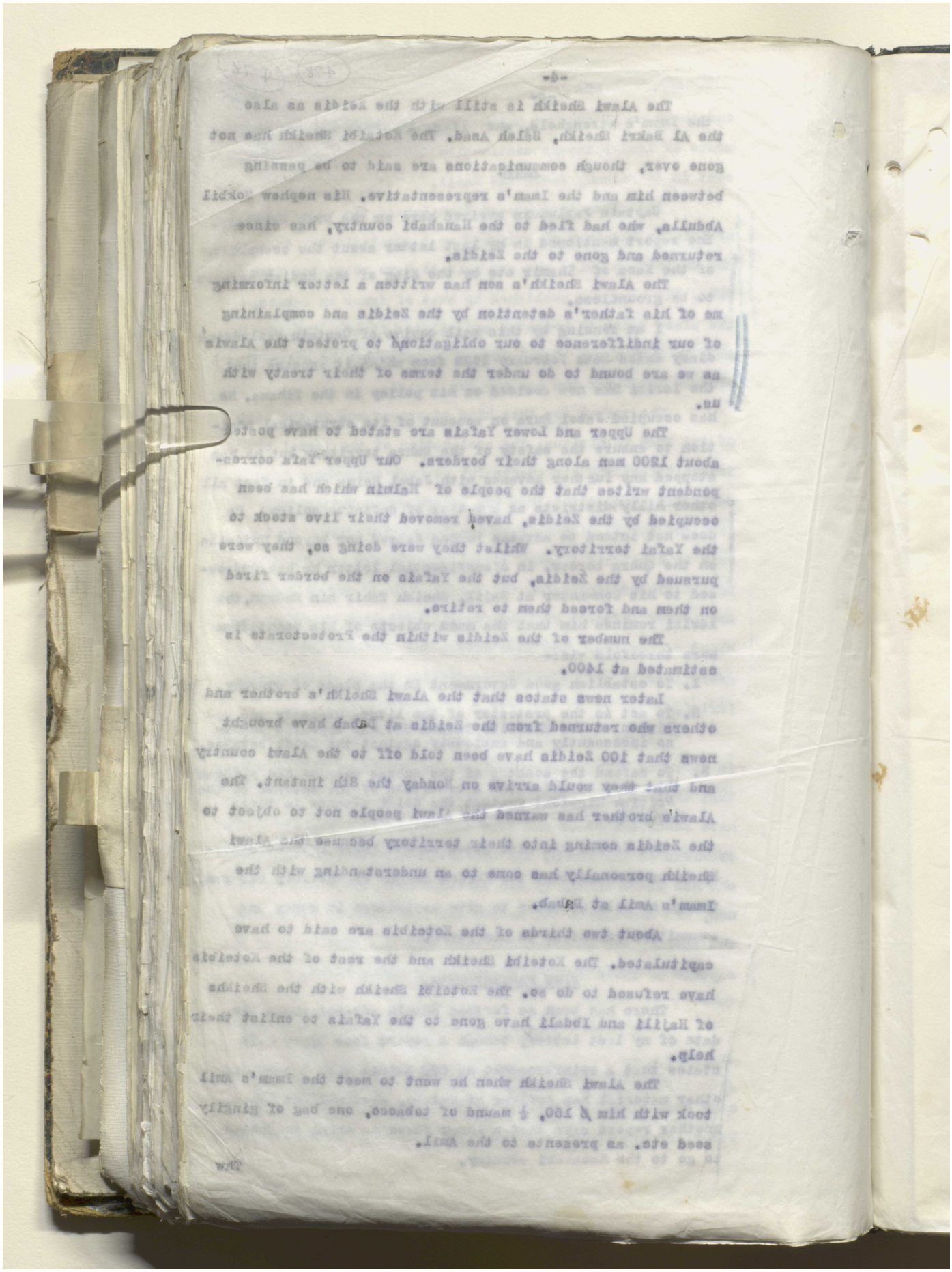

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The arrival of a reinforcement of 400 Zeidis at Dala is reported. Their ultimate destination is said to be Musemir in the Haushabi territory. There are rumours that the Zeidis contemplate an attack on the British Camp at Nobat Dakim after they have occupied Musemir.

The Haushabi Sultan writes that since he has returned from Aden, he has been receiving continual messages from the Zeidis asking him to come and see the Imam's Hakim at Mawia. The Haushabi has sent to me a letter he has received from the Officer Commanding Imam's Troops at Taiz in which, after the usual disparaging remarks against the Christians and infidels, he is invited to go and see the Hakim at Mawia and warned against failure. The Haushabi is asking for our troops. I have told him not to go to the Hakim and to resist any aggression of the Zeidis as far as possible and to fall back on Nobat Dakim if he finds himself unable to resist.

The Mausatta Naqibs referred to in last letter asked for British troops to assist them in repelling the Zaidis and for British assistance in organizing their army. I have made them a present of ammunition and contemplate sending an Indian Officer into the Yafai country to interview the heads of clans and see the country. On receiving his report I will be able to determine what further action, if any, we should take to support Yafai resistance.

In my letter of 12th February last, I reported the account given by Sharif Nasr bin Shakr, the King of the Hedjaz's envoy, of the Imam's motives in occupying Dala. Amir Nasir has now produced two letters (dated 29th August and 1st November 1918) from the Imam, which confirm the Imam's statement about the Amir's complaint to him re ill-treatment by the Turkish Kaimmakam at Dala. These letters further go to show that the relations of the Amir and the Imam at that time were those of ruler and subject.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lieut-Colonel Saleh Bey, who arrived here from Hodeida last month for repatriation and left for Suez on 21st idem,

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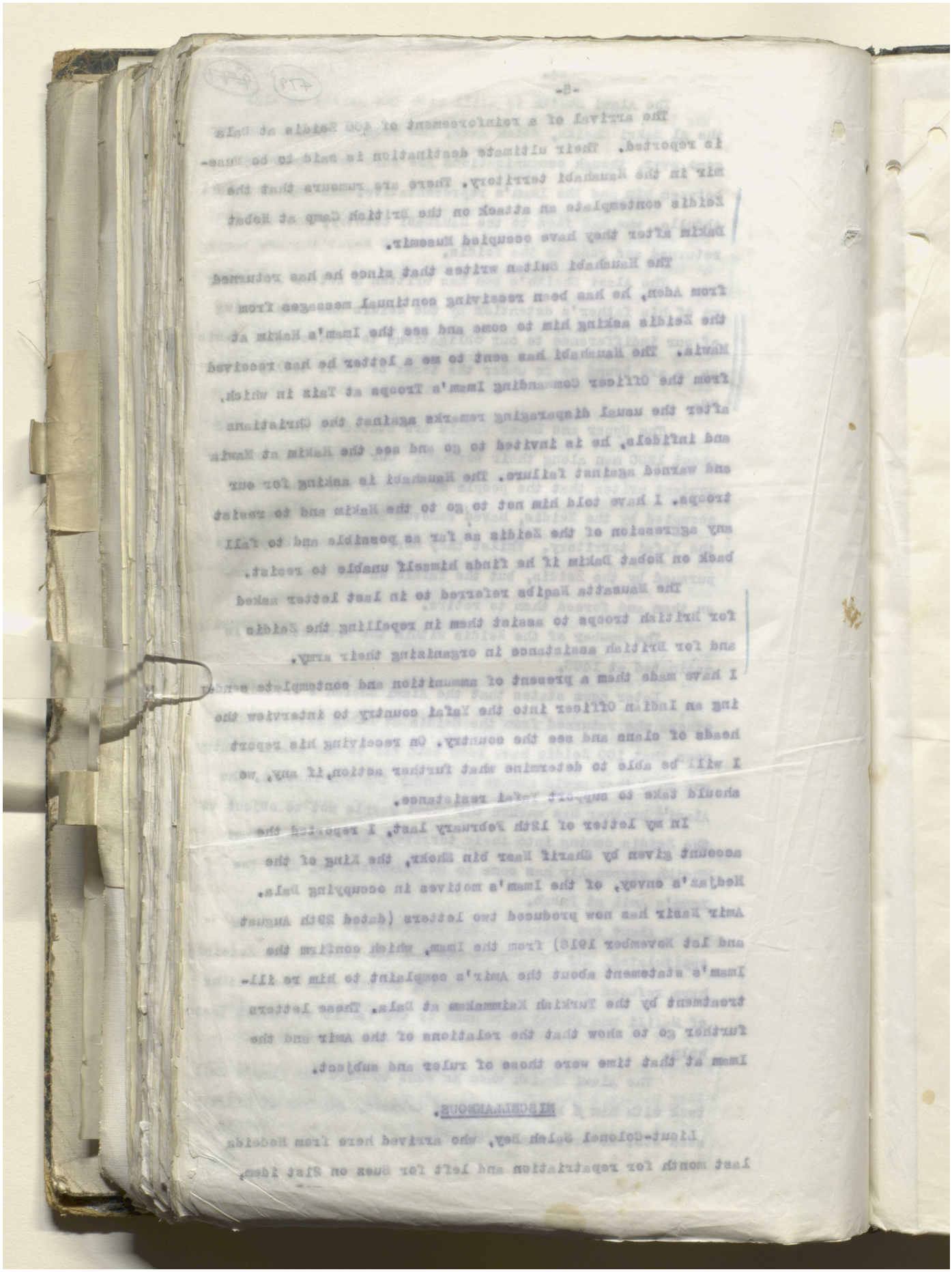

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was interviewed during his stay here. The following are the notes of interview:-

Lt-Colonel Saleh Bey arrived at Hodeida from Sana on the 3rd February. As Major, he commanded the 3/119 in the 7th Army Corps. He served in the Lahej Expeditionary Force under General Ali Saeed Pasha, and was in command of Lahej for two years and seven months. He commanded at Wahat for 4 months and at Subar for 1 month. He was recalled to Sana in May 1918 by Tewfiq Pasha in connection with the examination of regimental accounts and was at the capital when the armistice with Turkey was signed.

Lt-Colonel Saleh Bey was prevented from leaving the Yemen with the other Turks owing to illness. He produced a certificate from the Principal Medical Officer of the Yemen Army Corps, Colonel Aziz Bey, recommending that he should remain behind in Sana for treatment.

He was not actually employed by the Imam since the Turkish evacuation, but was granted an allowance of 13 dolls monthly for subsistence.

His health has been very indifferent throughout and he has now obtained permission from the Imam to leave the country.

Saleh Bey left Sana on the 20th January.

He described the general situation in the Yemen as restless and uncertain owing to Syyed Idrisi's activity in the Tihama and the Imam's frontiers. He reports friction between the Imam and the Hashid tribesmen owing to the former demanding heavy taxes and paying very poor subsidies to the Sheikhs. Nasir Mabkhut el-Ahmar is popularly believed to be in favour of the Idrisi but Saleh Bey thinks he should be reckoned as an uncertain factor.

The Hamdan, Bilad Bustan, Beni Matar, Khoulan, and the Beni Hubheish but chiefly the latter, are providing the Imam with troops for service in various parts of the country.

There are 1,500 trained Zeidi soldiers stationed in Sana.

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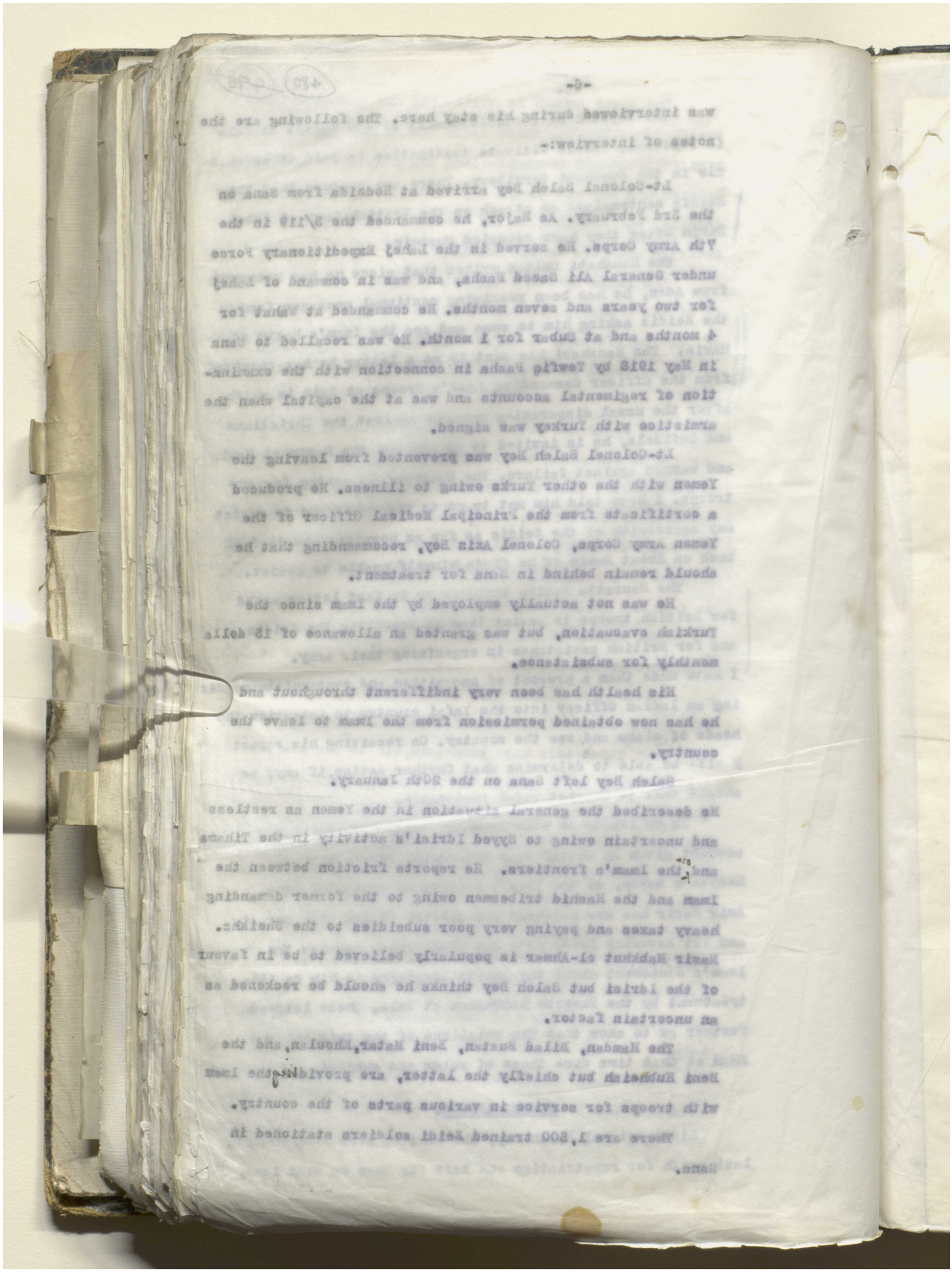

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Between 200 and 300 men arrive at the capital daily from the surrounding districts and are immediately despatched to replace or reinforce the troops stationed in the Taiz or Zabid areas.

Sherif Abdulla Ed-Dumain is the Imam's Principal Commander. He is at present at Jabel Milhan.

Lt-Colonel Kinaan Bey is the Chief of the Staff at Sana but is acting as Commander-in-Chief during the Shereef Abdulla's absence. Lt-Colonel Mahmood Bey, a Gunner officer who used to be at Lahej and Taiz during the war, is Commandant of Artillery.

The other principal Turkish officers at Sana include -

(1) Lt.Colonel Rifaat Bey of the 117th Regiment, who was group Commandant at Subar under Saeed Pasha. He is in the service of the Imam.

(2) Lt-Colonel Sabit Bey (Veterinary Surgeon) whose services were placed at the disposal of the Imam by General Tewfiq Pasha.

(3) Colonel Aziz Bey, Principal Medical Officer, Yemen Army Corps (now in the Imam's service).

(4) Lt-Colonel Suleiman Bey, formerly Medical Officer at Sada (now in the Imam's service).

(5) Lt-Colonel (Dr.) Hasan Bey, who was formerly at Lahej and now working under the Imam.

(6) Lt-Colonel Ali Rohi Bey, formerly commanding at Sada but is not employed at present.

(7) Lt-Colonel Fezi Bey. Is sick and unemployed.

(8) Lt-Colonel Mahomed Ali. Is employed. He remained behind owing to domestic affairs.

(9) Major Yussuf Bey, was formerly Transport Officer at Lahej. He was left behind to look after the records of the Army Corps.

(10) Colonel Ibrahim Bey. Is a retired officer but was Chief of the Intendance during the war. Is unemployed.

(11) Hussain Pasha. Retired and unemployed by Imam.

(12) Major Suleiman Bey. Is in the Imam's army, and at present directing operations in the Beni Saad region. Was at Sada during the war.

(13) Major Ali Effendi. Was at Sada formerly, but is now serving under the Imam.

(14) Major Mahomed Agha. Attached to the Imam's forces. Was a Captain in the 2/120 at Lahej.

Civil Administration. Syyed Zaid is the principal Islamic Judge at the capital. The other Judges include the Kadi Syyad

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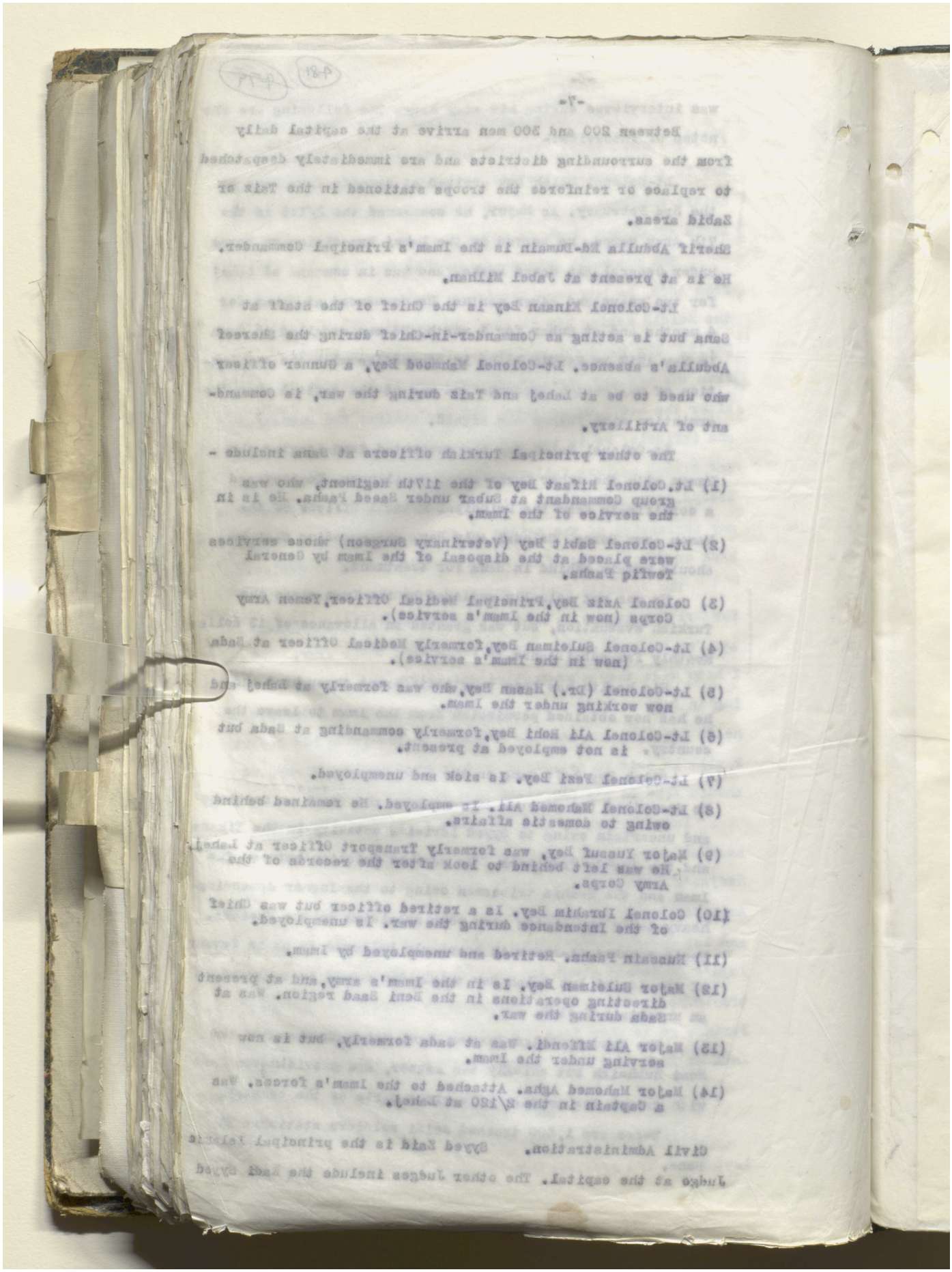

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Ahmed El-Kibsi and Syyed Abdulla.

The ex-Turkish judges Asaad Bey and Mahomed Amin Bey are on the Appeal Bench.

The Imam's most trusted advisers are Abdulla El-Amri and Syyed Abdulla Ibrahim.

Syyed Hussain Abdulkadir is Amil at Sana and President of the Municipality.

Mahmud Nadhim Bey is not in favour just at present. He is blamed by the Imam for the situation in the Tihama.

Raghib Bey, ex-Turkish Governor of Hodeida, is making mischief up at Sana as usual and is misleading the Imam.

Economic. Rain has been scarce but is said to have fallen since Lt-Colonel Saleh Bey's departure from Sana. Grain and food generally are nevertheless cheap and plentiful.

Foreign supplies such as rice, sugar, kerosine etc are still expensive but are obtainable.

Taiz Intelligence. Saleh Bey knew of no particular concentration but estimates the Imamic forces at between 2,000 and 3000 men distributed between Taiz, Ibb, Jebel Sabar, Jebel Hubeish and Mawia.

The Kadi Abdurrahman and Syyed Ahmed Pasha of Taiz are in Sana on a visit.

The Imam's representative in the Taiz area is Ali ibn el-Wazir.

Suk-el-Khamis. Nothing particular to report. The Amil is Syyed Mahomed bin Ahmed el-Kibsi.

Menakha. The Amil is Syyed Ali el-Akwa. The tribesmen are being called out for service in the Tihama against the Idrisi.

Lahiik. This place recently fell into the hands of the Syyed Idrisi but was reported to have been re-taken on behalf of the Imam by Sheikh Ibn Shaiban, whilst Saleh Bey was in Bajil.

The latter is the son of the former Sheikh of Hajjeh who

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who was imprisoned at Shahara about two months ago for misappropriating the revenues of the place.

Hajaila. Saleh Bey was here on the 23rd January. Abdulla Hamza was the Amil. Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Mashoor (Quhra) was at Menekha on business.

Saleh Bey saw neither Imamic nor Idrisi troops here but the Zeidis were expected in a few days.

Ubal. January 24th. This place was in the occupation of the Syyed Idrisi. Sheikh Ismail Baghawi with about fifty Quhra tribesmen was in charge. The same day about an hour or so prior to Saleh Bey's arrival, Sheikh Mahomed Zaid of Jebel Izzan (Quhra) with a mixed Quhra and Idrissian force 400 strong had left for Jebel Bura.

Buha. When passing through the village on the night of the 24th January, Saleh Bey saw 200 Idrissian troops, who were stationed there. The men had been drawn from the Wayidat and Beni Jama tribes.

Bajil. Saleh Bey reached this on the 25th January but was detained for seven days under suspicion by the Idrissian representative, Sheikh Mahomed Tahir Radwani. A Syrian merchant, Arif Khirsa, and an ex-Turkish Kaimmakam, Khalil Bey, who accompanied Saleh Bey were arrested as they were suspected as being Imamic agents.

Saleh Bey was ultimately allowed to proceed to Hodeida at the intervention of Syyed Abdul Kadir, but his two companions were detained.(since released).

There are between 150 and 200 Idrissian soldiers at Bajil under Sherif Mansur. The men belong to the Sulail, Wayidat and Beni Jama tribes.

Sheikh Abu Hadi was at the Idrisi's Headquarters where he had been summoned for the purpose of making arrangements for the complete occupation of the Quhra territory by the Idrisi.

Jebel Bura. Fighting is in progress but the Quhra were

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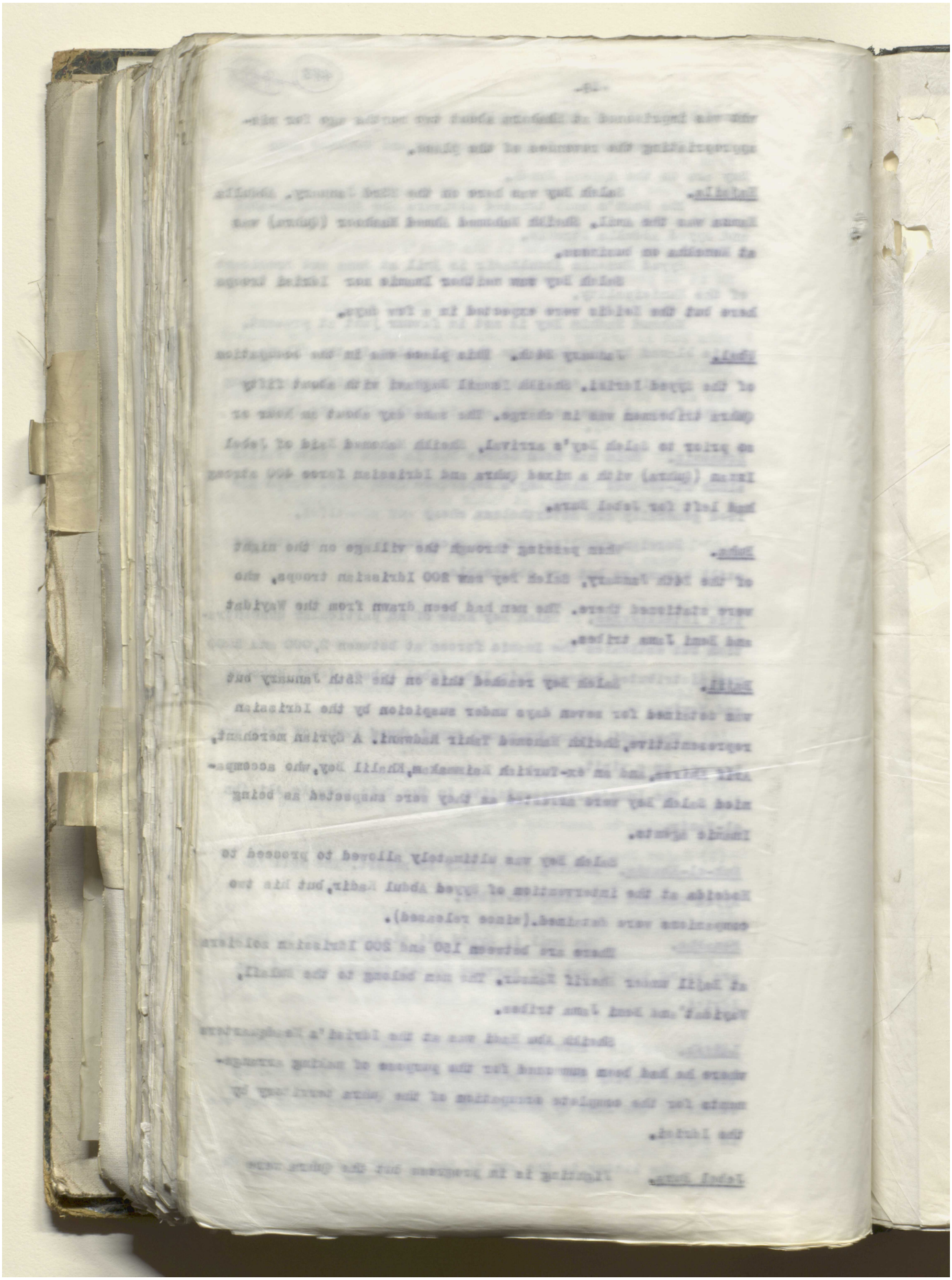

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meeting with a stout resistance from the Zeidis. The Imam has 400 soldiers and two old mountain guns in Jebel Bura but strong reinforcements and a Mantelli gun are reported to have reached there from Menekha since Saleh Bey's arrival in Hodeida. No Turkish troops or gunners were being employed in the operations in this district.

Jebel Reima. No operations have taken place as yet, but the Idrisi is bent on occupying both Bura and Reima in order to cut off the Zeidi retreat and facilitate his advance against Zabeed.

There are about 500 Zeidi soldiers in Jebel Reima under the Imamic Makdami, Abu Manassar.

Jebel Milhan. No fighting has been reported from this region, since its recapture from the Idrisi by the Zeidis.

Beni Saad. Everything is quiet here and the place is under Imamic occupation as usual.

Jebel Haffash. Saleh Bey had no news but believed it was still in the hands of the Imam.

Zabeed. Half the inhabitants led by Syyed Ahmed el-Ambar are in favour of the Imam, while the remainder under Abdulla Mubarak desire to be placed under the Idrisi's protection.

Zaraniks. Saleh Bey describes the attitude of the Sheikhs and tribesmen as uncertain and unreliable.

Aboos. He had no news of the Absyia country. He heard that Sheikhs Suleiman Bukheit and Sahl Ali, who had been under detention at Bajil for some time, had been ~~xxxxx~~ liberated recently by the Idrissian representative there.

Hodeida. Lt-Colonel Saleh Bey arrived on February 3rd. He learnt that on the day following his departure from Bajil, Sheikh Mahomed Tahir and Sheikh Khuzam of the Khadaryia had left for Buha.

He observed that the Idrissian representative and the Mansab of Marawa, Syyed Abdul Kadir, were not on good

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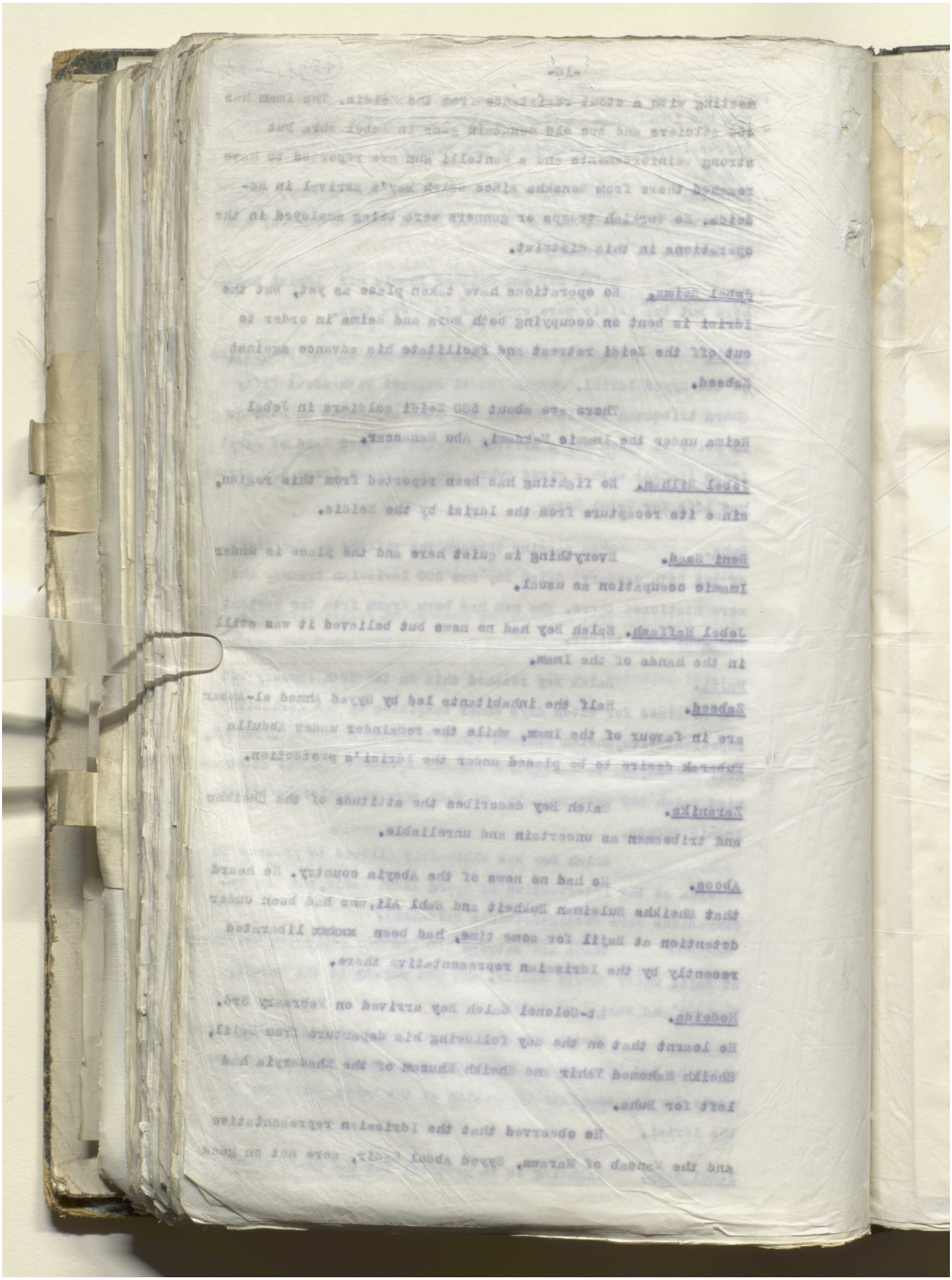

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terms and that friction had arisen owing to the high customs duties being levied on imports into and goods passing through the Suhra territory.

A Customs official was stationed at Kidf Bura, about 4 miles outside Hodeida, to watch the traffic to and from that place and collect dues on account of the Idrisi.

Yussuf Hasan, ex-Turkish Kaimmakam of Zabeed, was at Bajil acting as Political Officer on behalf of the Idrisi and was advising on the administration of that town. It is said that he was making arrangements for Syyed Idrisi's advance Zebeed-wards.

Saleh Bey reports that grain in the Tihama (Hajnila-Hodeida route) was not very plentiful and that prices were still high.

Yours sincerely
sd. J. M. Stewart

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixstowe,
G.C.M.G., C.B. etc. etc. etc.

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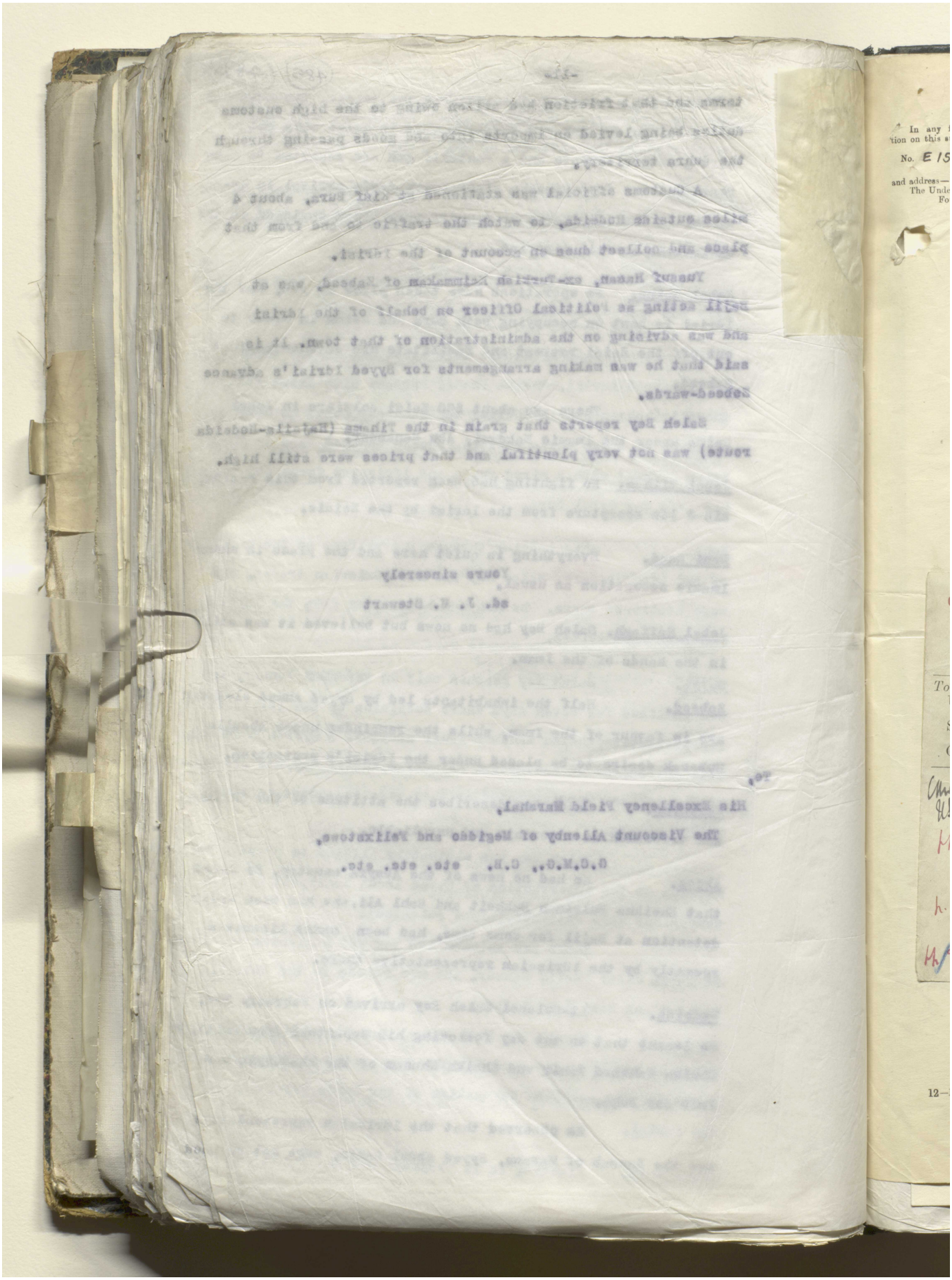

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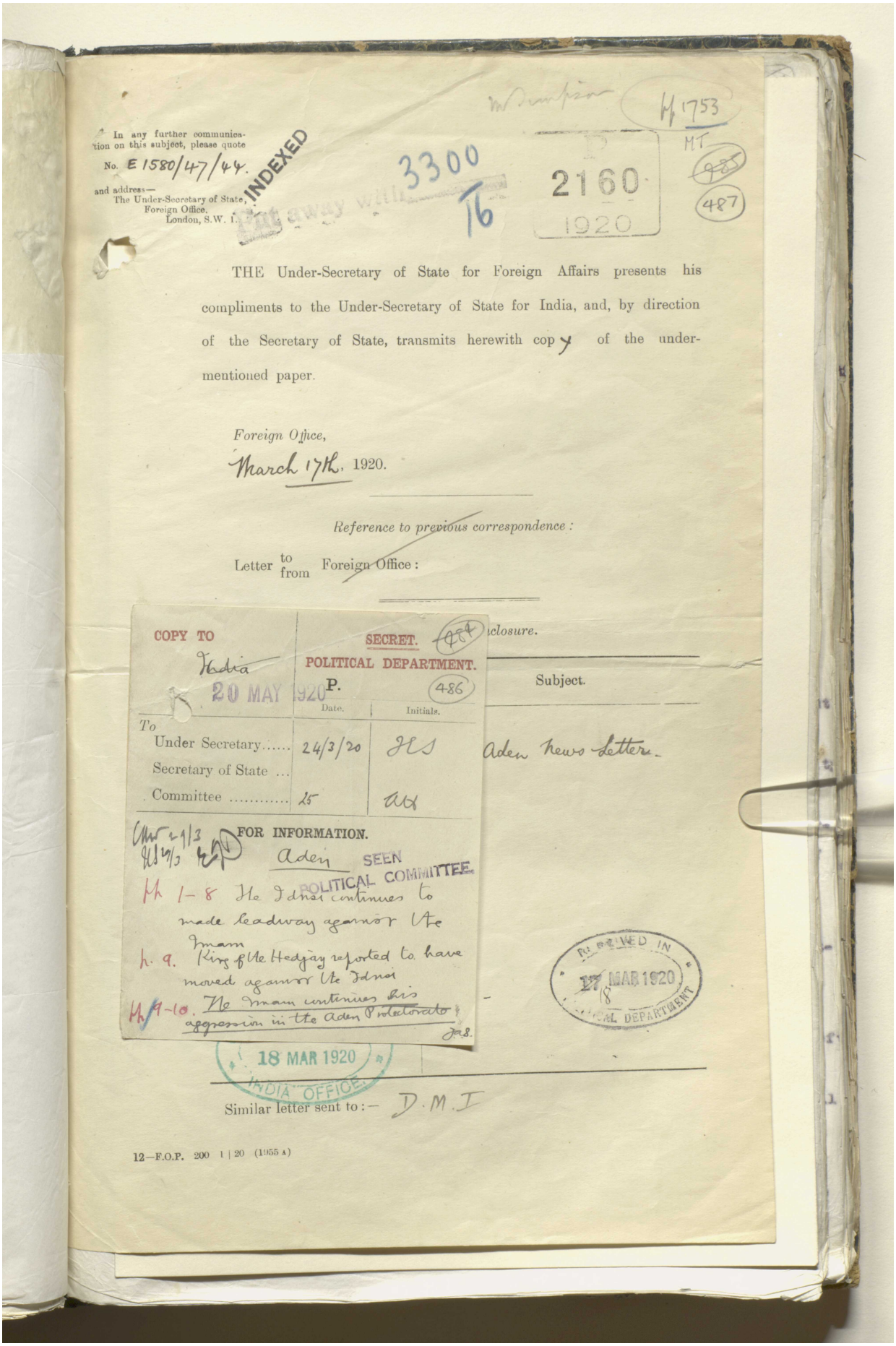

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No. E 1580/47/44.
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

INDEXED

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16

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1920

H 1753
MT
485
487

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
March 17th, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to / from Foreign Office:

COPY TO India

SECRET. 484
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P. 486
20 MAY 1920
Date. Initials.

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	24/3/20	HS
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	25	AH

FOR INFORMATION.
Aden SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

H 1-8 He Idrisi continues to made headway against the Imam
h. 9. King of the Hedjaz reported to have moved against the Idrisi
H 9-10. The Imam continues his aggression in the Aden Protectorate

J.S.

RECEIVED IN
17 MAR 1920
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

18 MAR 1920
INDIA OFFICE

Enclosure.

Subject. Aden News-Letters.

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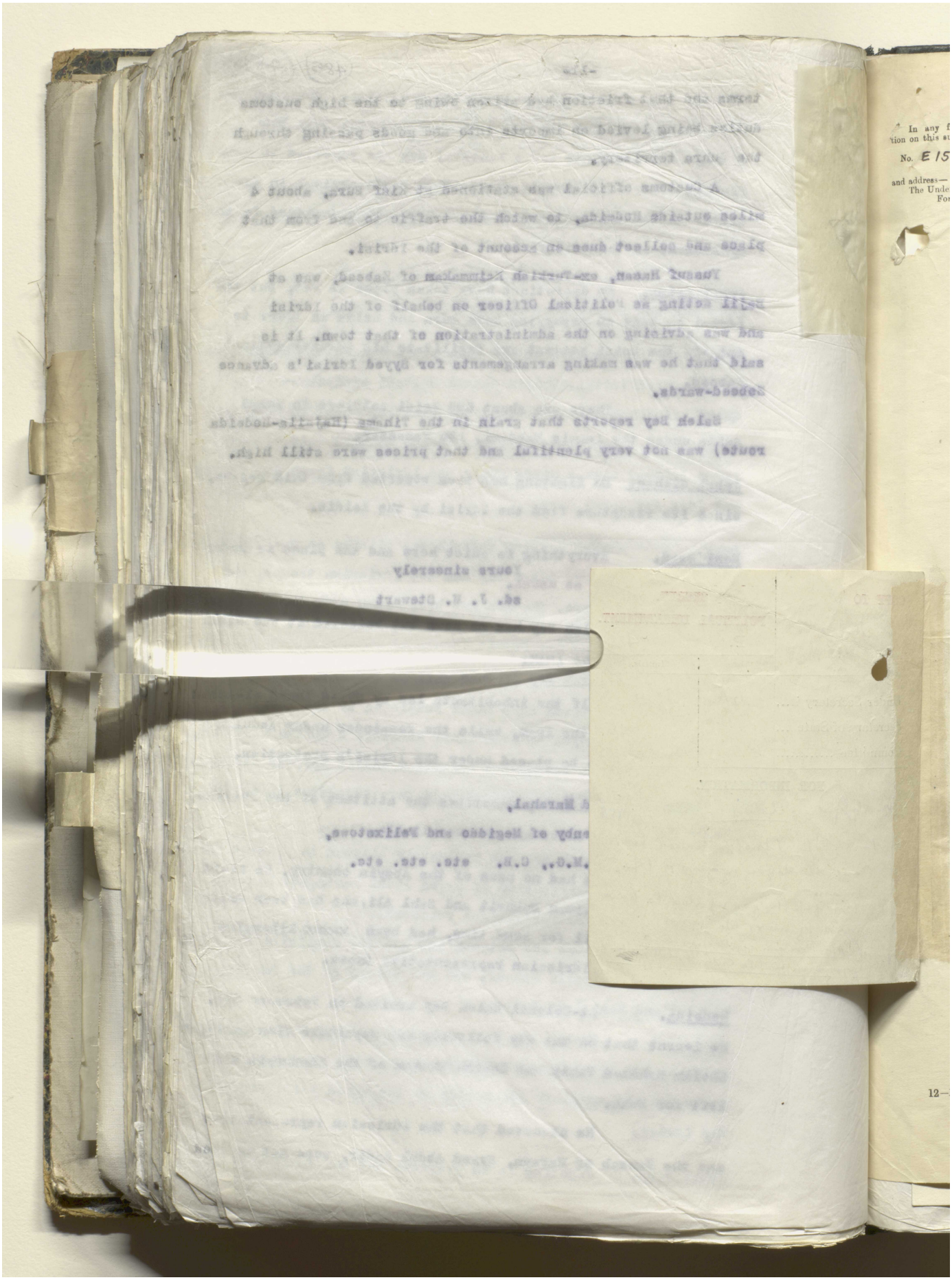

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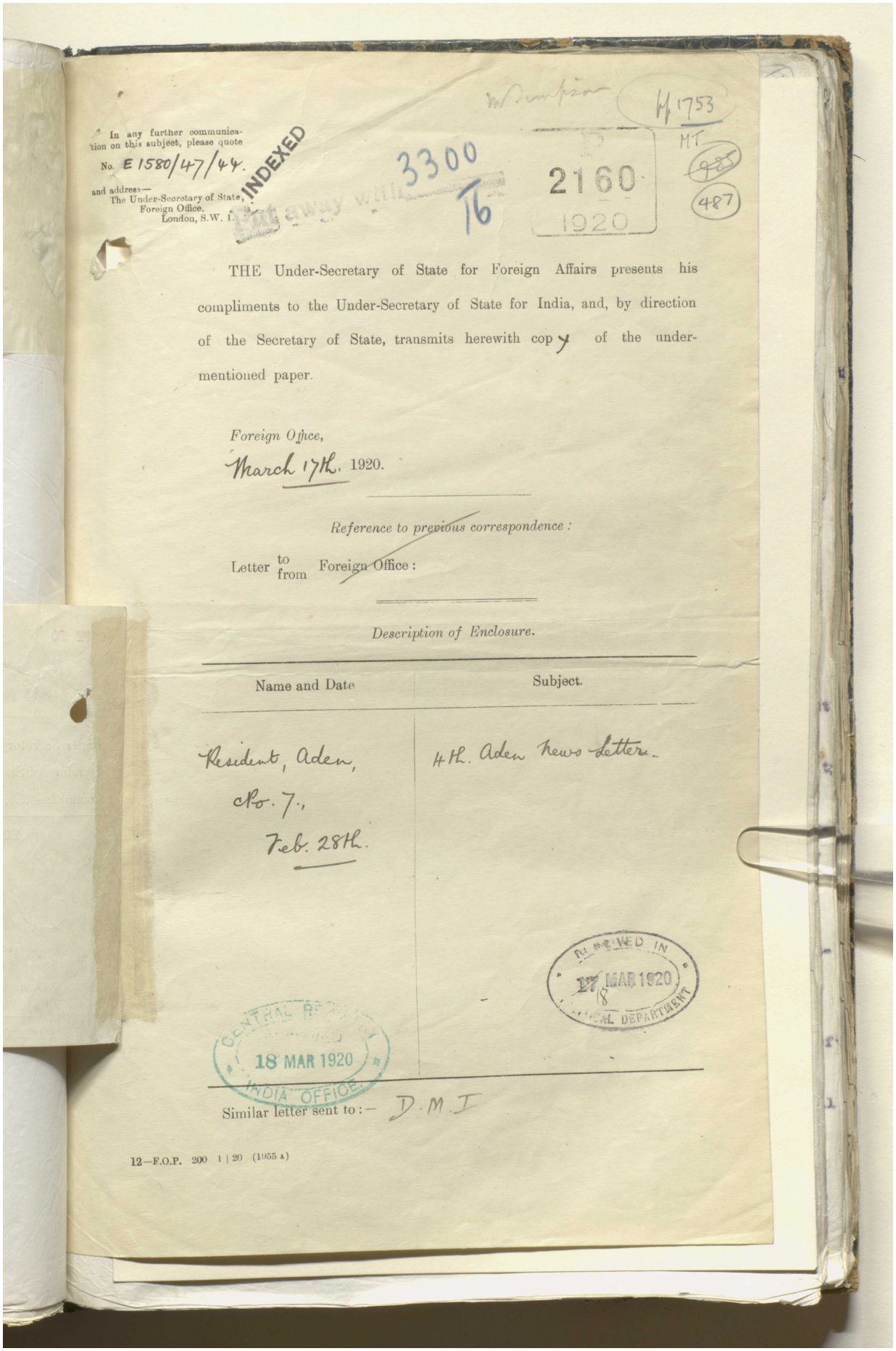

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Foreign Office,
March 17th, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
Resident, Aden, No. 7., Feb. 28th.	4th. Aden News-Letter.

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CENTRAL REGISTRY 18 MAR 1920 INDIA OFFICE

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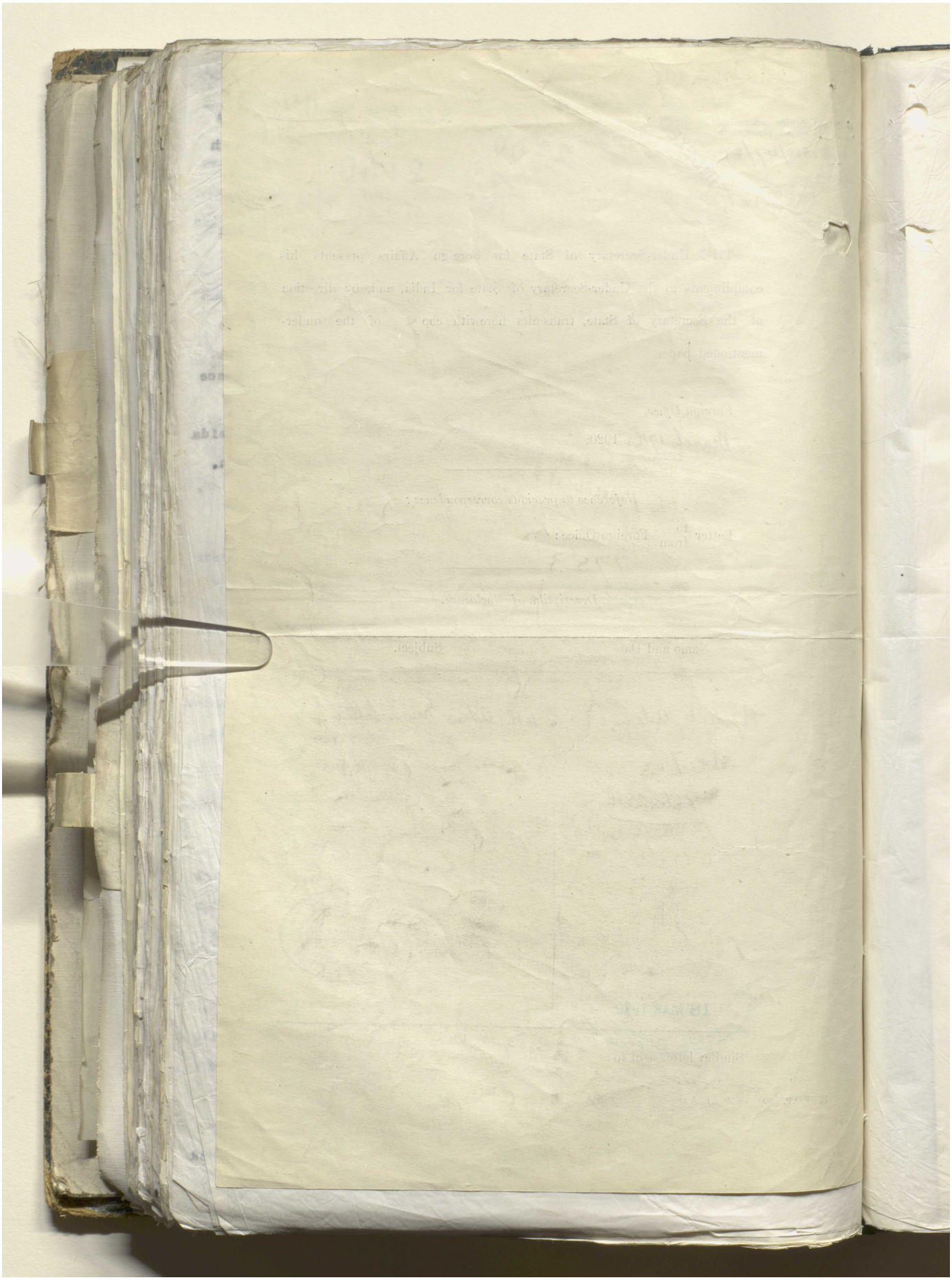

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4th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET. ADEN RESIDENCY, 488

28th February 1920.

P 2160 1920

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 12th February 1920.

TEHAMA.

There does not appear to be much change in the situation on the Quhra frontier. Fighting has been going on in the region of Bura'a which seems to have changed hands at least once. Bura'a was reported to have been occupied by the Idrisi in January, but the latest reports speak of fresh Idrisi advance against Bura'a and Suq Shatta in the neighbourhood of Raima in which the Zaranik and Aboos have taken part on the side of the Idrisi. Hajjaila was occupied by the Idrisi on the 4th February but had to be evacuated owing to Imamic threats from the flanks.

Turks who have come down to Aden via Hodeidah state that although the Imam has recovered some of the villages of Milhan, he will be turned out again from there, as the people of the place are generally in favour of the Idrisi and this news is confirmed by Captain Fazluddin according to whom the reverse was only temporary and the Idrisi has re-occupied all the villages. It appears that the Idrisi Commander there had advanced on Jabel Adra without leaving an adequate reserve at Jabel Zahar thus enabling the enemy to cut off his communication. The Idrisi force was consequently forced to retire to their former base and had to fight their way back through the enemy ranks losing about 20 men. On receiving this news a reinforcement of 500 men was despatched by the Idrisi under Sheikh Ahmed bin Hadi el Haij Pasha, the principal Sheikh of the Waazat but the enemy was driven away from

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Jabel Zahar before their arrival. The enemy lost 2 guns and a number of men.

As already reported, the hesitation of Sheikh Sahel Ali of the Aboos in accepting the Idrisi was due to his enmity with his rival, Sheikh Suleiman Hassan al Bakheit. The Idrisi Commander imprisoned both these Sheikhs in Bajil till they made a bond of friendship. Akil Omer Saghir who took a prominent part in securing the release of the Mission is also imprisoned in Bajil for failure to co-operate with his Sheikh, Ismail Baghawi. Major Meek thinks that the real cause is the desire of Syed Abdul Kadir and the Quhra Sheikhs to pay him out for his Mission work. Major Meek has advised Omar Saghir to be loyal to his Sheikh and tribe now and settle his personal differences later on.

Ali al Mikdad of Anis, who is a Zaidi, has applied to the Political Officer, Hodeida, for the post of Governor of Anis and Reima under the Idrisi, the latter being under British protection. Ali Mikdad was Sheikh-al-Mashaikh of the Qada of Anis in the time of the Turks. He rebelled and served with the Imam against the Turks. Recently he has held no position and has been at enmity with Imam Yahia. He holds an influential position among the people of Anis.

The Idrisi Commander at Bajil has started a levy of dues on goods passing through Bajil which is regarded as excessive. The Commander objected to Syed Abdul Kadir's interference in Quhra affairs and the latter has returned to Merawaa declaring that he is disappointed with the Idrisi and that he sees no hope outside British rule. Merawaa is his house and he had not been there since the Mission arrived in Bajil.

An Akil of Beni Saad came in to Hodeida at the beginning of February. He told Major Meek that from the Sheikh down to the last man, the Beni Saad hated the Imam. They liked the Idrisi but would much prefer British rule. According to him there were about 800 Idrisi men in his country. The Imam's men had retired (vide Kamal Effendi's report below).

Yusuf

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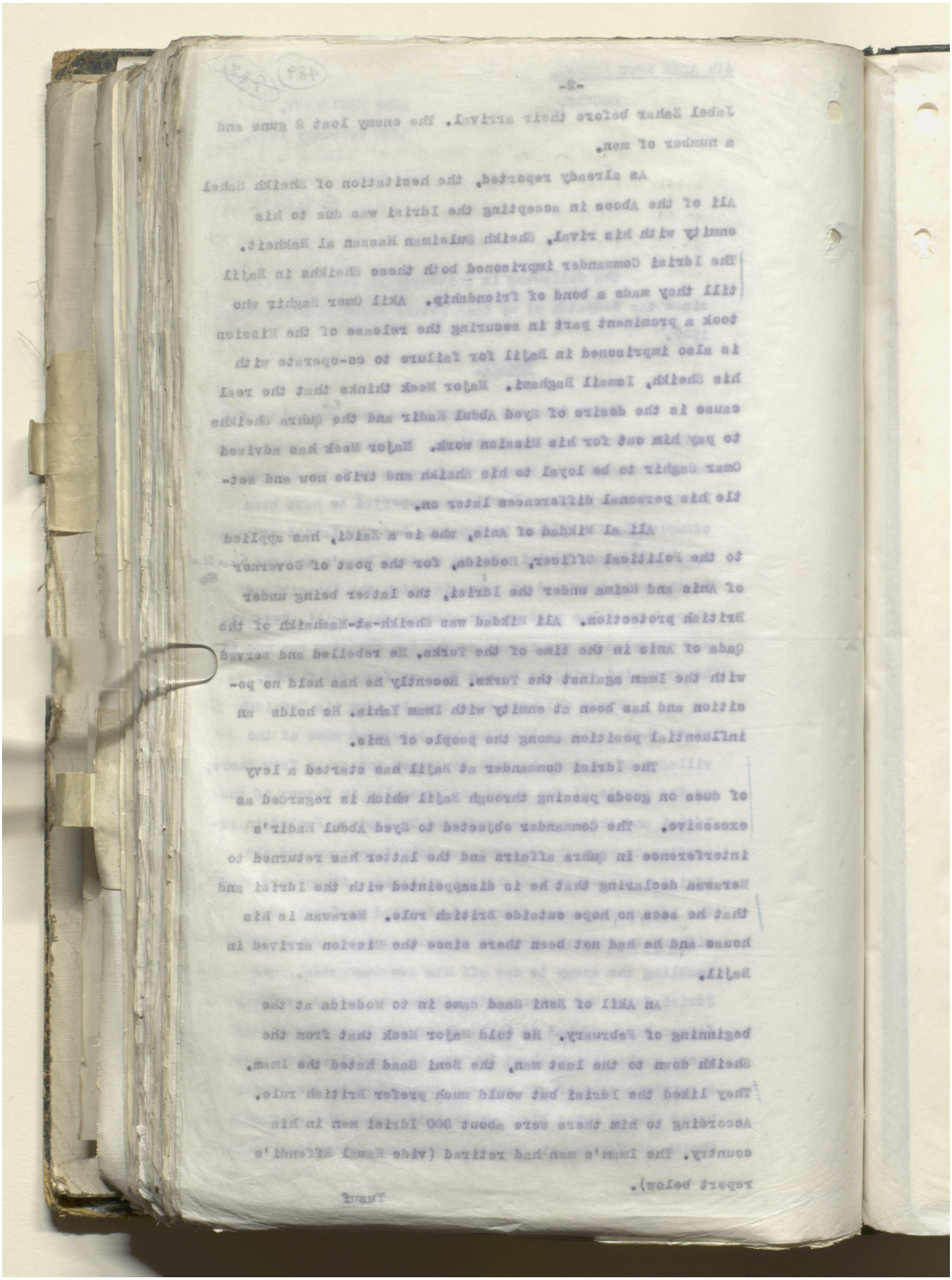

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Yusuf Hassan, the ex-Kaimmakam of Zebid, a Turk, lately visited the Idrisi and claimed to have assisted in the release of the Mission. The object of this visit is not clear but apparently it was to see if he could secure a post under the Idrisi. He has since returned to Bajil. On receipt of a letter from the Political Officer Hodeidah, warning him against Yusuf Hassan, Sayed Mustafa replied saying he knew him well as an intriguer but considered it best to scotch his activities by employing him.

The Amil of Bura'a has addressed threatening letters to Sheikh Mohamad Zaid (Quhra) and to some of the Akils accusing them of joining "one whose support is illegal according to Sharia". He warns them of very severe punishments unless they hasten to tender their submission to the Imam, but this they are unlikely to do as Jabel Bura'a is besieged by Arab tribes acting on behalf of the Idrisi.

The head Sheikh of Al Karasha, Abdo Ibrahim Baghash, copies of whose letters have been sent to me by Captain Fazluddin, entreats Sayed Mustafa to send his representative to Zebid to form an alliance with him. He assures Sayed Mustafa of the friendship of Sayed Ahmed Abdul Rehman Al Ambari for the Idrisi. The Sayed is at present Kadi and Officer Commanding the Zebid district under the Imam. During the reign of the Turks he was a Kadi and Nakib of the Ashrafs and his uncle Sayed Abdul Kader Hason was the Mufti of Zebid. He still holds that position. Their fathers held the same posts. Their grandfather, who was given the title of the small Shafai, was a friend of Sayed Ahmed bin Idris. Sheikh Abdo says that Sayed Ahmed Abdul Rehman Al Ambari is ready to place himself under the Idrisi provided the latter gives him a written guarantee that he will be retained in his present post and his privileges will not be curtailed. Sayed Ambari has made arrangements with all the Sheikhs and can eject the Imam's representative and garrison from Zebid

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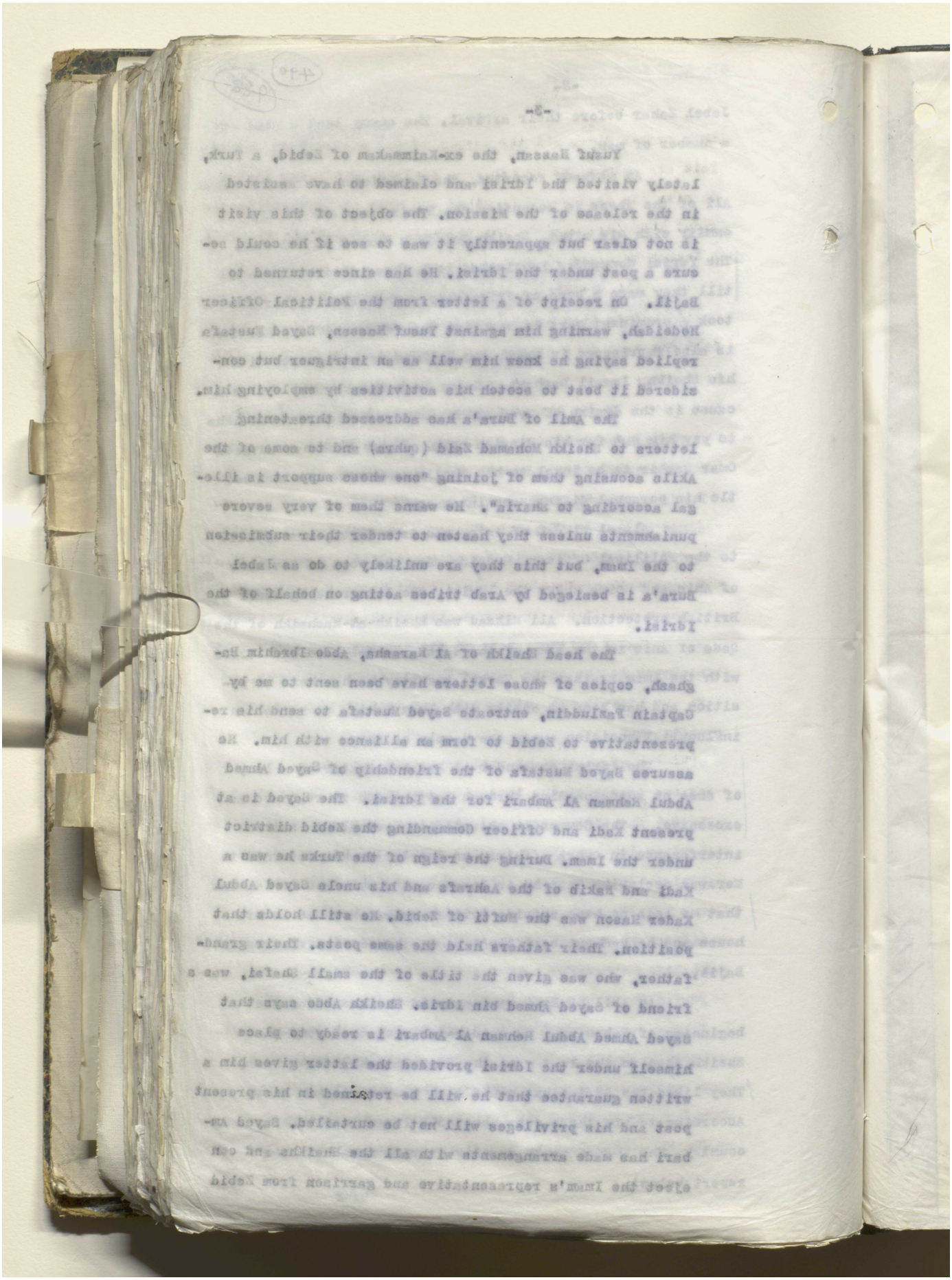

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in a week's time. All the people of the district as far as Taiz are submissive to him. He, however, wants the Idrisi to give him assistance in money and arms and ammunition and about 1000 men. Sheikh Abdo entreats Sayed Mustafa to write a letter to Sayed Al Ambar/i.

The Sheikh of Rakb, Awad Ali Tarbeh, writes to Sayed Mustafa that before the Imam's advent in Zebid he felt the want of a strong Government owing to the lawlessness among his tribesmen and their refusal to acknowlefge his authority. He looked towards the west but found that the Christians possessed influence there; he looked towards the Idrisi but found the distance too far. He was between the devil and the deep sea. So he agreed under certain conditions to let in the Imam who had been sending him continuous telegrams. His idea was that the Imamic Government was a good Government but he now finds that he was mistaken and wants the Idrisi to come to his rescue.

Kamal Effendi, late of the Ottoman Telegraph Department in the Yemen, arrived here on the 16th instant from Hodeida. He was interviewed and gave the following information.

"On the evacuation of the Turks from the Yemen, his services were placed at the disposal of the Imam by Hilmi Bey, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. He remained at the capital for about a year and was then transferred to Suq-el-Khamis, Zebid, Ibb and Taiz in succession and was ultimately brought back to Sana. He received a salary of 15 dollars per mensem from the Imam, but was paid very irregularly. He resigned in January and proceeded to Hodeidah to be repatriated.

Kamal Effendi was at Hujjaila on the 28th January 1920. A few days later he learnt that a Zeidi force which had been despatched from Sana on the 27th January to resist Idrisi aggression had on arrival at Hujjaila looted the whole village including the houses of Hamza Abdulla the

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(492) (490)

Imam's Amil and of the Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Mashoor.

Sheikh Ismail Baghawi (Quhra) with 70 men was in occupation of Ubal.

Sheikh Mahomed Zaid (Quhra) with a mixed force of 600 men was operating in Jabel Bura'a against the Zaidis whose force consisted of 450 men under Sayed Abdulla bin Kasim, and one old mountain gun. The Idrisi had no guns opposite Jabel Bura'a. The Imam was sending big reinforcements with some guns to Jabel Bura'a.

The garrison of Jabel Reima consisted of 800 Zaidi soldiers who had two serviceable mountain guns with trained Arab gunners.

There was a strong Imamic force of 1500 men stationed in Beni Saad under Sherif Abdulla Ed-Dumain and three Turkish officers, viz: Lt-Colonel Suleiman Bey, Lieut.Adil Bey and a gunner Lieut. Nazmi Bey.

Kamal Effendi was detained at Bajil by the Idrisi's Amil from January 29th till February 4th, during which time his services were commandeered for repairing the telegraph line between Bajil and Zavia. He escaped from the latter place on February 10th and reached Hodeida on the following morning.

Hassan Yussuf Effendi has been appointed Idrisi Governor of Hodeida but is at present assisting in the administration of the Quhra country.

Sheikh Suleiman Bakheit was at Bajil with other Akils of the Aboos tendering submission to the Idrisi's representative.

The Zaraniq chief and all the Sheikhs of Jabel Reima had sent in hostages to Bajil and had applied for Idrisi troops for operations against the Imam xx in their respective districts.

Kamal Effendi stated that the telegraphic line was working in the Highlands between Menakha and Sana and also between the latter place and Taiz.

There

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There was no telegraphic communication with Hais or Zabid and the line was being repaired between Hujjaila and Menakha.

Communication between Taiz and Mavia was being re-established, but the Imam was very short of wire for his lines.

YEMEN (Upper and Lower).

The Turks who have come in to Hodeida stated that there are about 2000 trained soldiers in Sana, who are reviewed by the Imam every Friday. They are trained and commanded by Kanaan Bey. There are 10 or 12 Arab regulars in Sana who, the Turks believed were formerly in the Yemen Infantry in Aden. Kanaan Bey is said to be the only Turkish officer who wants to remain in the Yemen. He has a French wife, who is with him.

The Turks said that 28 Somalis who worked with Said Pasha and subsequently took service under the Imam absconded from Jabel Milhan to the Idrisi with their rifles.

The following account given to Major Meek by one of these Turks, Mahomed as Shacosh, shows the importance attached by the Imam to the Idrisi move in the direction of Hajja.

Mahomed stated that subsequent to the surrender of Hajja to the Idrisi and his Zeidi allies there has been general talk of the Idrisi's advance against Mohwit and Amran, which alarmed the Imam. He therefore summoned Haj Hizam As Sa'r Pasha, the Sheikh of Amran and Rajeb Sa'ad the Sheikh of Ayal Sarih of the village of Jiban (between Amran and Sanaa) for the purpose of arranging with them for the defence of those places. The former replied to the Imam that he was unable to give him any men because he had no control over his tribesmen except in the town of Amran and 4 or 5 villages in its suburbs. He would not force people to enlist in the Imam's service against their wish.

The other Sheikh, who is loyal to the Imam, has supplied him with men and the Imam has already despatched his father-in-law, Saif al Islam Mahomed bin al Mutawakil from Sana and his eldest son, Saif al Islam Syed Ahmed bin Yehia from

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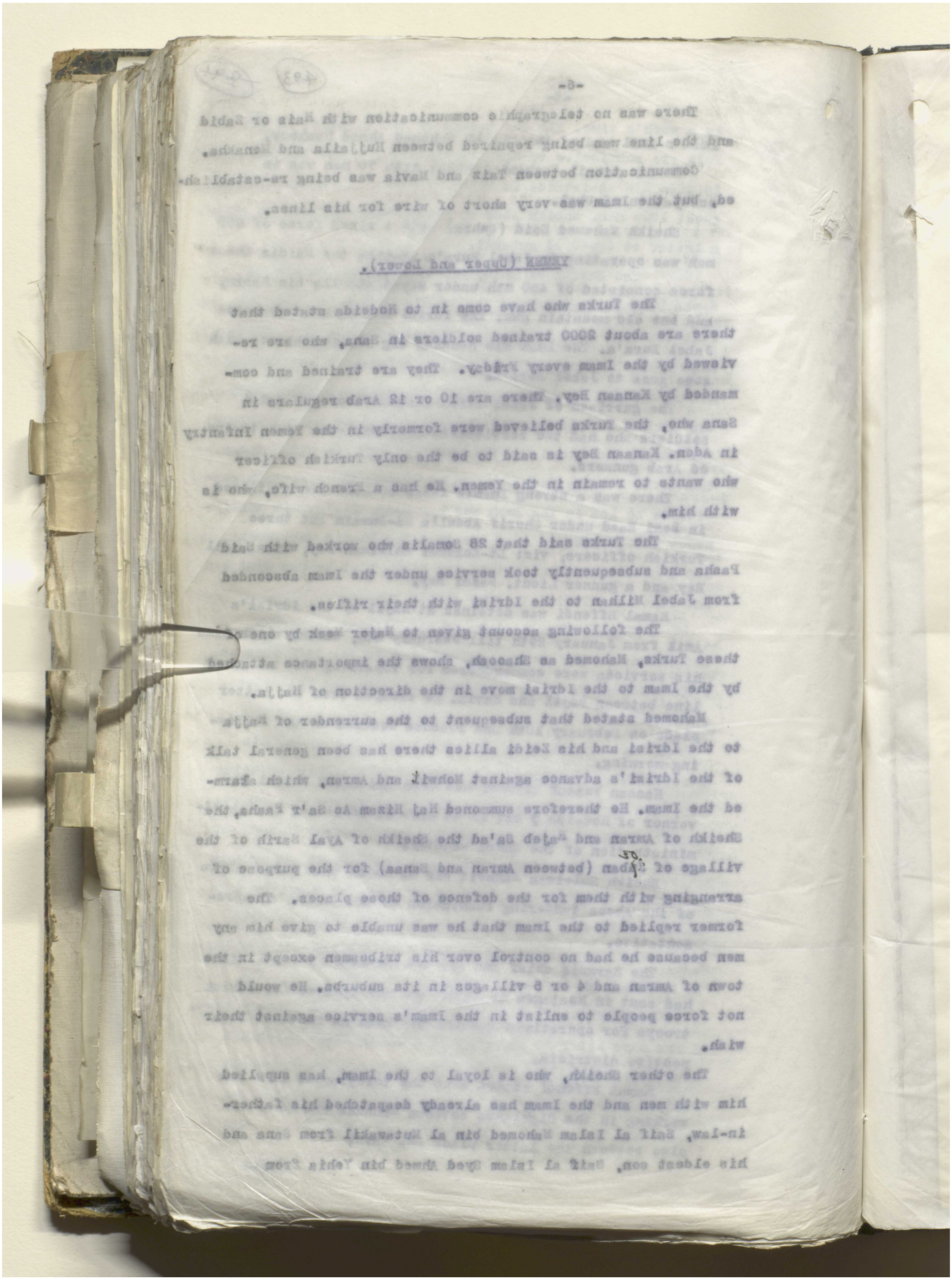

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Shahara to the Hajja front. The Imam's father-in-law is said, however, to have no interest in this fighting owing to his relationship with Nasir Mabkhoot, the principal Sheikh of the Hashid, who is leading the Idrisi force. The Imam's father-in-law is married to Nasir Mabkhoot's sister.

Mohamed as Shaoosh says that Haj Hizam As Sa'r and the majority of the Hashid and Bakil and Arhab are ill-disposed towards the Imam and are in collusion with the Idrisi. In fact says Mahomed the whole country hate the Imam on account of his harsh treatment and grasping nature.

In a letter dated at Taiz on or about 6th February 1920/one to Fareh Saeed in Aden, Sheikh Mahomed Hassan of Mirab referring to taxes levied by the Imam states that the people of Hujjuryia are paying 50 % more than those demanded by the Turks; that the inhabitants of Udain from 100-200 % more and the tribesmen at Shurman 75 % more. In short, he adds, that the tribesmen generally are being terribly oppressed.

Sheikh Mahomed Hassan observes in the same letter that he can say on good authority that the Imam has ambitions in the direction of Mecca and Medina.

Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed Noman of Hujjaryia is said to have returned from his visit to the Imam at Sana and is at present at Turba. He recently summoned the Maktari Sheikhs with a view to demanding payment of taxes for the Imam.

It would appear that Mahomed Noman gave an undertaking both to the Imam and to his Amil at Taiz (Ibn Vizier) that he would collect taxes in the Maktari country. The uncle of Mahomed Noman, Sheikh Abdul Wahab, is said to have taken umbrage at the attention shown to his nephew by the Imam during the former's visit to Sana and owing to his being entrusted with Maktari affairs. In consequence he has started intrigues in the Yussufian country with its principal Sheikh, Abdul Jalil Jazin. He has liberated Abdul Jalil's son who was kept by him as hostage on behalf of the Imam and instigated him to oppose the Imam's designs in the Maktari country. All the other hostages in the keeping of Abdul Wahab were sent to Taiz at

the

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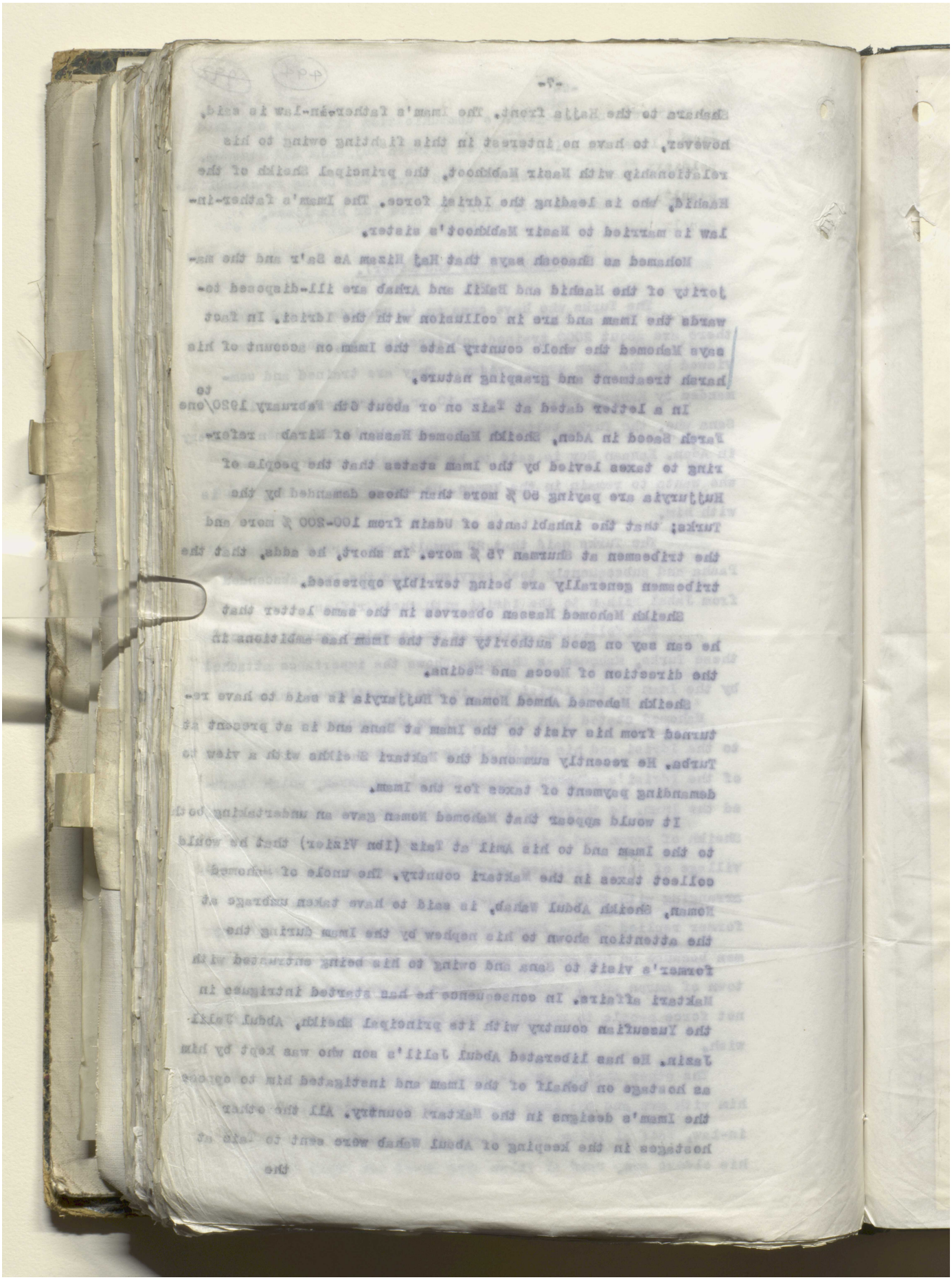

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the request of the Amil, Ibn Vizier. The latter not finding the son of the Yussufian Sheikh amongst them, sent some soldiers to that Sheikh to demand his surrender but without result. A second detachment was sent but was again ignominously turned out of the country by Abdul Jalil.

The Sheikhs in the Maktari and Yussufi districts are reported to be taking measures with a view to repel Zaidi aggression, and that Sheikh Abdul Wahab is secretly co-operating with them.

The Yussufi Sheikh wrote to us for assistance a few days ago but his request was politely refused.

A secret agent who lately visited Mawia reports that the whole of the Mavia district is under the domination of the Imam who is represented by an Amil, Syyed Hassan Warith of Damar. Kayed bin Saleh, the nephew and successor of the former but now decrepit old Sheikh, Ibn Nasir Mukbil who has gone into retirement, has no authority whatever.

The agent observed no activity or concentration of Zeidi forces at Mavia. He estimates the strength of the present garrison from 200 to 300, all Zaidis. Telegraphic communication has not yet been established with Taiz.

Sickness accompanied by heavy mortality is said to prevail among the Zaidi troops who had come down to Hais and Mokha. A Company of fresh soldiers was recently sent from Sana in relief, but sickness has held them up at Taiz.

The nature of the sickness is not known, but cholera is reported to be prevalent among the Zaidi soldiers in Mavia and Taiz.

One of the Sheikhs of the Lower Yemen, Abdul Hak bin Mahomed Al Aghbari and the Nakibs of Du Mahomed and Du Husein have written letters expressing their desire to be placed under our protection. They are members of the old Arab Confederacy. They will be given a suitable reply.

Overtures have also been made by the Inyani Sheikhs in the Yemen asking to come under our protection. I have instructed the Officer Commanding, Nobat Dakim, to send

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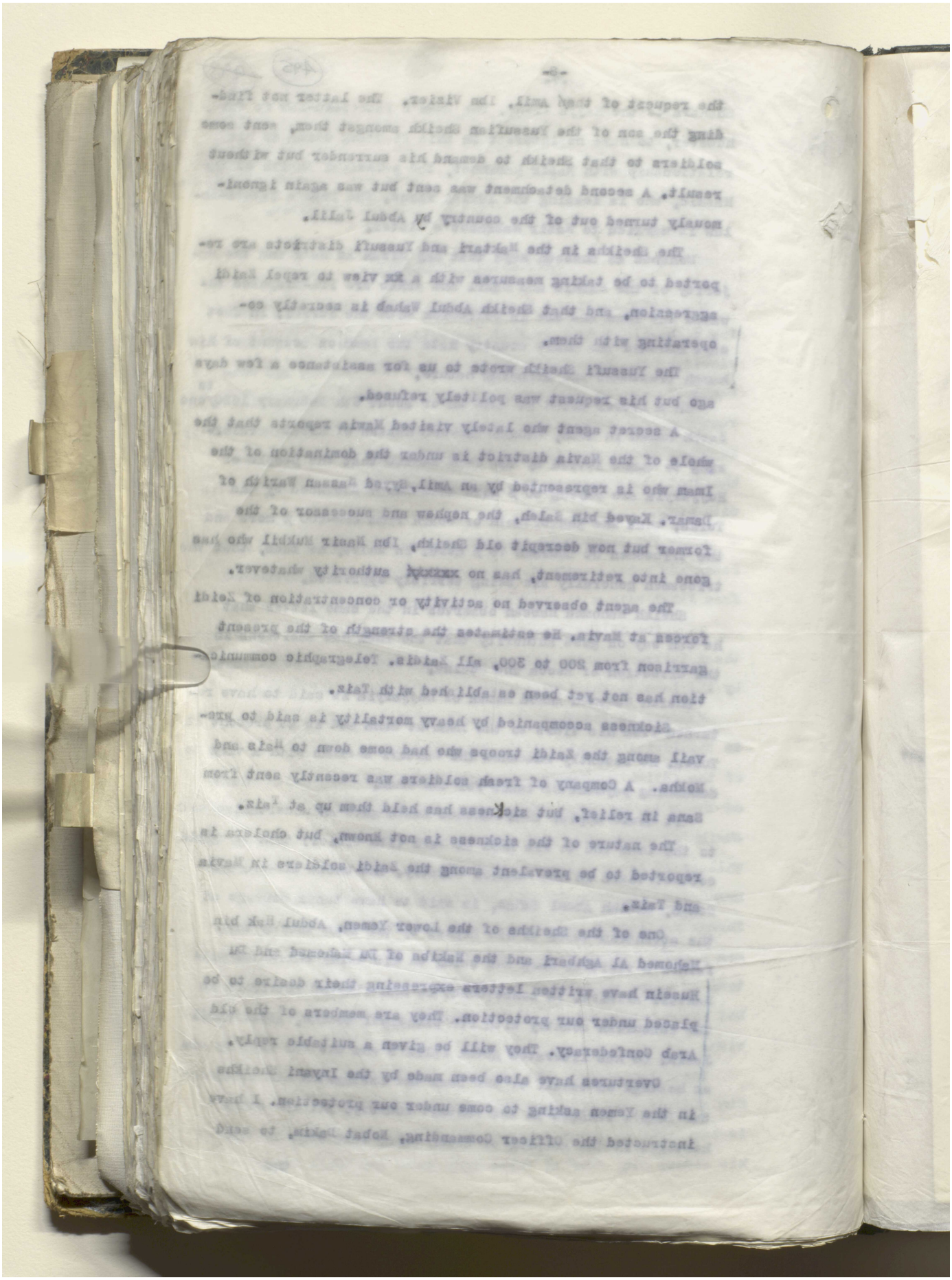

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some polite answer which commits us to nothing.

ASIR.

A news agent at Zaidya reports that the army of the King of the Hedjaz has occupied the Kaza of Thumir, Zehran, Bani Shahar and the neighbourhood of Abha. Abha itself is not taken but the Sheikhs and the son of Ibn Ayad are in favour of the King with whom they have been communicating and exchanging presents through Kunfida. Major Salim Effendi has gone in charge of the Idrisi's expedition against Rijal Abna' in the direction of Mahayel.

I have heard nothing either from the Idrisi himself or Captain Fazluddin regarding this. The latter has, however, telegraphed to me to say that he is coming to Aden to confer on important matters.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

In spite of the Imam's promise not to go beyond Dala in our Protectorate, his troops have advanced from Dala and occupied Halmin, Mahalai and Hajeli and his representatives have come as far as Thumer to demand the submission of the Kotaibi and Alawi tribes.

The Alawi Sheikh who has been repeatedly writing us to send our troops to protect him, has now written to say that he is tired of writing to us but that he still sticks to his friendship for us. The Kotaibi has also written asking us to send our troops to Suleik. He says that he does not want our reply but wants to see our men at Suleik as soon as possible. A party of Zaidis under Sayed Yehia Al Ansi have come down to Thumer in company of Abdul Hamid and stayed in the house of Mokbil Abdulla, nephew of the Kotaibi Sheikh. The Sayed then summoned the Kotaibi and Alawi Sheikhs to come to him. The former declined to do so and hid himself in the mountains. The latter came with a sacrifice in order to save his country from being looted. He was not allowed to return home and has been taken to Kharafa, a village near Dala. Mokbil Abdalla is

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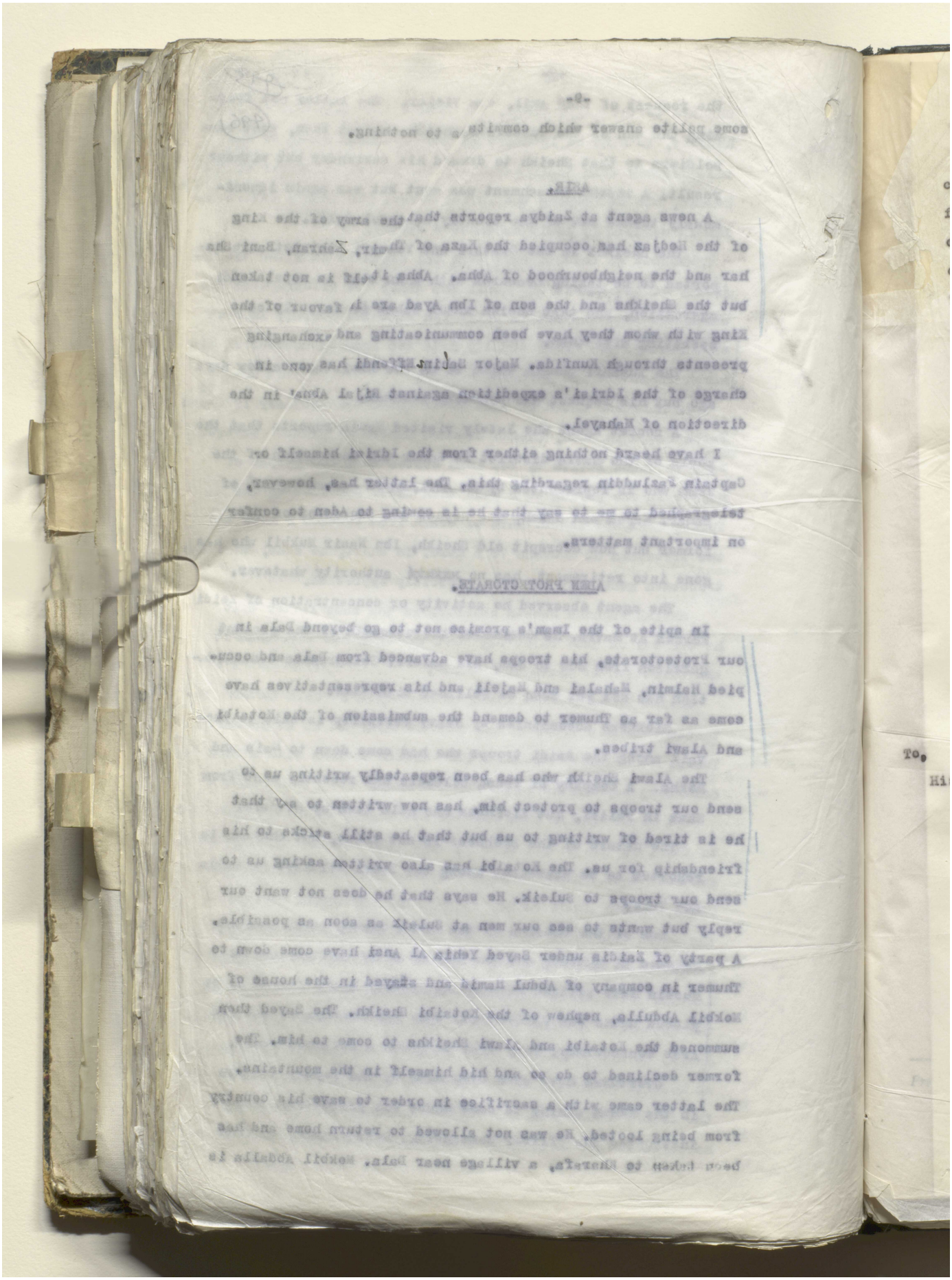

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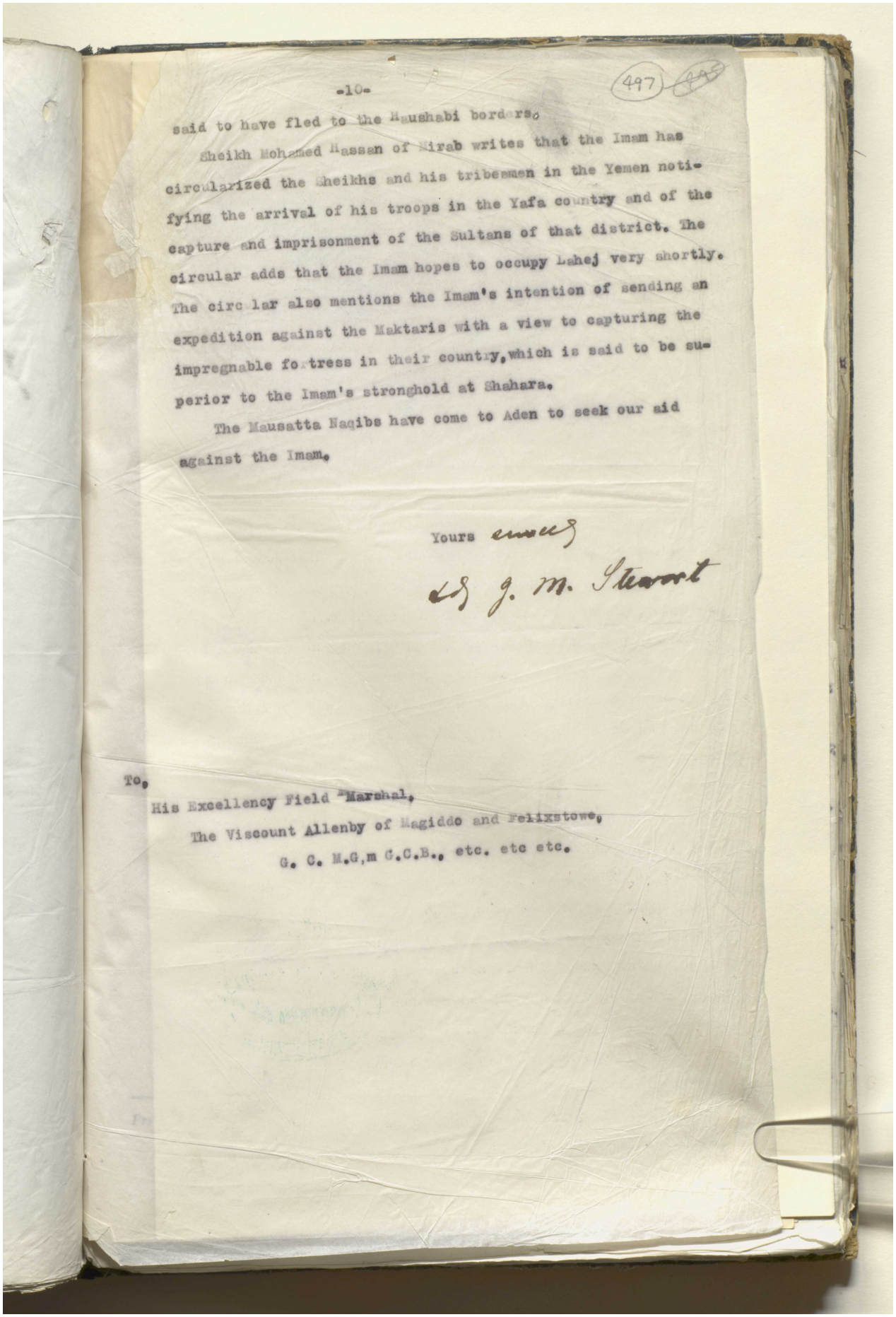

said to have fled to the Haushabi borders.

Sheikh Mohamed Hassan of Mirab writes that the Imam has circularized the Sheikhs and his tribesmen in the Yemen notifying the arrival of his troops in the Yafa country and of the capture and imprisonment of the Sultans of that district. The circular adds that the Imam hopes to occupy Lahej very shortly. The circular also mentions the Imam's intention of sending an expedition against the Maktaris with a view to capturing the impregnable fortress in their country, which is said to be superior to the Imam's stronghold at Shahara.

The Mausatta Naqibs have come to Aden to seek our aid against the Imam.

Yours ever
sd/ J. M. Stewart

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
The Viscount Allenby of Magiddo and Felixstowe,
G. C. M.G.,m C.C.B., etc. etc etc.

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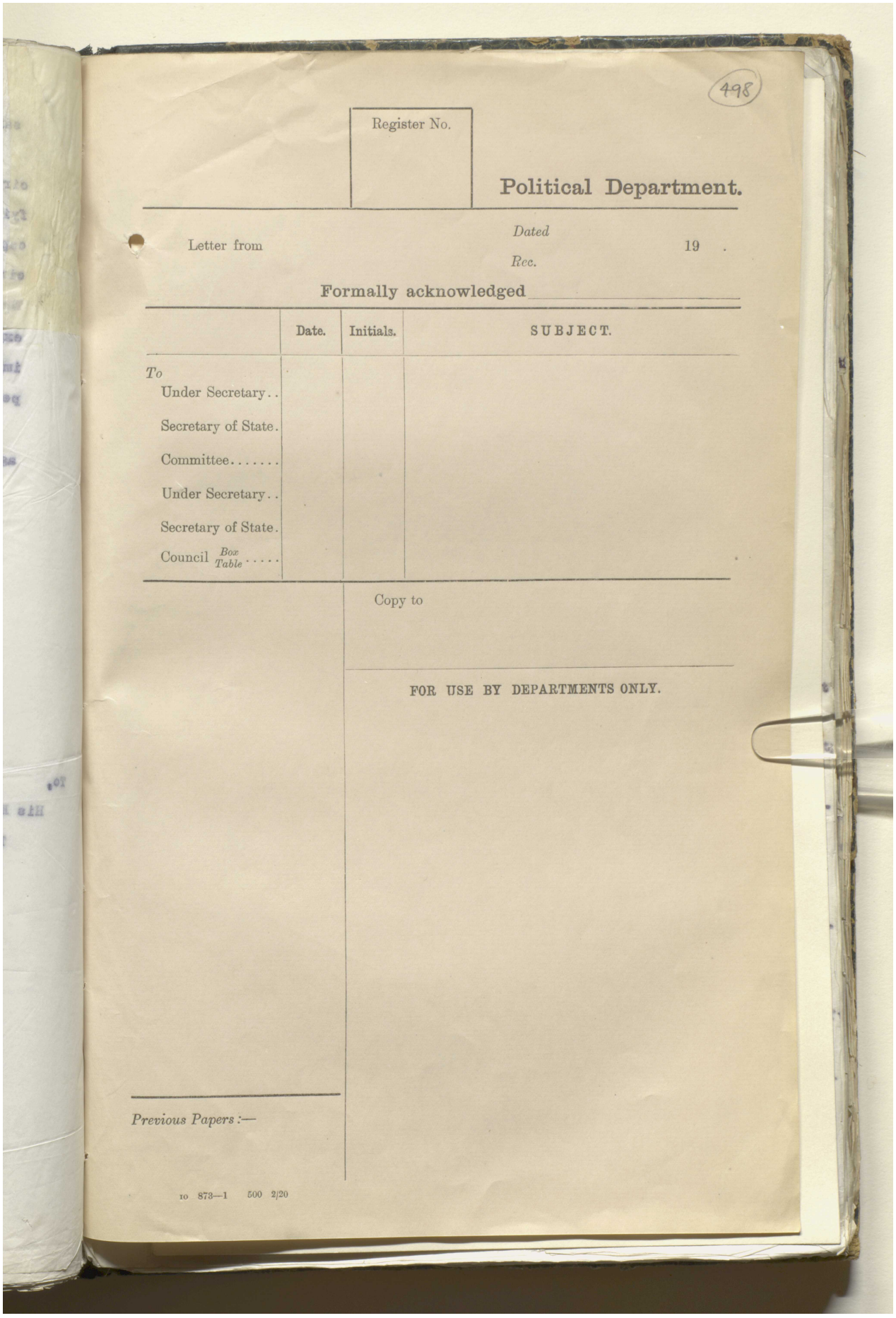

498

Register No.

Political Department.

Letter from — *Dated* — 19 .

Rec.

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
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Secretary of State.			
Committee.....			
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			
Council *Box* / *Table*			

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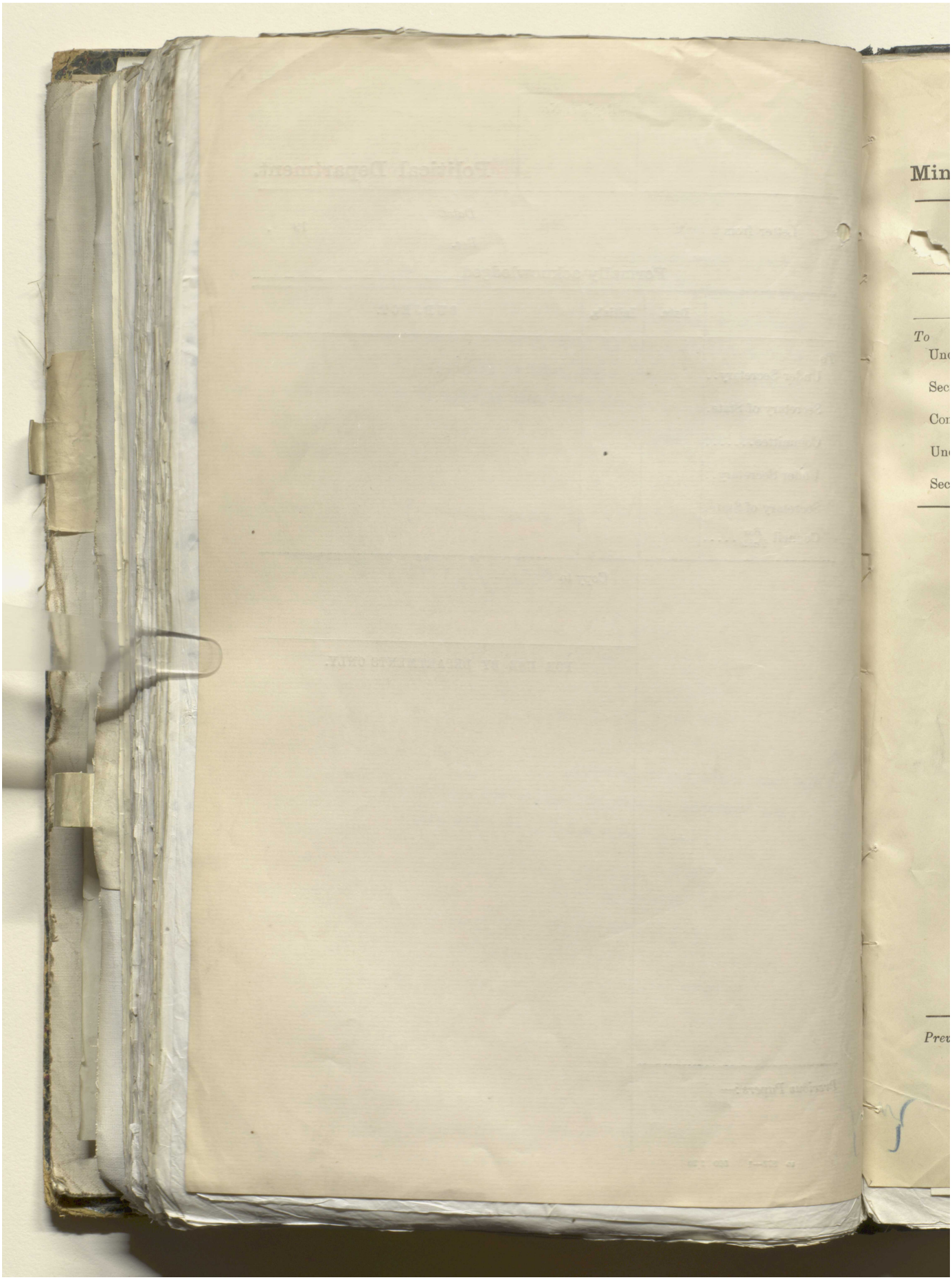

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Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter from F.O. Dated 4/3/ 1920.
Rec. 5/3/

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary..	9/3/20	JES	Aden
Secretary of State.			
Committee.....	/0	AG	Newsletter of 12th February, 1920
Under Secretary..			
Secretary of State.			

Copy to
India 29 April.

FOR INFORMATION.

Pp 1-7 Position of the Idrisi and the Imam in the Tehama. The Imam's influence is growing, and the Idrisi, despite his inferiority in numbers, is rapidly extending his influence.

p. 5. Our successful administration of Hodeida.

pp 7-11. The Imam's threat to the Aden Protectorate. The Resident, Aden draws a gloomy picture of our entire lack of prestige in the Protectorate and in Yemen. This is not altogether consistent with Major Meek's account of our administration of Hodeidah.

JAS 9/3/20
EGO 11/3 MWC 12/3 JES 18/3

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

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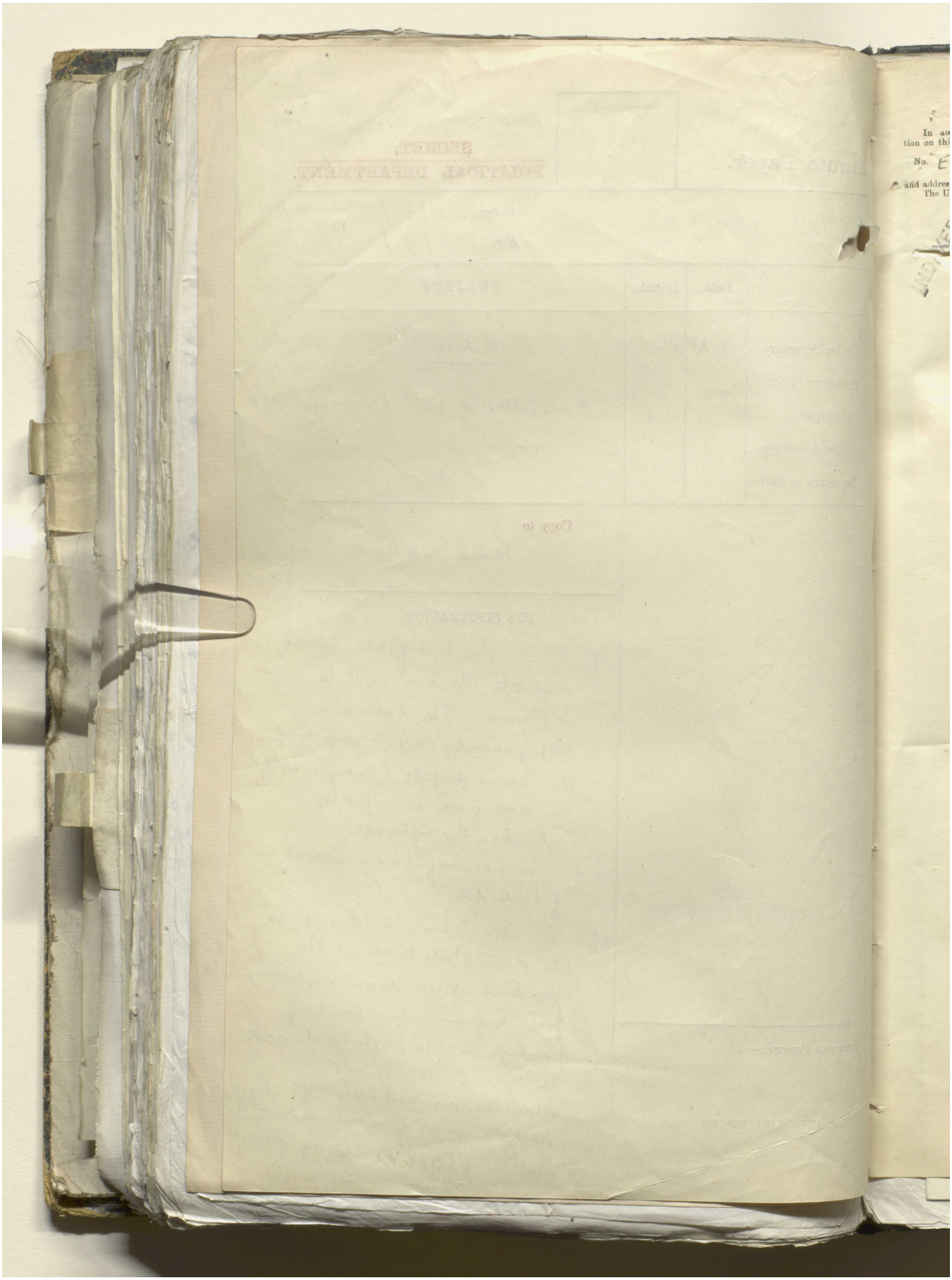

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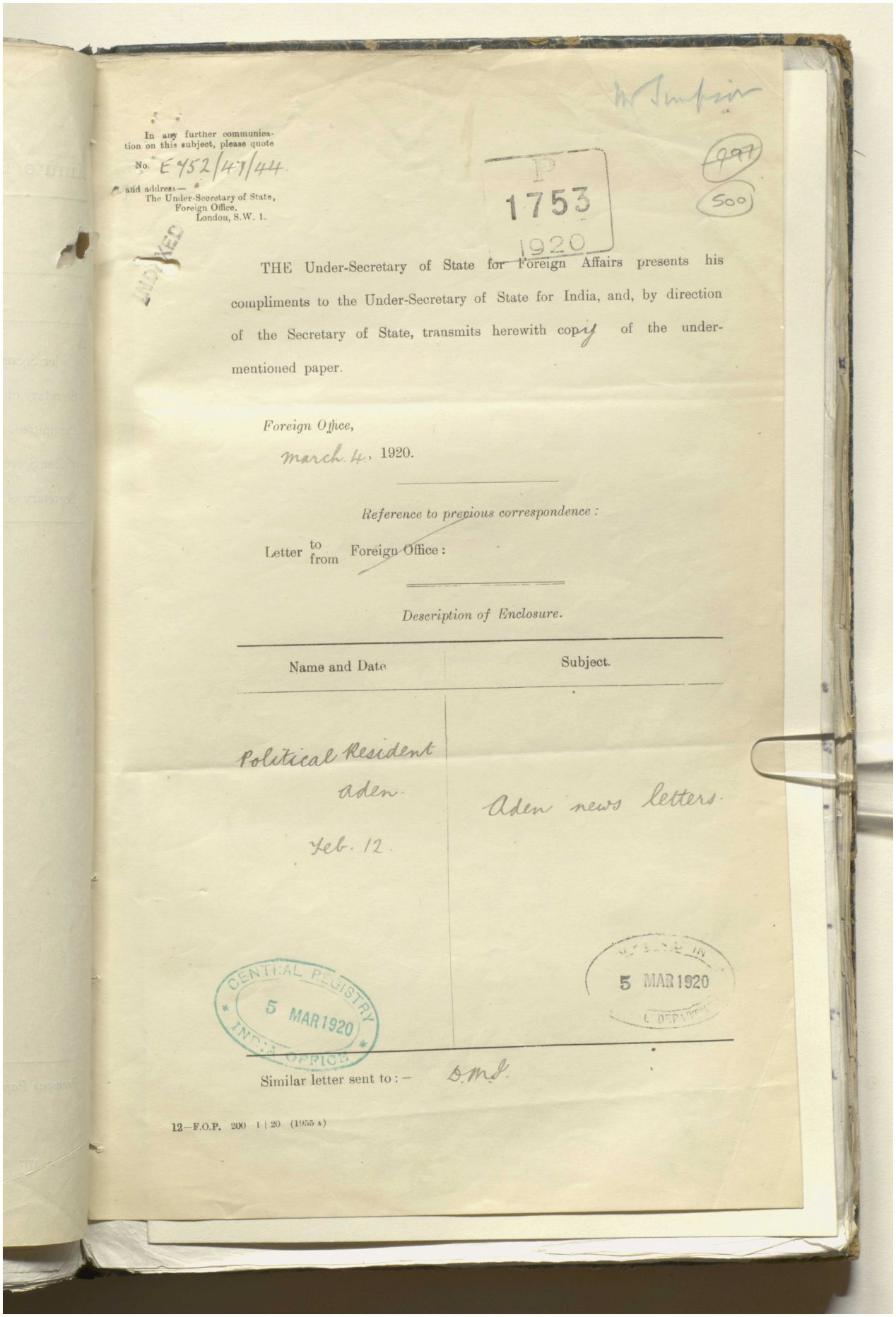

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. E 452/47/44
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

P
1753
1920

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500

MARKED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
March 4, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to / from Foreign Office:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
Political Resident Aden. Feb. 12.	Aden news letters.

CENTRAL REGISTRY
5 MAR 1920
INDIA OFFICE

5 MAR 1920

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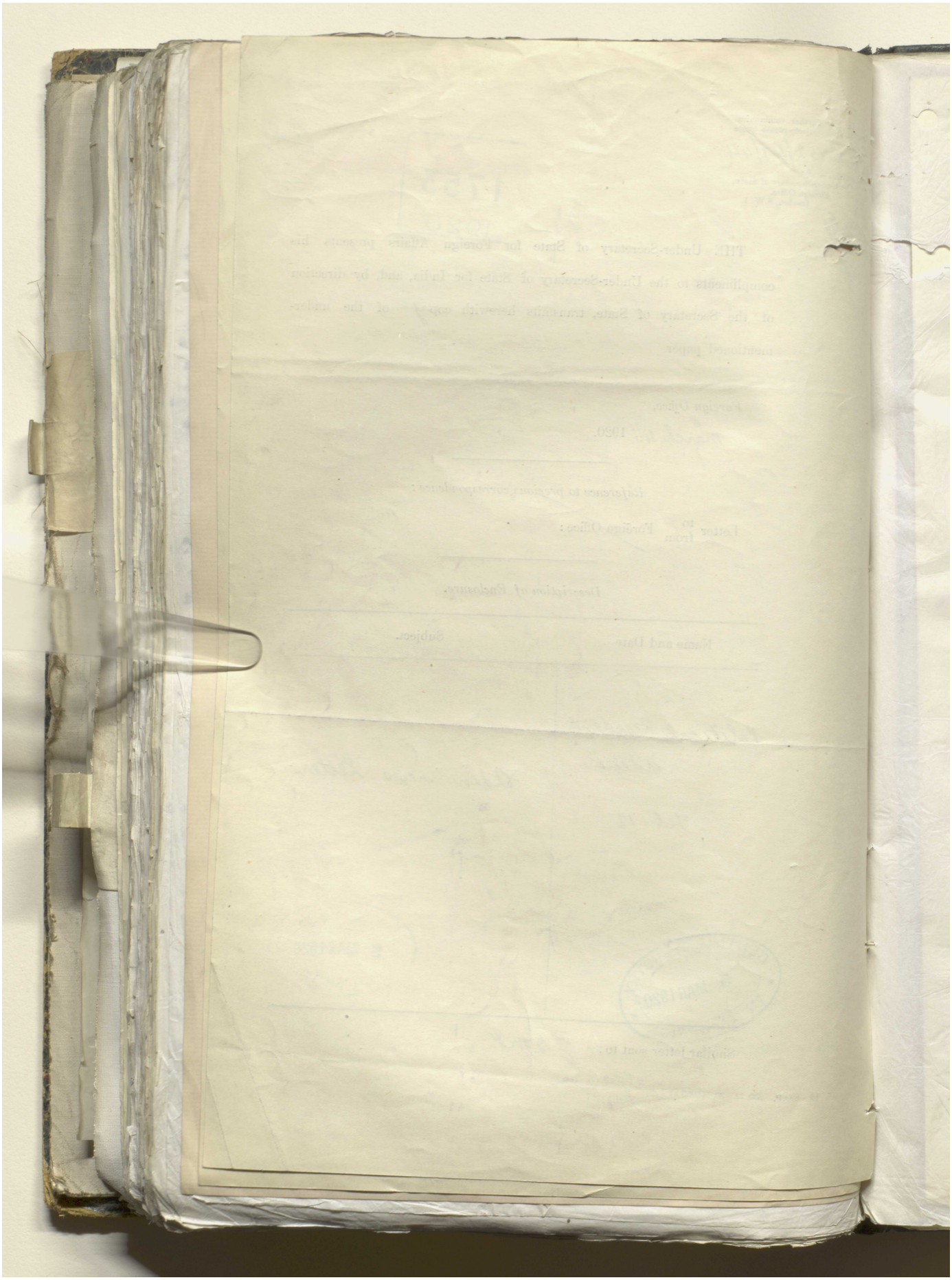

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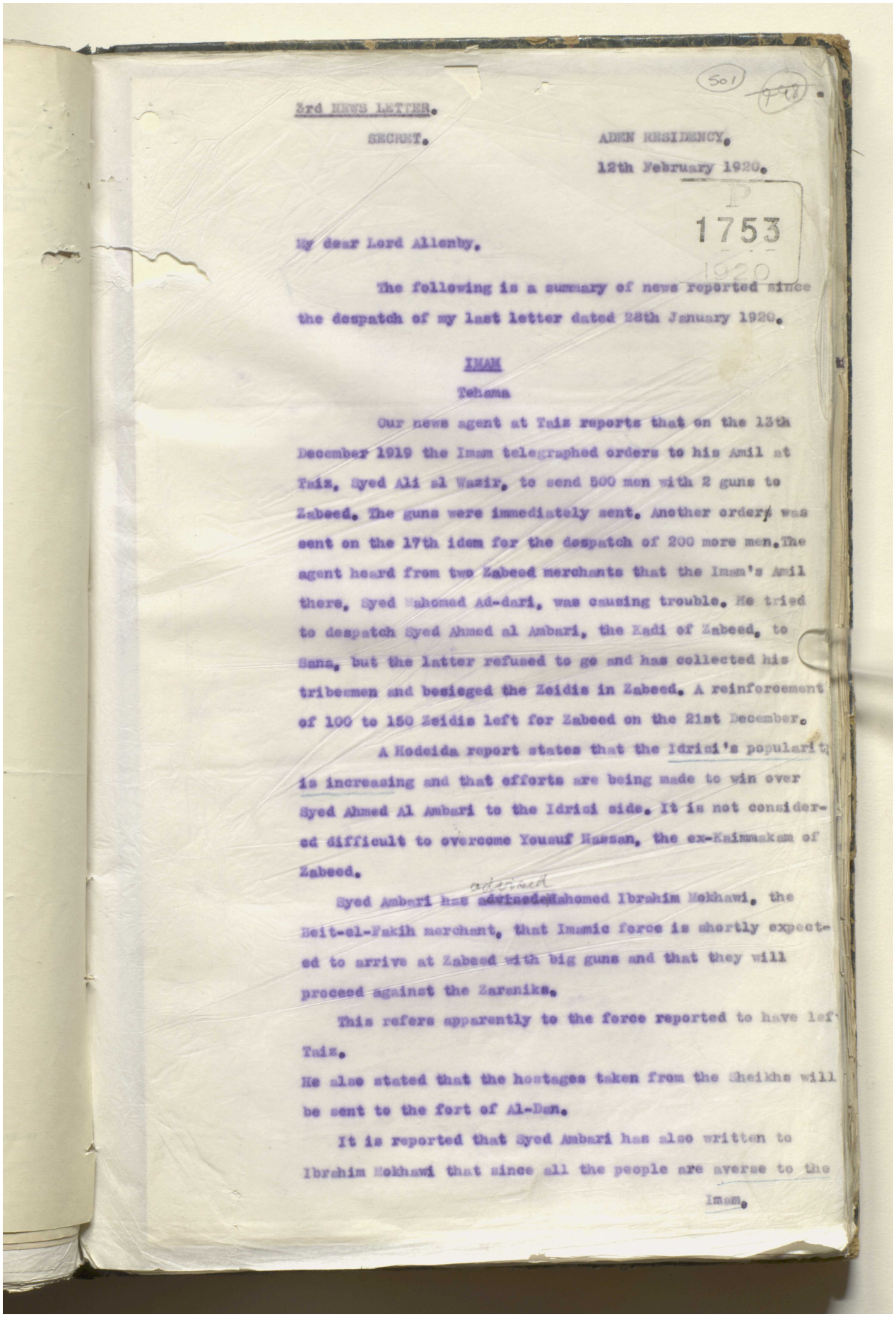

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3rd NEWS LETTER.

SECRET. ADEN RESIDENCY,
12th February 1920.

P
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1920

My dear Lord Allenby,

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of my last letter dated 28th January 1920.

IMAM

Tehama

Our news agent at Taiz reports that on the 13th December 1919 the Imam telegraphed orders to his Amil at Taiz, Syed Ali al Wazir, to send 500 men with 2 guns to Zabeed. The guns were immediately sent. Another order was sent on the 17th idem for the despatch of 200 more men. The agent heard from two Zabeed merchants that the Imam's Amil there, Syed Mahomed Ad-dari, was causing trouble. He tried to despatch Syed Ahmed al Ambari, the Kadi of Zabeed, to Sana, but the latter refused to go and has collected his tribesmen and besieged the Zeidis in Zabeed. A reinforcement of 100 to 150 Zeidis left for Zabeed on the 21st December.

A Hodeida report states that the Idrisi's popularity is increasing and that efforts are being made to win over Syed Ahmed Al Ambari to the Idrisi side. It is not considered difficult to overcome Yousuf Hassan, the ex-Kaimmakam of Zabeed.

Syed Ambari has advised Mahomed Ibrahim Mokhawi, the Beit-el-Fakih merchant, that Imamic force is shortly expected to arrive at Zabeed with big guns and that they will proceed against the Zaraniks.

This refers apparently to the force reported to have left Taiz.

He also stated that the hostages taken from the Sheikhs will be sent to the fort of Al-Dan.

It is reported that Syed Ambari has also written to Ibrahim Mokhawi that since all the people are averse to the Imam.

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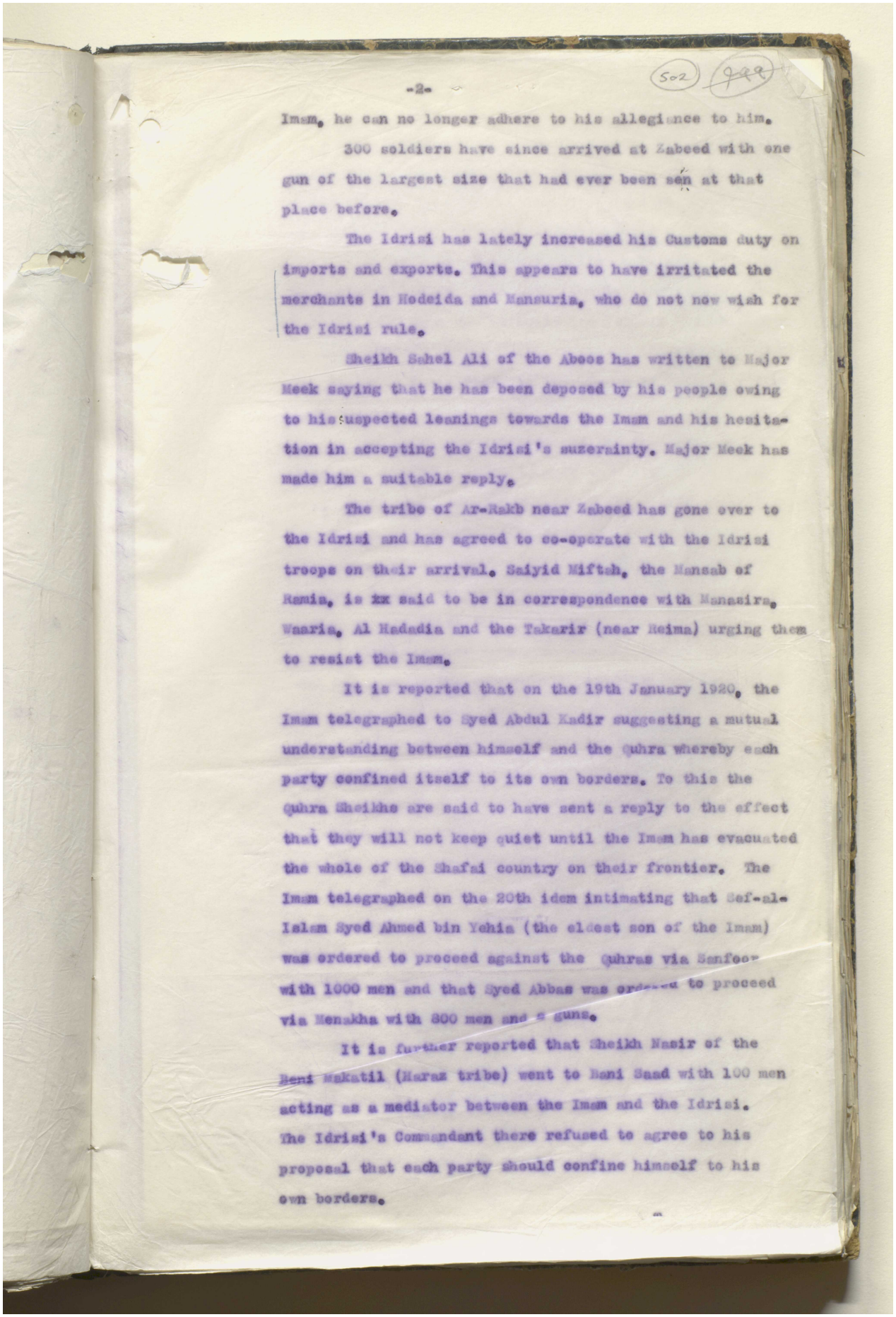

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Imam, he can no longer adhere to his allegiance to him.

300 soldiers have since arrived at Zabeed with one gun of the largest size that had ever been seen at that place before.

The Idrisi has lately increased his Customs duty on imports and exports. This appears to have irritated the merchants in Hodeida and Mansuria, who do not now wish for the Idrisi rule.

Sheikh Sahel Ali of the Abeos has written to Major Meek saying that he has been deposed by his people owing to his suspected leanings towards the Imam and his hesitation in accepting the Idrisi's suzerainty. Major Meek has made him a suitable reply.

The tribe of Ar-Rakb near Zabeed has gone over to the Idrisi and has agreed to co-operate with the Idrisi troops on their arrival. Saiyid Miftah, the Mansab of Remia, is said to be in correspondence with Manasira, Waaria, Al Hadadia and the Takarir (near Reima) urging them to resist the Imam.

It is reported that on the 19th January 1920, the Imam telegraphed to Syed Abdul Kadir suggesting a mutual understanding between himself and the Quhra whereby each party confined itself to its own borders. To this the Quhra Sheikhs are said to have sent a reply to the effect that they will not keep quiet until the Imam has evacuated the whole of the Shafai country on their frontier. The Imam telegraphed on the 20th idem intimating that Saif-al-Islam Syed Ahmed bin Yehia (the eldest son of the Imam) was ordered to proceed against the Quhras via Sanfeer with 1000 men and that Syed Abbas was ordered to proceed via Menakha with 800 men and 2 guns.

It is further reported that Sheikh Nasir of the Beni Makatil (Haraz tribe) went to Bani Saad with 100 men acting as a mediator between the Imam and the Idrisi. The Idrisi's Commandant there refused to agree to his proposal that each party should confine himself to his own borders.

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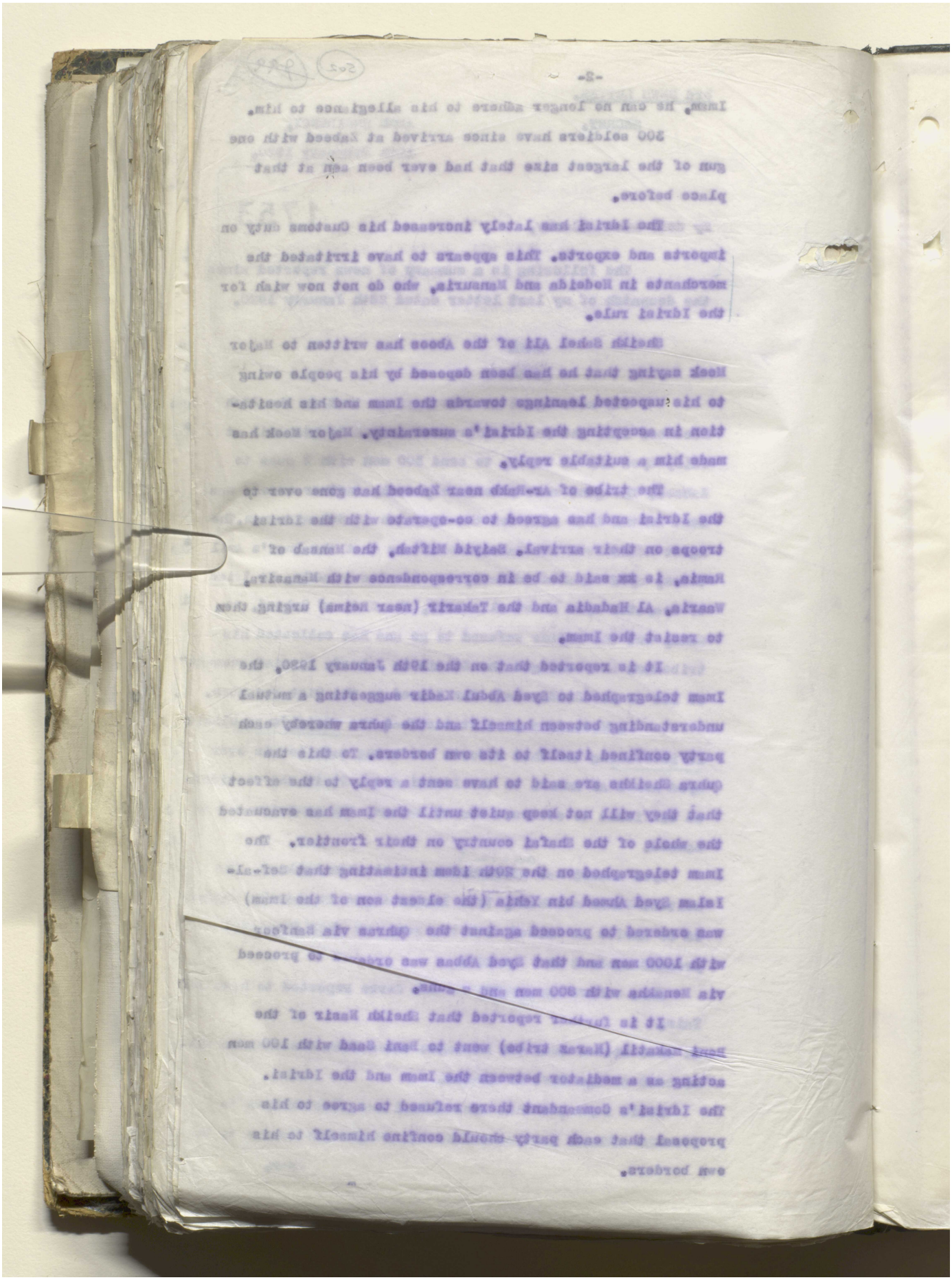

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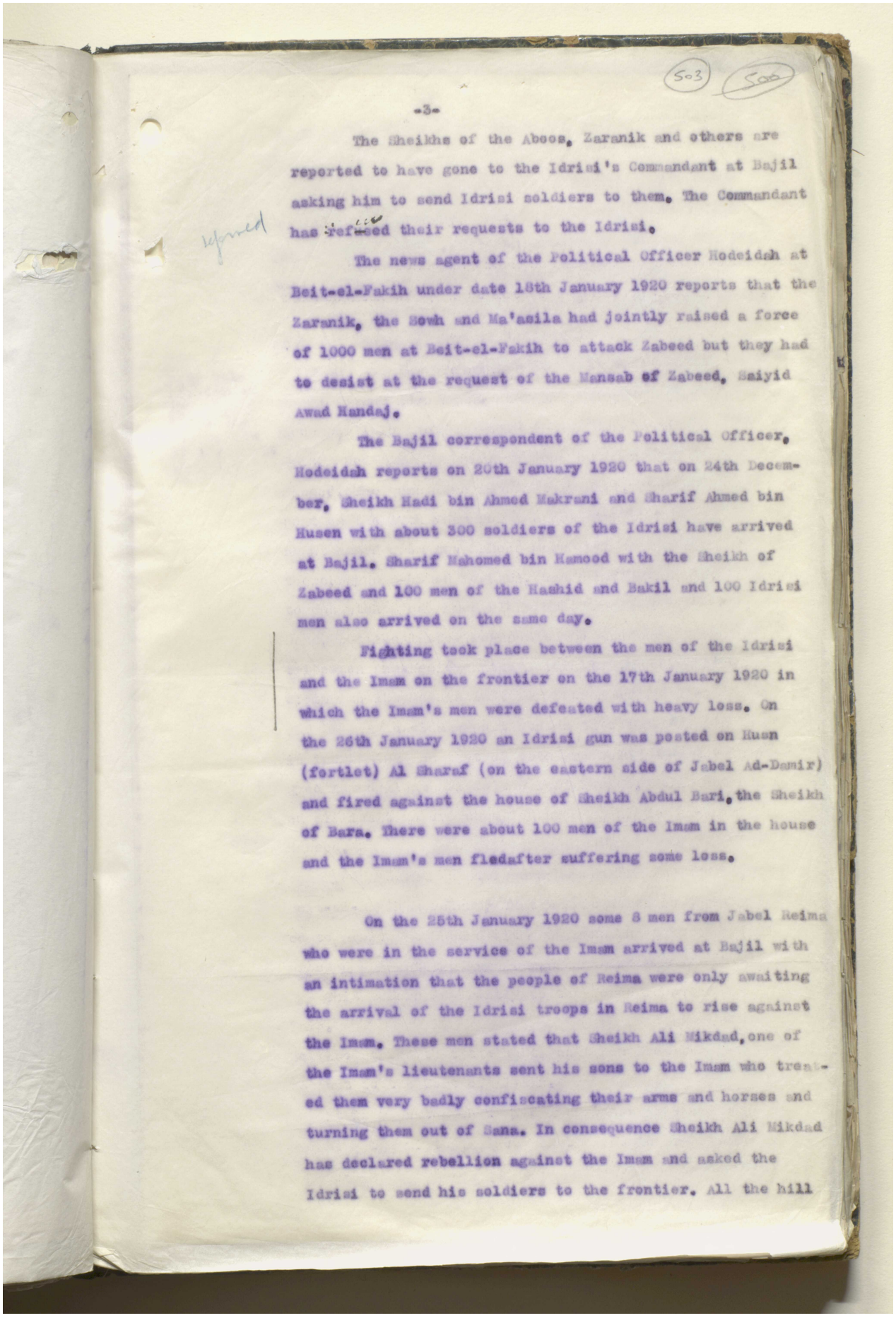

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The Sheikhs of the Abeos, Zaranik and others are reported to have gone to the Idrisi's Commandant at Bajil asking him to send Idrisi soldiers to them. The Commandant has referred their requests to the Idrisi.

The news agent of the Political Officer Hodeidah at Beit-el-Fakih under date 18th January 1920 reports that the Zaranik, the Sowh and Ma'asila had jointly raised a force of 1000 men at Beit-el-Fakih to attack Zabeed but they had to desist at the request of the Mansab of Zabeed, Saiyid Awad Mandaj.

The Bajil correspondent of the Political Officer, Hodeidah reports on 20th January 1920 that on 24th December, Sheikh Hadi bin Ahmed Makrani and Sharif Ahmed bin Husen with about 300 soldiers of the Idrisi have arrived at Bajil. Sharif Mahomed bin Mamood with the Sheikh of Zabeed and 100 men of the Hashid and Bakil and 100 Idrisi men also arrived on the same day.

Fighting took place between the men of the Idrisi and the Imam on the frontier on the 17th January 1920 in which the Imam's men were defeated with heavy loss. On the 26th January 1920 an Idrisi gun was posted on Husn (fortlet) Al Sharaf (on the eastern side of Jabel Ad-Damir) and fired against the house of Sheikh Abdul Bari, the Sheikh of Bara. There were about 100 men of the Imam in the house and the Imam's men fledafter suffering some loss.

On the 25th January 1920 some 8 men from Jabel Reima who were in the service of the Imam arrived at Bajil with an intimation that the people of Reima were only awaiting the arrival of the Idrisi troops in Reima to rise against the Imam. These men stated that Sheikh Ali Mikdad, one of the Imam's lieutenants sent his sons to the Imam who treated them very badly confiscating their arms and horses and turning them out of Sana. In consequence Sheikh Ali Mikdad has declared rebellion against the Imam and asked the Idrisi to send his soldiers to the frontier. All the hill

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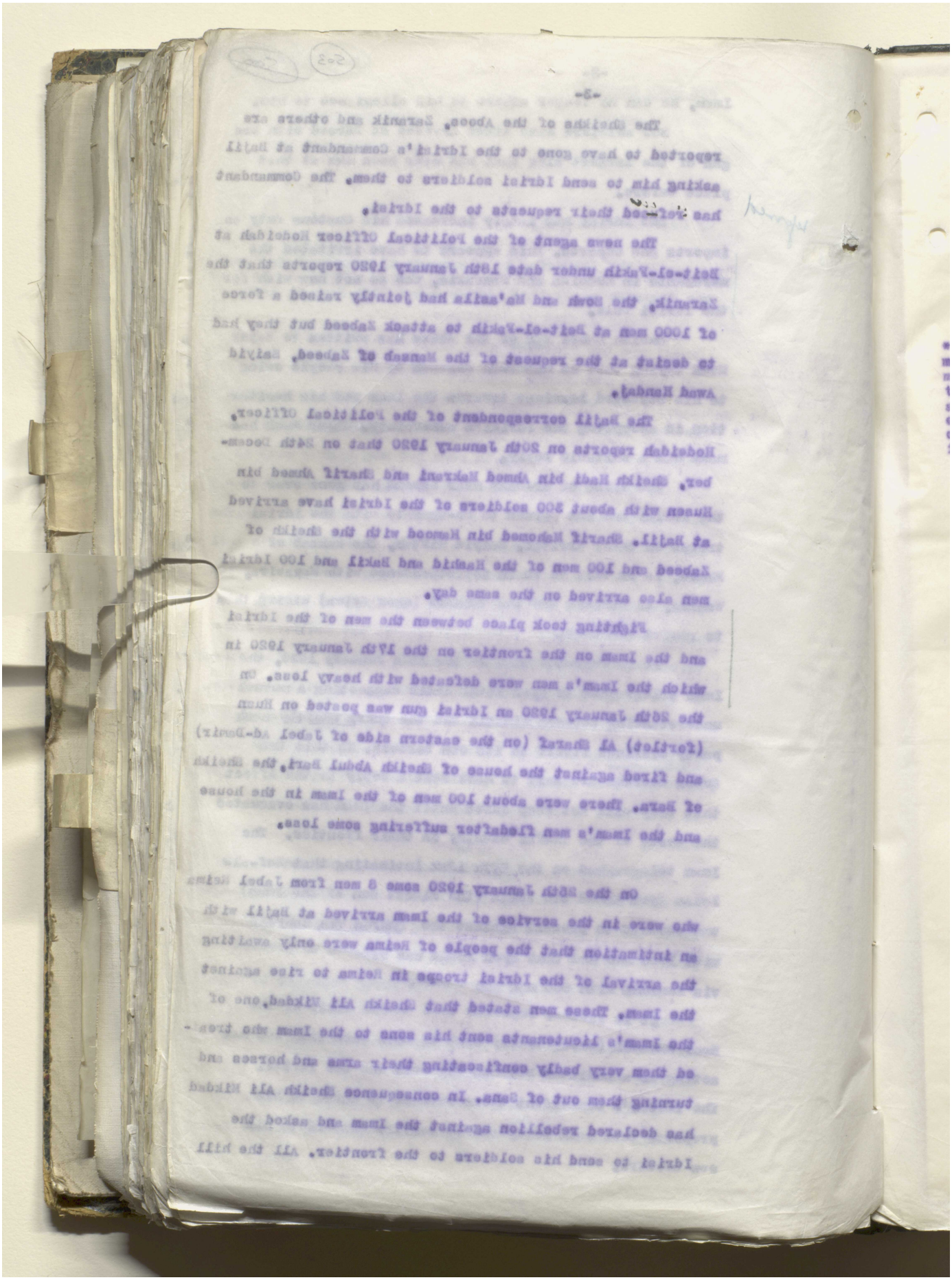

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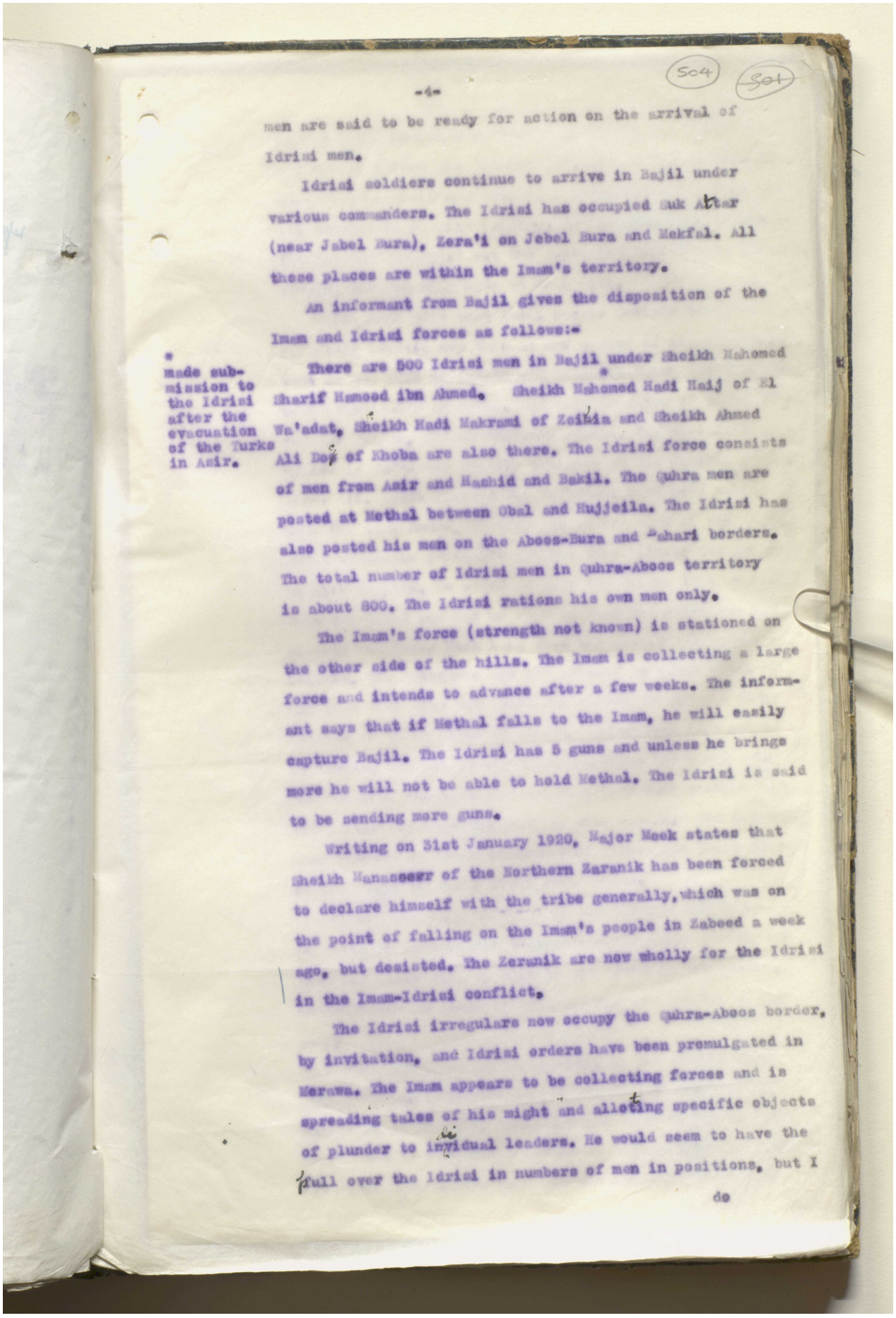

men are said to be ready for action on the arrival of Idrisi men.

Idrisi soldiers continue to arrive in Bajil under various commanders. The Idrisi has occupied Suk Attar (near Jabel Bura), Zera'i on Jebel Bura and Mekfal. All these places are within the Imam's territory.

An informant from Bajil gives the disposition of the Imam and Idrisi forces as follows:-

* made submission to the Idrisi after the evacuation of the Turks in Asir.

There are 500 Idrisi men in Bajil under Sheikh Mahomed Sharif Hamood ibn Ahmed.* Sheikh Mahomed Hadi Haij of El Wa'adat, Sheikh Hadi Makrami of Zeikia and Sheikh Ahmed Ali Dej of Khoba are also there. The Idrisi force consists of men from Asir and Hashid and Bakil. The Quhra men are posted at Methal between Obal and Hujjeila. The Idrisi has also posted his men on the Abeos-Bura and Dhari borders. The total number of Idrisi men in Quhra-Abeos territory is about 800. The Idrisi rations his own men only.

The Imam's force (strength not known) is stationed on the other side of the hills. The Imam is collecting a large force and intends to advance after a few weeks. The informant says that if Methal falls to the Imam, he will easily capture Bajil. The Idrisi has 5 guns and unless he brings more he will not be able to hold Methal. The Idrisi is said to be sending more guns.

Writing on 31st January 1920, Major Meek states that Sheikh Manassser of the Northern Zaranik has been forced to declare himself with the tribe generally, which was on the point of falling on the Imam's people in Zabeed a week ago, but desisted. The Zeranik are now wholly for the Idrisi in the Imam-Idrisi conflict.

The Idrisi irregulars now occupy the Quhra-Abeos border, by invitation, and Idrisi orders have been promulgated in Merawa. The Imam appears to be collecting forces and is spreading tales of his might and alloting specific objects of plunder to individual leaders. He would seem to have the full over the Idrisi in numbers of men in positions, but I

do

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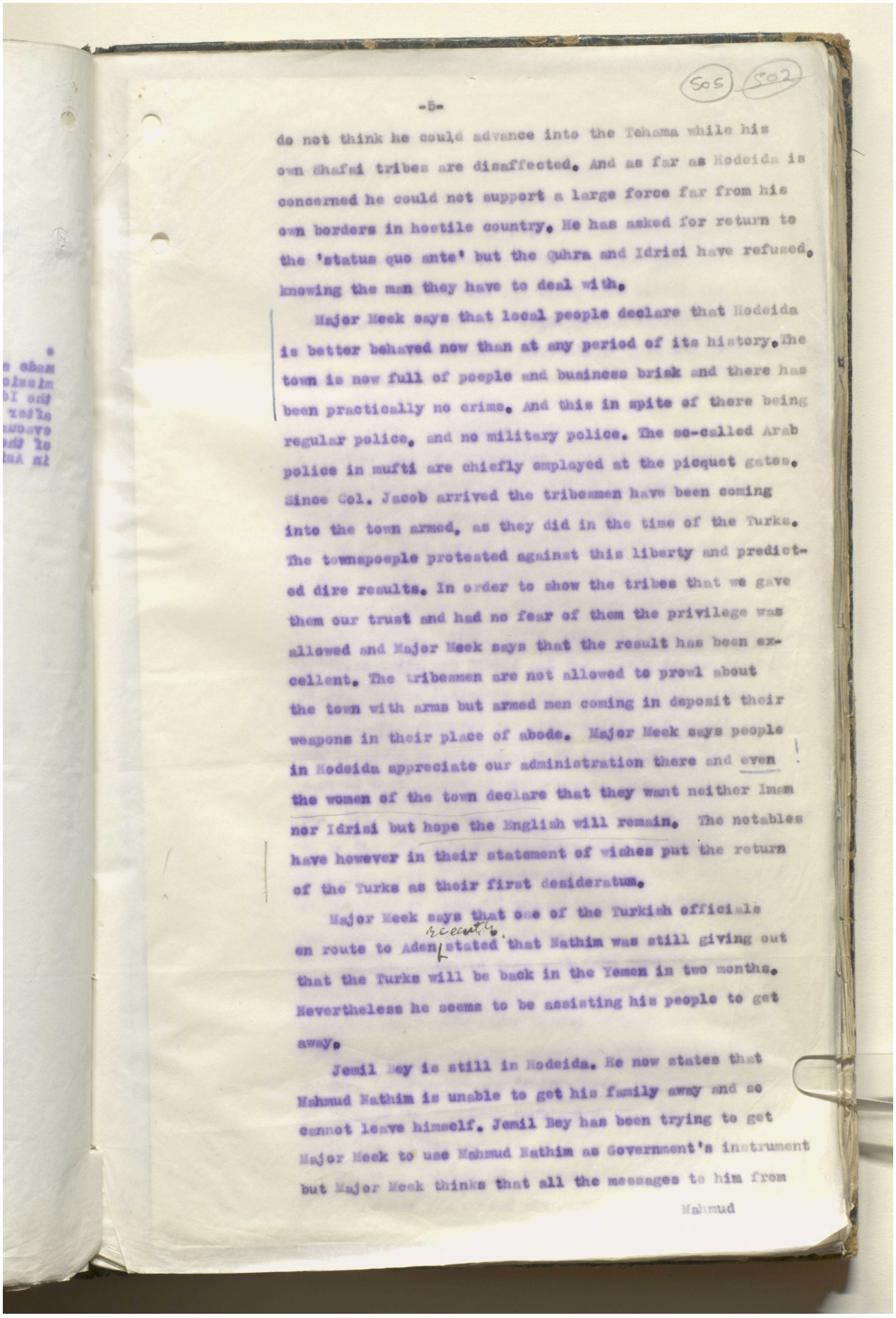

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-5-

do not think he could advance into the Tehama while his own Shafai tribes are disaffected. And as far as Hodeida is concerned he could not support a large force far from his own borders in hostile country. He has asked for return to the 'status quo ante' but the Quhra and Idrisi have refused, knowing the man they have to deal with.

Major Meek says that local people declare that Hodeida is better behaved now than at any period of its history. The town is now full of people and business brisk and there has been practically no crime. And this in spite of there being regular police, and no military police. The so-called Arab police in mufti are chiefly employed at the picquet gates. Since Col. Jacob arrived the tribesmen have been coming into the town armed, as they did in the time of the Turks. The townspeople protested against this liberty and predicted dire results. In order to show the tribes that we gave them our trust and had no fear of them the privilege was allowed and Major Meek says that the result has been excellent. The tribesmen are not allowed to prowl about the town with arms but armed men coming in deposit their weapons in their place of abode. Major Meek says people in Hodeida appreciate our administration there and even the women of the town declare that they want neither Imam nor Idrisi but hope the English will remain. The notables have however in their statement of wishes put the return of the Turks as their first desideratum.

Major Meek says that one of the Turkish officials en route to Aden recently stated that Nathim was still giving out that the Turks will be back in the Yemen in two months. Nevertheless he seems to be assisting his people to get away.

Jemil Bey is still in Hodeida. He now states that Mahmud Nathim is unable to get his family away and so cannot leave himself. Jemil Bey has been trying to get Major Meek to use Mahmud Nathim as Government's instrument but Major Meek thinks that all the messages to him from

Mahmud

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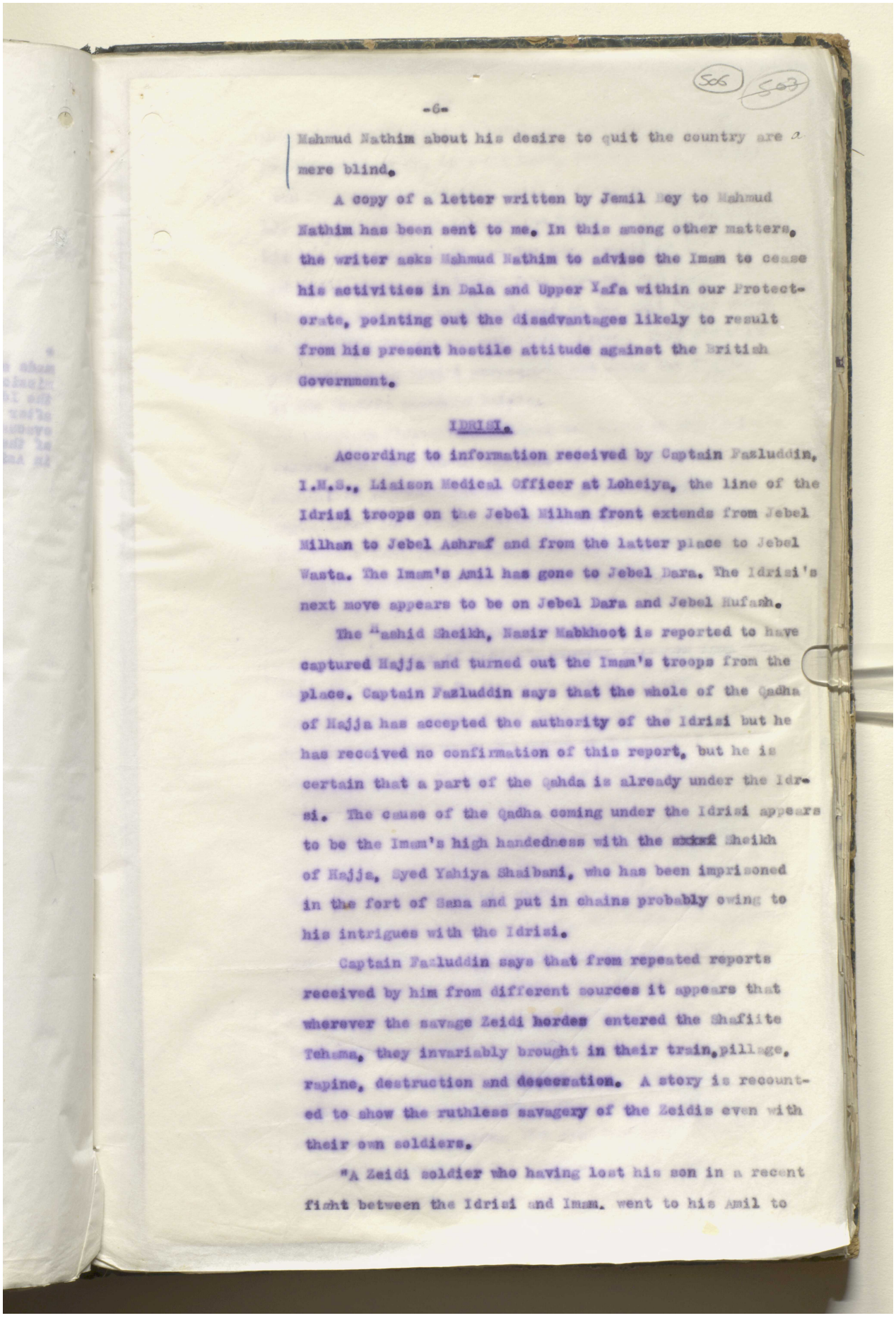

Mahmud Nathim about his desire to quit the country are a mere blind.

A copy of a letter written by Jemil Bey to Mahmud Nathim has been sent to me. In this among other matters, the writer asks Mahmud Nathim to advise the Imam to cease his activities in Dala and Upper Yafa within our Protectorate, pointing out the disadvantages likely to result from his present hostile attitude against the British Government.

IDRISI.

According to information received by Captain Fazluddin, I.M.S., Liaison Medical Officer at Loheiya, the line of the Idrisi troops on the Jebel Milhan front extends from Jebel Milhan to Jebel Ashraf and from the latter place to Jebel Wasta. The Imam's Amil has gone to Jebel Dara. The Idrisi's next move appears to be on Jebel Dara and Jebel Hufash.

The Rashid Sheikh, Nasir Makhkhoot is reported to have captured Hajja and turned out the Imam's troops from the place. Captain Fazluddin says that the whole of the Qadha of Hajja has accepted the authority of the Idrisi but he has received no confirmation of this report, but he is certain that a part of the Qahda is already under the Idrisi. The cause of the Qadha coming under the Idrisi appears to be the Imam's high handedness with the ~~xxxxx~~ Sheikh of Hajja, Syed Yahiya Shaibani, who has been imprisoned in the fort of Sana and put in chains probably owing to his intrigues with the Idrisi.

Captain Fazluddin says that from repeated reports received by him from different sources it appears that wherever the savage Zeidi hordes entered the Shafiite Tehama, they invariably brought in their train, pillage, rapine, destruction and desecration. A story is recounted to show the ruthless savagery of the Zeidis even with their own soldiers.

"A Zeidi soldier who having lost his son in a recent fight between the Idrisi and Imam, went to his Amil to

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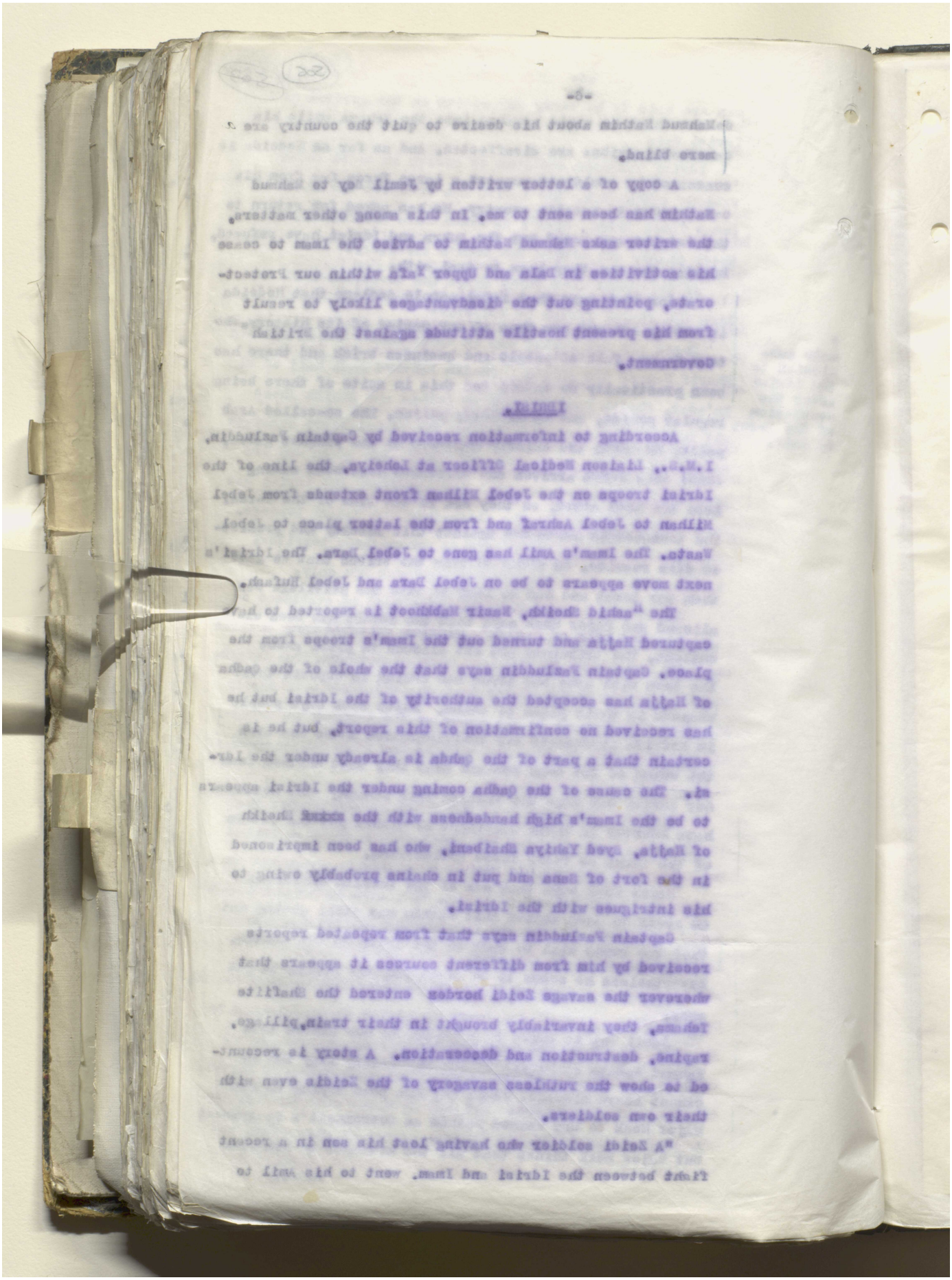

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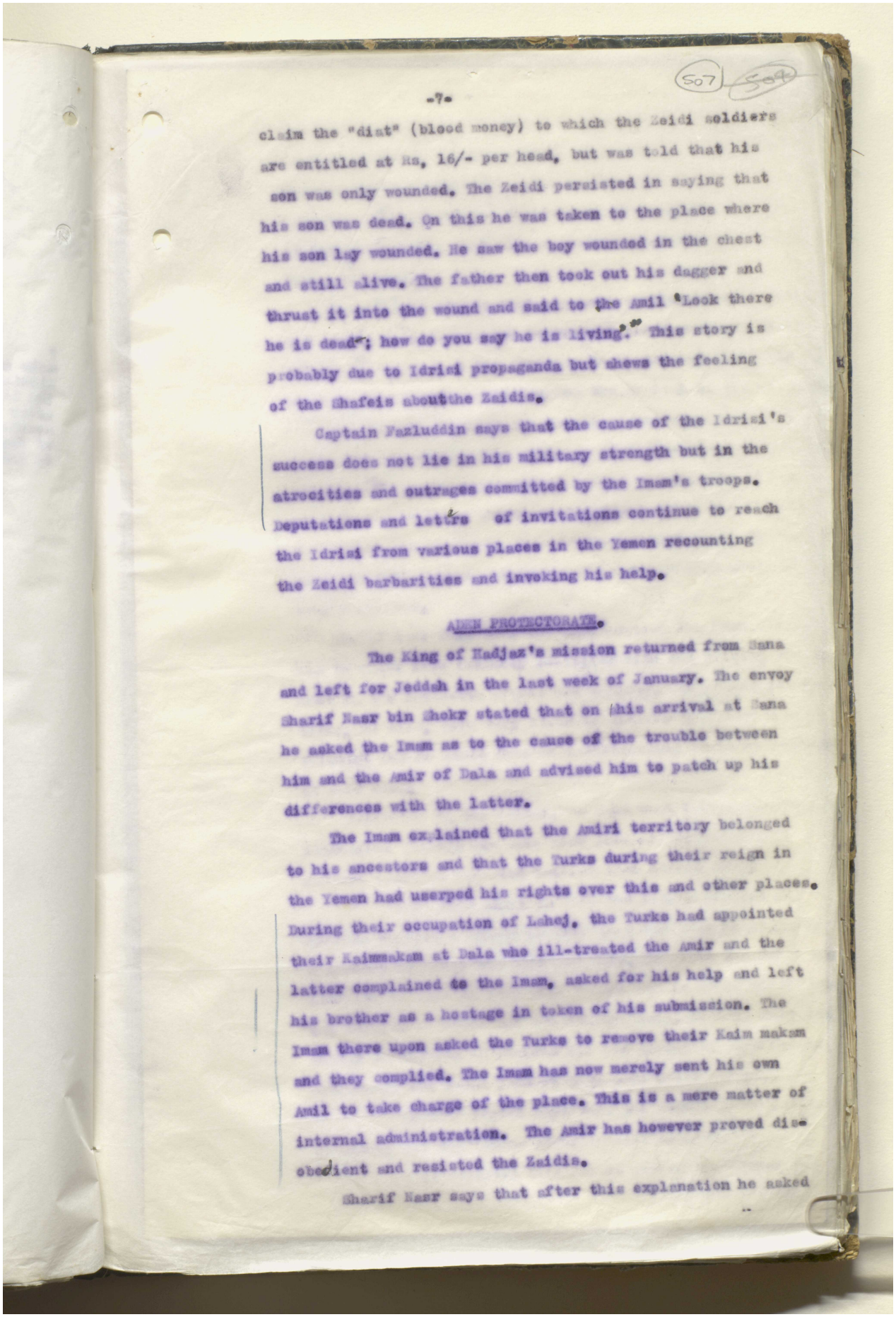

claim the "diat" (blood money) to which the Zeidi soldiers are entitled at Rs. 16/- per head, but was told that his son was only wounded. The Zeidi persisted in saying that his son was dead. On this he was taken to the place where his son lay wounded. He saw the boy wounded in the chest and still alive. The father then took out his dagger and thrust it into the wound and said to the Amil 'Look there he is dead; how do you say he is living.' This story is probably due to Idrisi propaganda but shews the feeling of the Shafeis about the Zaidis.

Captain Fazluddin says that the cause of the Idrisi's success does not lie in his military strength but in the atrocities and outrages committed by the Imam's troops. Deputations and letters of invitations continue to reach the Idrisi from various places in the Yemen recounting the Zeidi barbarities and invoking his help.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The King of Hadjaz's mission returned from Sana and left for Jeddah in the last week of January. The envoy Sharif Nasr bin Shekr stated that on his arrival at Sana he asked the Imam as to the cause of the trouble between him and the Amir of Dala and advised him to patch up his differences with the latter.

The Imam explained that the Amiri territory belonged to his ancestors and that the Turks during their reign in the Yemen had usurped his rights over this and other places. During their occupation of Lahej, the Turks had appointed their Kaimmakam at Dala who ill-treated the Amir and the latter complained to the Imam, asked for his help and left his brother as a hostage in token of his submission. The Imam there upon asked the Turks to remove their Kaim makam and they complied. The Imam has now merely sent his own Amil to take charge of the place. This is a mere matter of internal administration. The Amir has however proved disobedient and resisted the Zaidis.

Sharif Nasr says that after this explanation he asked

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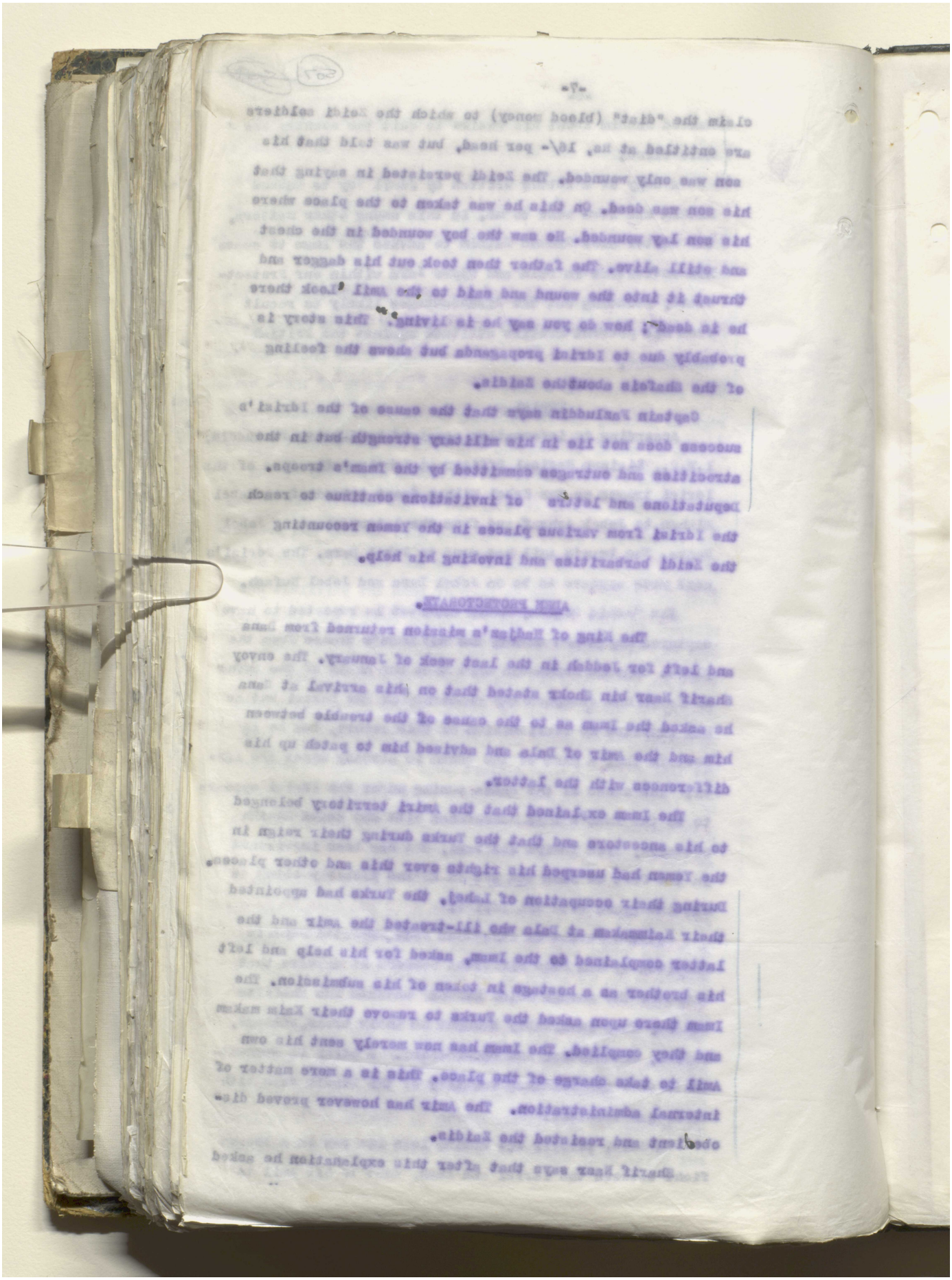

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the Imam to issue instructions to his Amil not to take further action until the arrival of a British Mission when matters could be amicably settled. The Imam did so and gave him a letter to the Resident on the subject. (A copy of this letter was sent with my letter No.C-152 dated 12th February 1920).

Sharif Nasr stated that his intervention in this matter was actuated by the desire to prevent blood-shed and by no other. He asked that the Amir may be instructed similarly to refrain from hostile acts pending the arrival of the Mission.

He did not disclose the object of his mission to the Imam, but in conversation with one of the Arabic Interpreters of this office, he implied that one of the objects of his mission was to bring about an alliance between the King of the Hedjaz and the Imam. He said that Sharif Husen did not give him full powers, otherwise the arrangements would have been concluded.

Sharif Nasr said that the King advised the Imam through him to enter into friendly relations with the British Government in the interests of his own country. The Imam's intentions, he said, were very friendly towards the British Government and he hoped that an understanding would be arrived at very soon.

Referring to the Idrisi, he said that Sharif Husein's intentions towards him were also good and he hoped that matters would be adjusted between them before long.

Our news agent at Taiz who lately arrived at Hodeida reports a rumour in Taiz that the Imam is planning a descent on Lahej via Taiz and Dala. He gives the Zeidi xxx strength in Taiz as 3500 with 7 guns and in Mavia as 500 wi two Turkish officers and two machine guns. He says that the Shafei population is anxious for the advent of some strong Government who would protect them from Zeidi tyranny.

Another report says that the Imam's intention is to occupy all the Tehama ports as well as Aden.

It is reported that Zeidis intend to advance on Tafwa

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509 506

Tafwa and Suhaib in the Alawi territory well within our Protectorate and only about 25 miles from Lahej. The Alawi is very nervous and presses for our troops to be moved up to Suhaib. He says if the Zeidis advance on Suhaib he will leave his country and come to us with all his family and hold us responsible for all damages as we are not protecting him in accordance with our treaty.

It appears from the information given by the Sheikh of Jol Madram in Haushabi territory near Kobat Dakim that 500 Zeidis from Taiz, Ebb and Dala have lately arrived in Mavia in addition to the 200 already there. The object of their coming is to take possession of 100 cases of ammunition and 500 rounds of shrapnel which are believed to be buried in Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Hukbil's house. The house was searched but the result is not known.

According to the information received by the same Sheikh, the Imam intends to take the offensive against the British Government in March or April. He was quiet at present because he is storing up provisions which he is purchasing in Aden.

After a protracted delay of one year, the Haushabi Sultan has come in to Aden to renew his treaty with us and his agreement with the Abdali. He is the last of those who had gone over to the Turks at Lahej to be restored to favour. He came in in January 1919 to make his submission, but was told that he had first to settle with the Abdali and his case would then be considered. In February 1919 after consultation with the Abdali the latter was asked to come to Aden and to bring the Haushabi with him formally to renew his treaty with us and the agreement with the Abdali. The latter wrote to him xxxx several letters but the Haushabi excused himself under some pretext or other. He repeatedly asked for the payment of his stipend but was always told that it could not be paid until he had come and renewed his traties. He has now come in and his stipend will be restored to him from the date of his visit in 1919 as all matters between him and the Abdali have

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(510) (507)

have been settled.

He has brought with him 2 letters written to him by the Imam's Hakim of Kamairah at Mavia, Hassan Abdul Wahab al Warith. In one, the Hakim complains of delay on the part of the Haushabi in coming to see him. The writer tells him that he has nothing to fear and that none of his privileges will be curtailed. On the contrary he will be held in great esteem before the Amir al Muminin(Imam). The writer hints at the Imam's intention of going in the direction of Aden.

In the second letter, the Haushabi is threatened with invasion if he does not come within 3 days. The writer draws his attention to the case of the Amir of Dala who placed his reliance on our promises which we did not fulfil and has consequently suffered. He refers to the Koran and referring to us says "God and His Prophet said their characteristic is to deceive the Muslim".

The Haushabi says that the letters are genuine and are written in the Hakim's own handwriting and signed by him, but that he thinks they have been sent by Warith on his own initiative without orders from the Imam merely to show his cleverness to the Imam hereafter.

The allusion to the fate of the Amir of Dala is of interest. We have been unable to afford protection to the Amir and this of course makes all our protégés nervous. As we were cooped up in Aden all the war our prestige in the Yemen is naturally nil. Members of Colonel Jacob's Mission tell me that the Arabs look upon the British as mere money bags to be squeezed. The Amin of the nation have no courage but attempt to gain their objects by bribery on every occasion. If this fails they employ Indian mercenaries, but never put themselves into danger. The sight of a British officer and the aeroplane which flew over Bajil filled them with amazement as they were fully convinced that the British never fought themselves.

No

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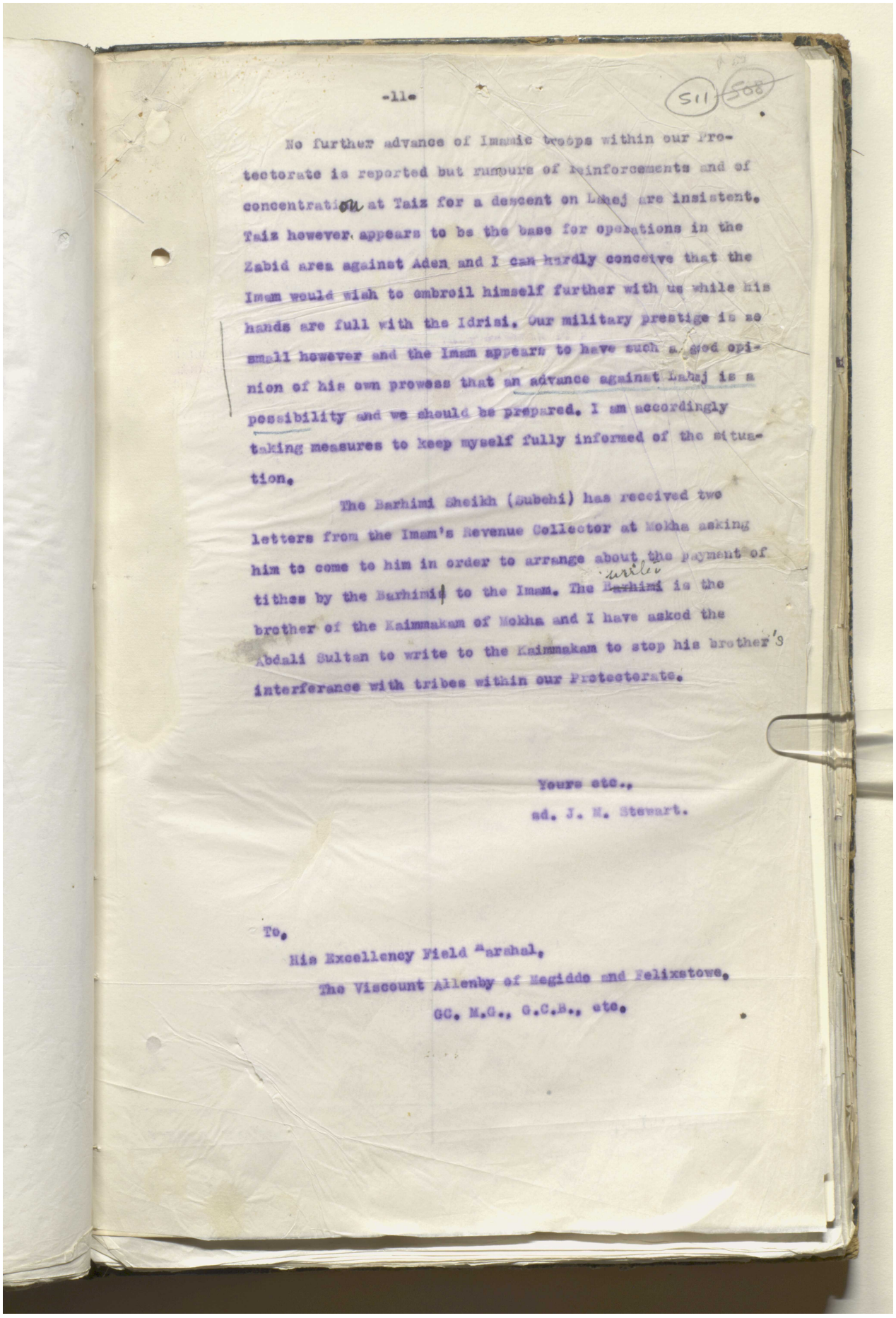

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511 508

No further advance of Imamic troops within our Protectorate is reported but rumours of reinforcements and of concentration at Taiz for a descent on Lahej are insistent. Taiz however appears to be the base for operations in the Zabid area against Aden and I can hardly conceive that the Imam would wish to embroil himself further with us while his hands are full with the Idrisi. Our military prestige is so small however and the Imam appears to have such a good opinion of his own prowess that an advance against Lahej is a possibility and we should be prepared. I am accordingly taking measures to keep myself fully informed of the situation.

The Barhimi Sheikh (Subehi) has received two letters from the Imam's Revenue Collector at Mokha asking him to come to him in order to arrange about the payment of tithes by the Barhimis to the Imam. The Barhimi is the brother of the Kaimmakam of Mokha and I have asked the Abdali Sultan to write to the Kaimmakam to stop his brother's interferance with tribes within our Protectorate.

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal,
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixstowe,
GC. M.G., G.C.B., etc.

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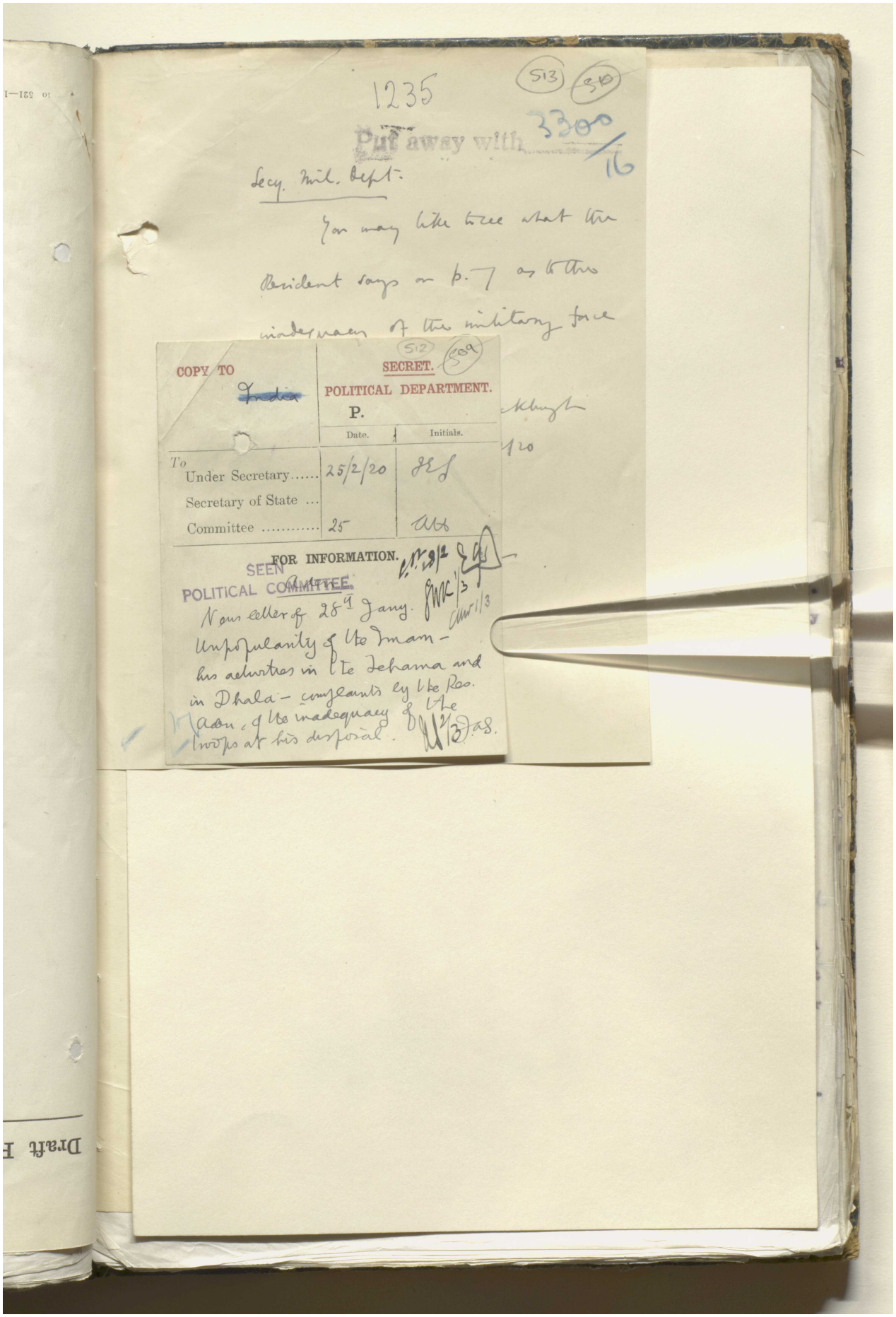

1235

513 510

Put away with 3300/16

Secy. Mil. Dept:-

You may like to see what the President says on p. 7 as to the inadequacy of the military force

COPY TO ~~Under~~

512 509

SECRET.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

P.

	Date.	Initials.
To Under Secretary.....	25/2/20	
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	25	

FOR INFORMATION.

SEEN

POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

News letter of 28th Jany. Unpopularity of the Imam - his activities in the Tehama and in Dhala - complaints by the Res. Agent of the inadequacy of the troops at his disposal.

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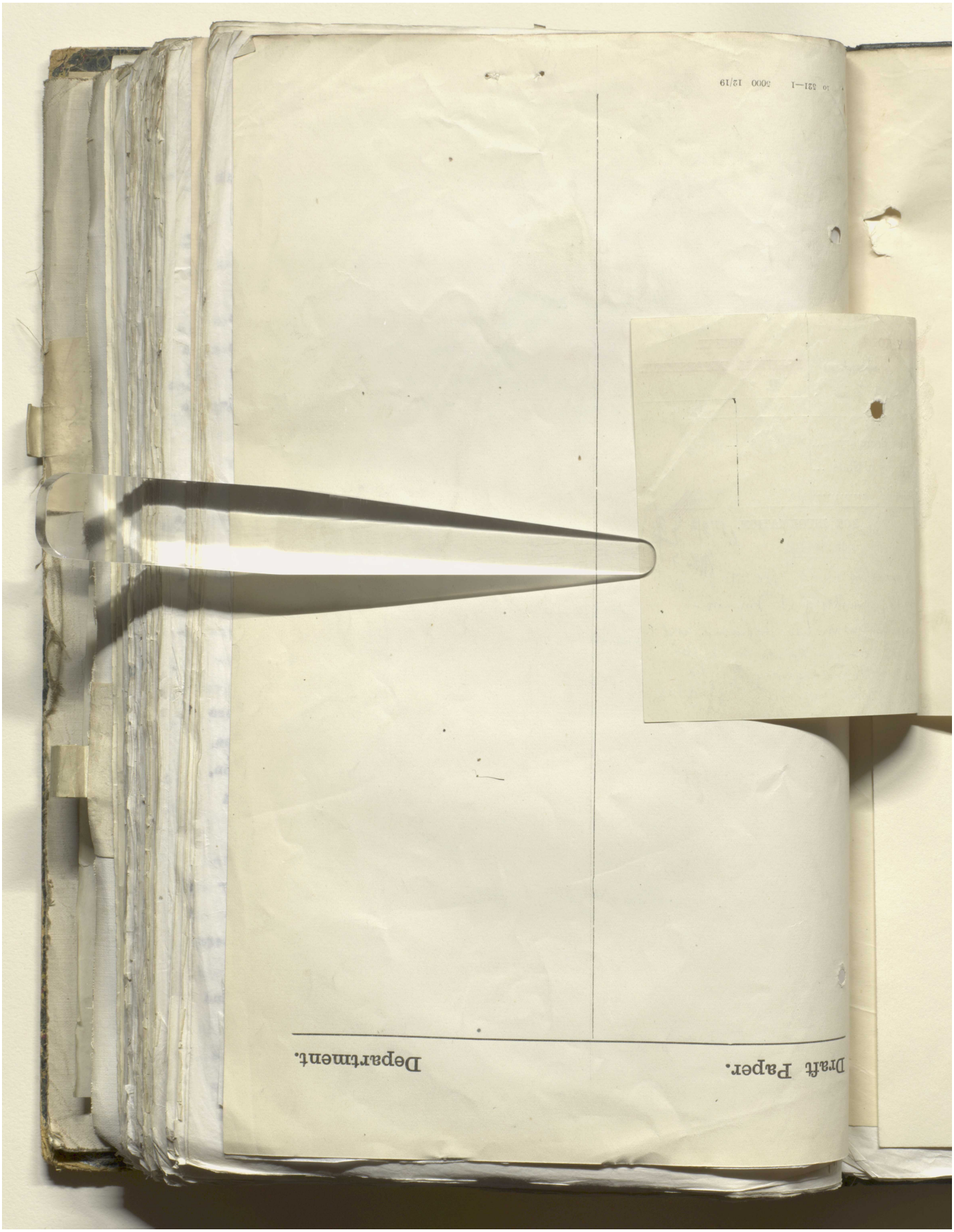

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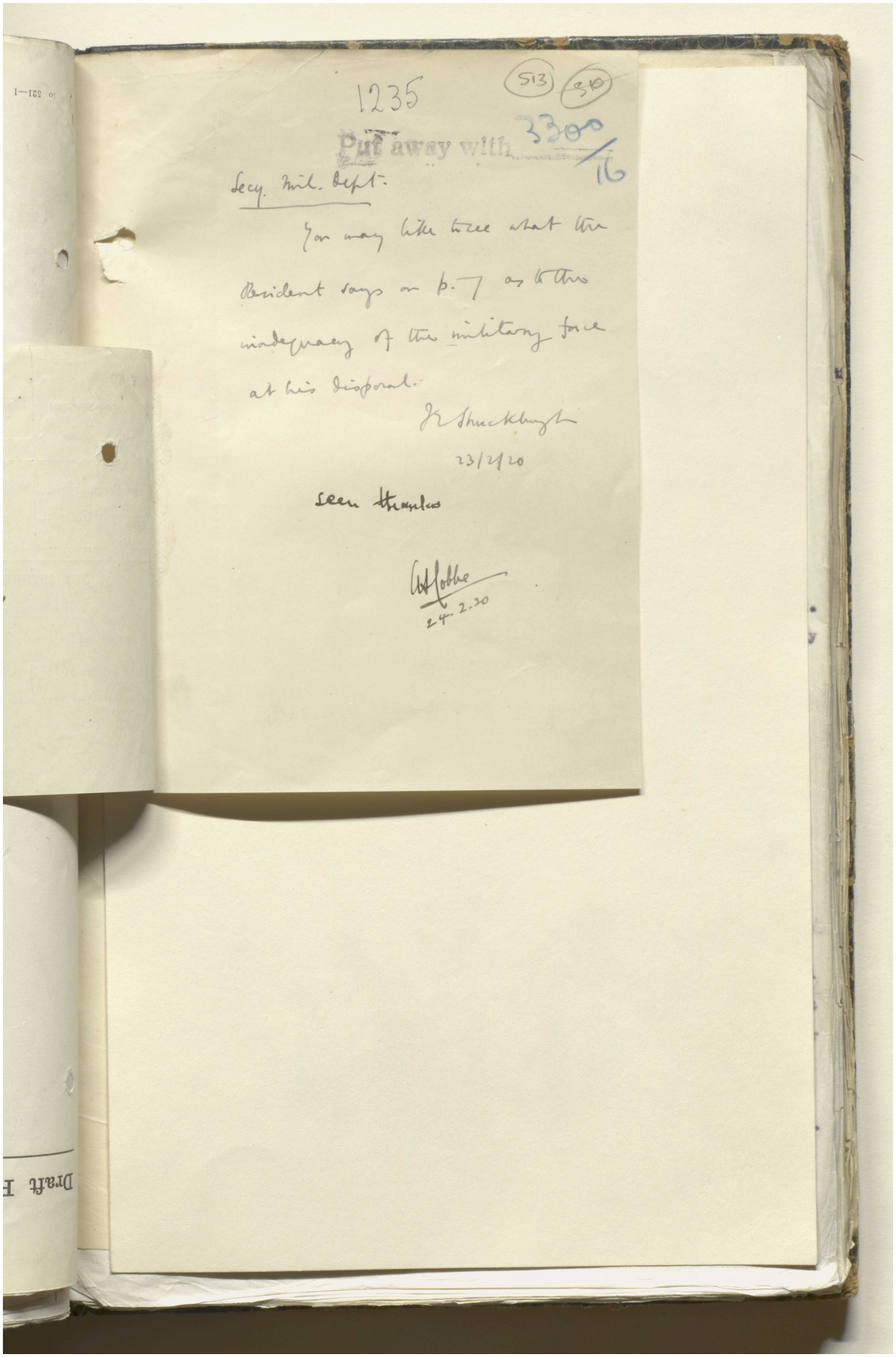

1235

513 380

Put away with 3300/16

Secy. Mil. Dept.

You may like to see what the Resident says on p. 7 as to the inadequacy of the military force at his disposal.

J. Shuckburgh

23/2/20

Seen thanks

A. Hobbs

24. 2. 20

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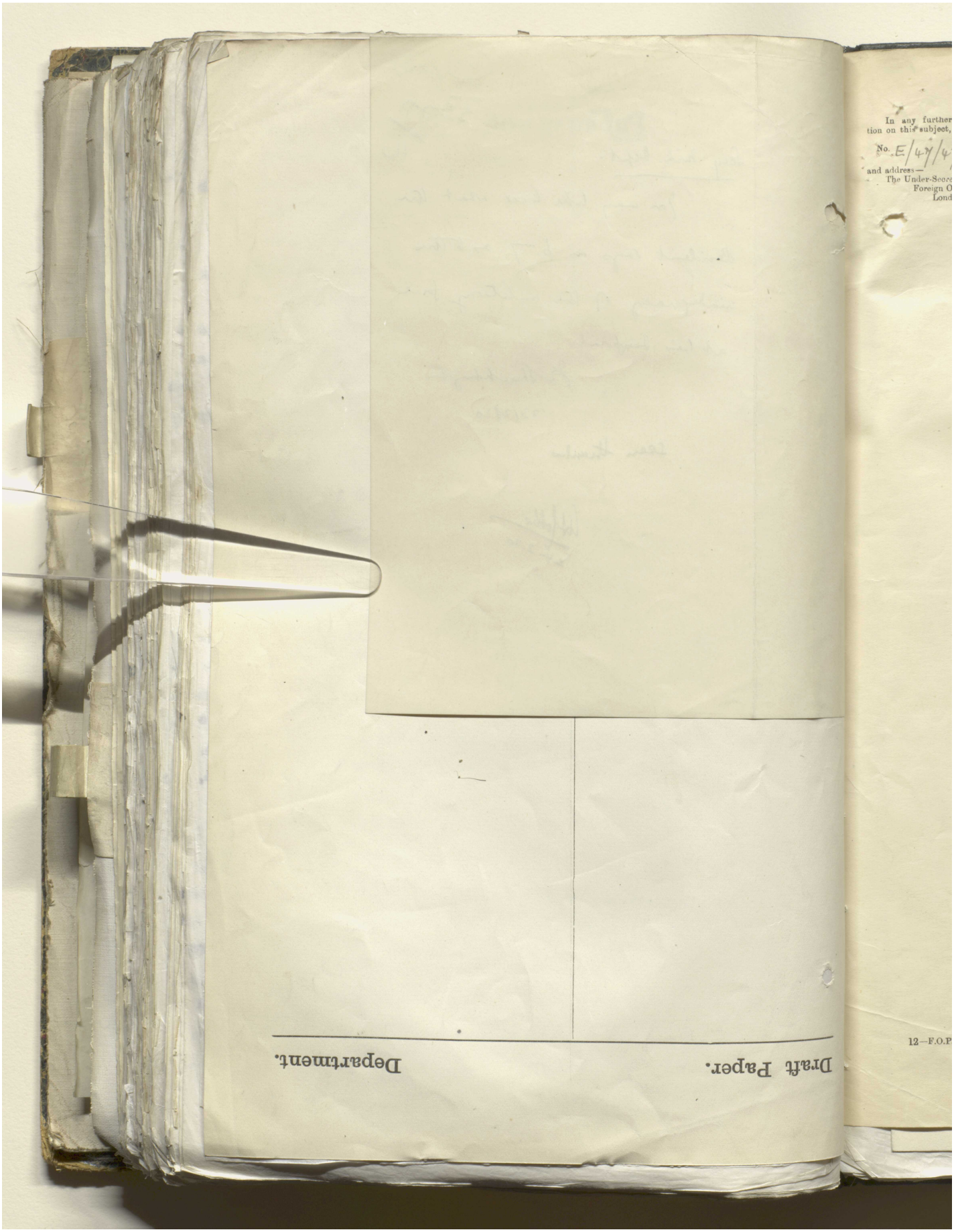

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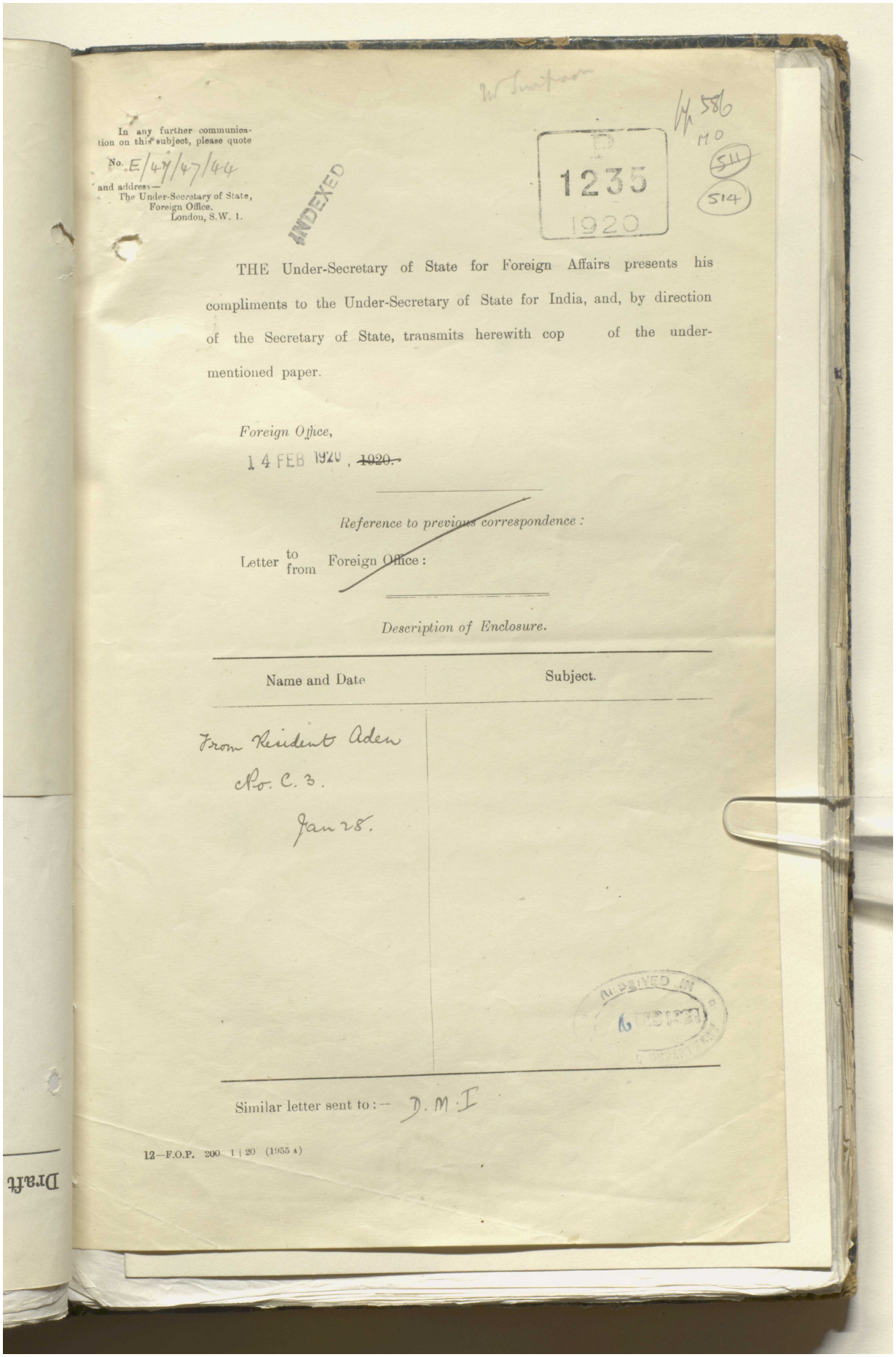

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The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith cop of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
14 FEB 1920, ~~1920.~~

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
From Resident Aden No. C. 3. Jan 28.	

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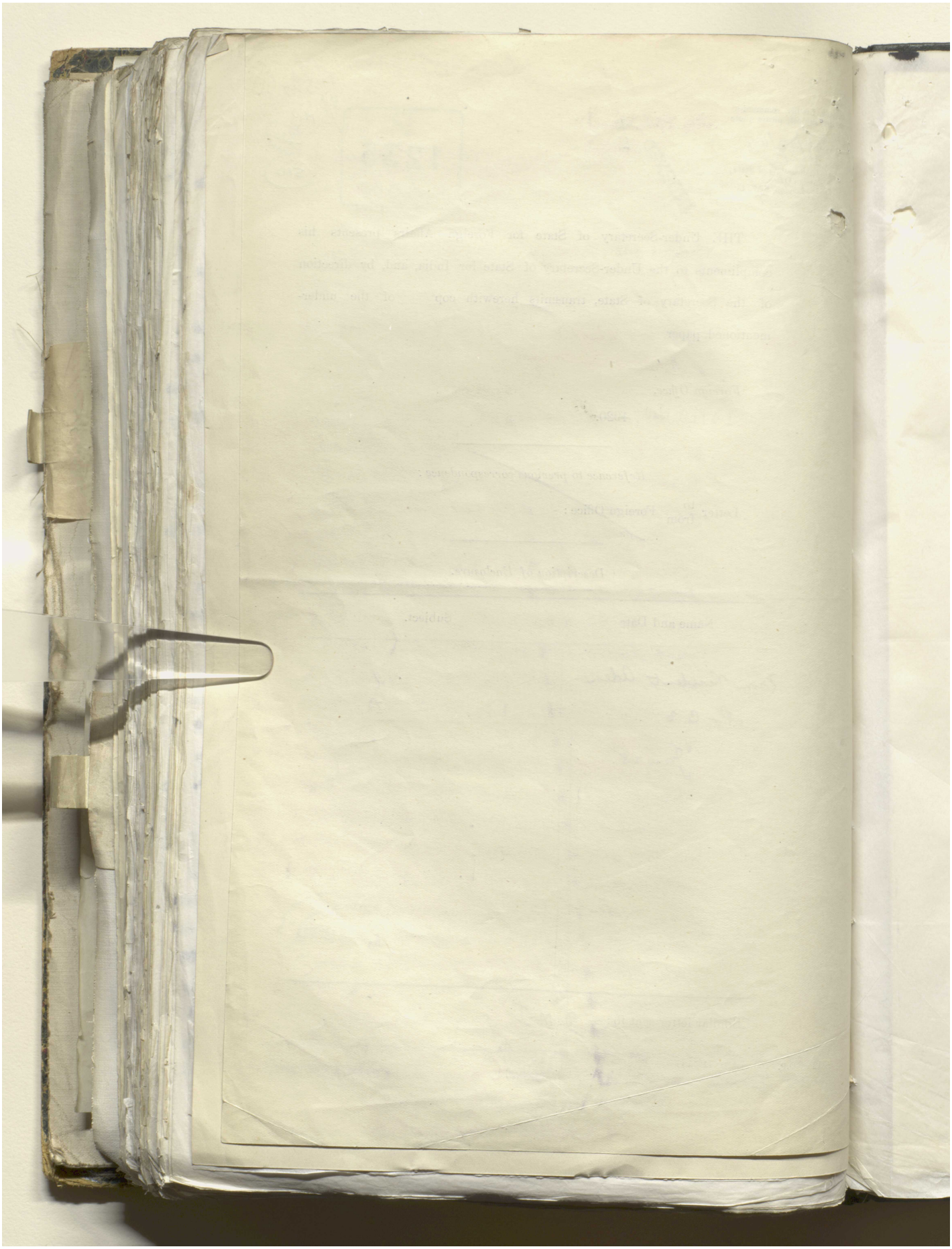

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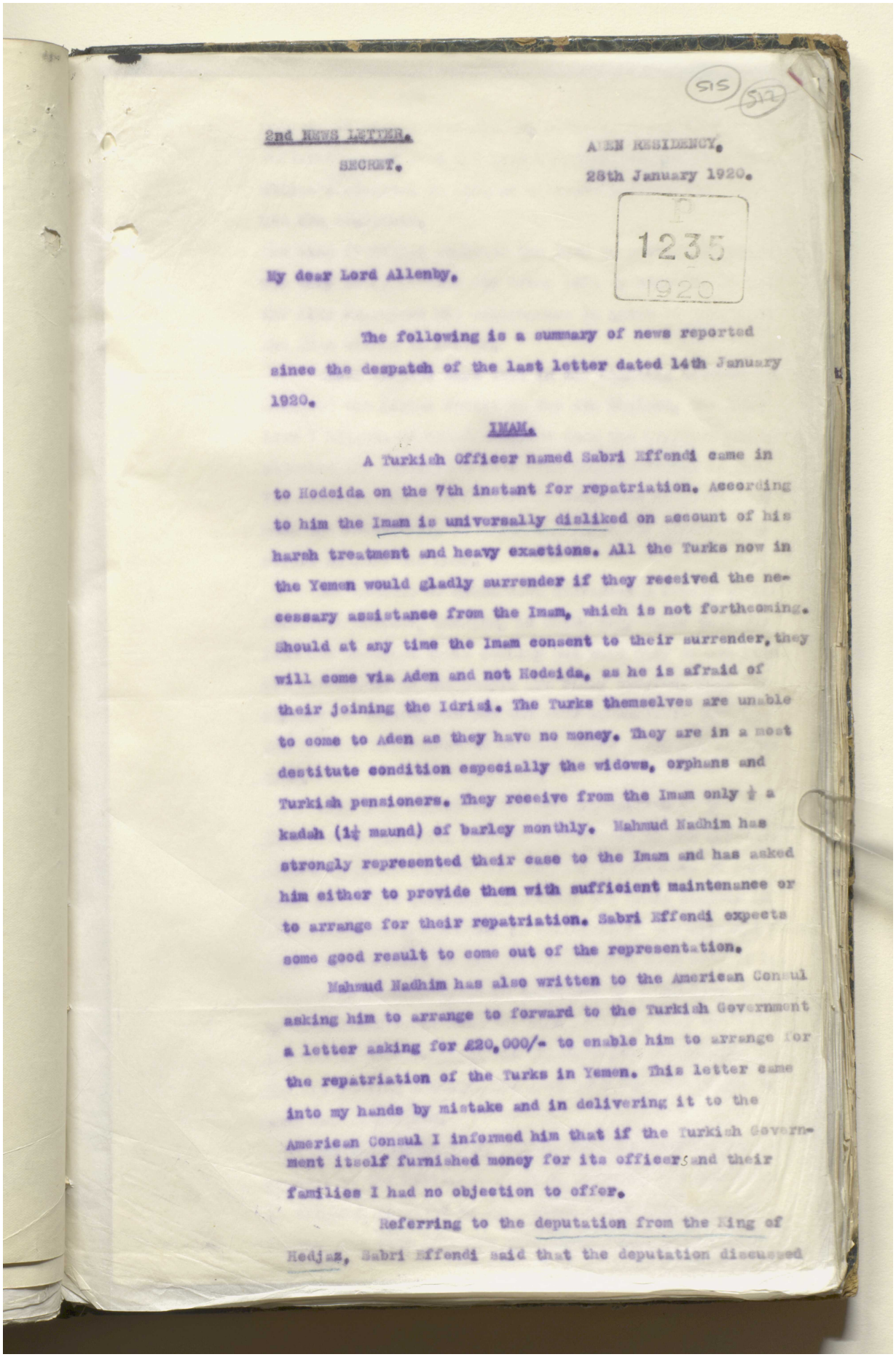

515 517

2nd NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
28th January 1920.

P 1235 1920

My dear Lord Allenby,

The following is a summary of news reported since the despatch of the last letter dated 14th January 1920.

IMAM.

A Turkish Officer named Sabri Effendi came in to Hodeida on the 7th instant for repatriation. According to him the Imam is universally disliked on account of his harsh treatment and heavy exactions. All the Turks now in the Yemen would gladly surrender if they received the necessary assistance from the Imam, which is not forthcoming. Should at any time the Imam consent to their surrender, they will come via Aden and not Hodeida, as he is afraid of their joining the Idrisi. The Turks themselves are unable to come to Aden as they have no money. They are in a most destitute condition especially the widows, orphans and Turkish pensioners. They receive from the Imam only ½ a kadah (1½ maund) of barley monthly. Mahmud Nadhim has strongly represented their case to the Imam and has asked him either to provide them with sufficient maintenance or to arrange for their repatriation. Sabri Effendi expects some good result to come out of the representation.

Mahmud Nadhim has also written to the American Consul asking him to arrange to forward to the Turkish Government a letter asking for £20,000/- to enable him to arrange for the repatriation of the Turks in Yemen. This letter came into my hands by mistake and in delivering it to the American Consul I informed him that if the Turkish Government itself furnished money for its officers and their families I had no objection to offer.

Referring to the deputation from the King of Hedjaz, Sabri Effendi said that the deputation discussed

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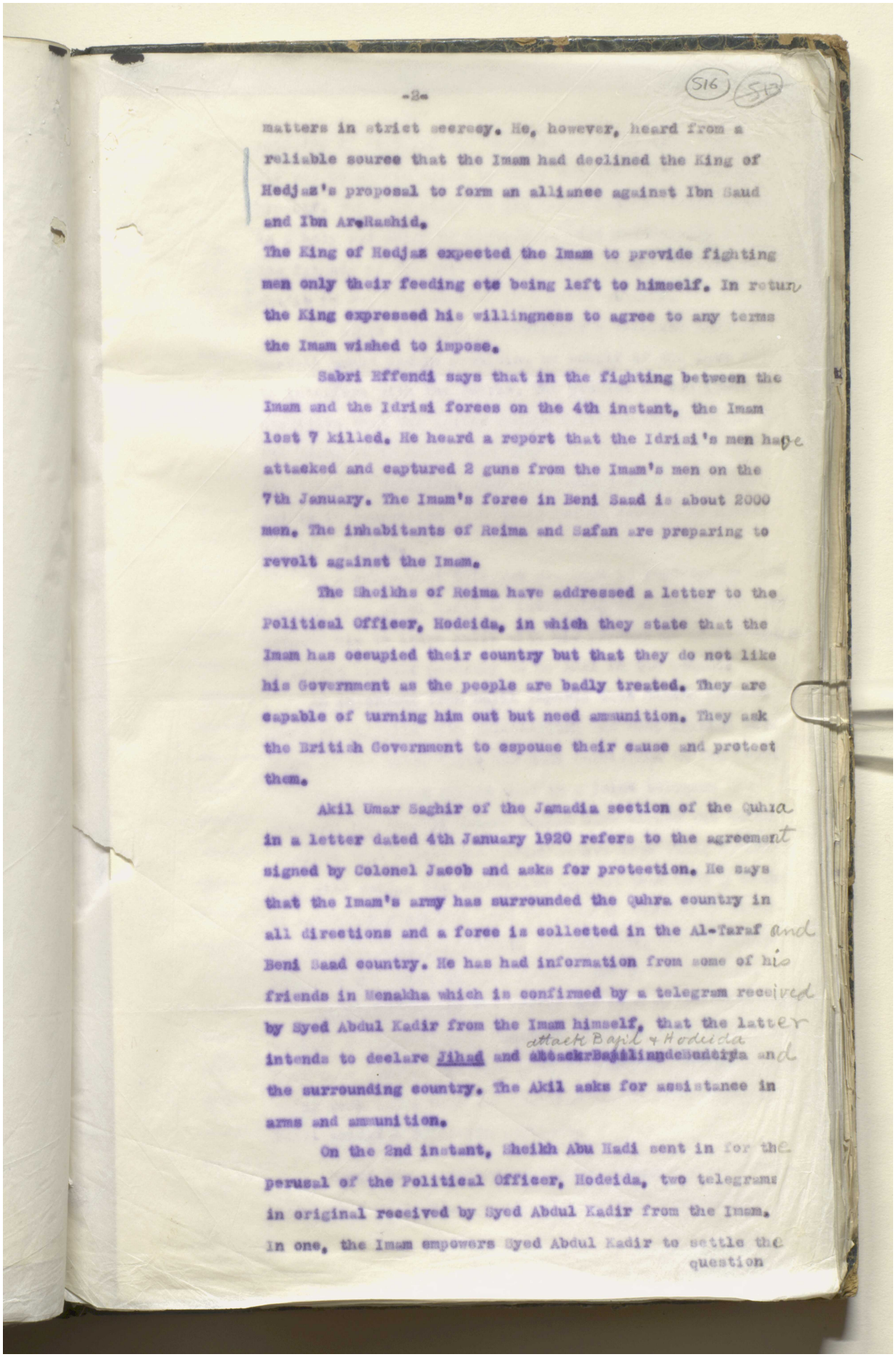

(516) (517)

matters in strict secrecy. He, however, heard from a reliable source that the Imam had declined the King of Hedjaz's proposal to form an alliance against Ibn Saud and Ibn AreRashid.

The King of Hedjaz expected the Imam to provide fighting men only their feeding etc being left to himself. In return the King expressed his willingness to agree to any terms the Imam wished to impose.

Sabri Effendi says that in the fighting between the Imam and the Idrisi forces on the 4th instant, the Imam lost 7 killed. He heard a report that the Idrisi's men have attacked and captured 2 guns from the Imam's men on the 7th January. The Imam's force in Beni Saad is about 2000 men. The inhabitants of Reima and Safan are preparing to revolt against the Imam.

The Sheikhs of Reima have addressed a letter to the Political Officer, Hodeida, in which they state that the Imam has occupied their country but that they do not like his Government as the people are badly treated. They are capable of turning him out but need ammunition. They ask the British Government to espouse their cause and protect them.

Akil Umar Saghir of the Jamadia section of the Quhra in a letter dated 4th January 1920 refers to the agreement signed by Colonel Jacob and asks for protection. He says that the Imam's army has surrounded the Quhra country in all directions and a force is collected in the Al-Taraf and Beni Saad country. He has had information from some of his friends in Menakha which is confirmed by a telegram received by Syed Abdul Kadir from the Imam himself, that the latter intends to declare Jihad and attack Bajil & Hodeida ~~ahtackrBajilandeHodeida~~ and the surrounding country. The Akil asks for assistance in arms and ammunition.

On the 2nd instant, Sheikh Abu Hadi sent in for the perusal of the Political Officer, Hodeida, two telegrams in original received by Syed Abdul Kadir from the Imam. In one, the Imam empowers Syed Abdul Kadir to settle the question

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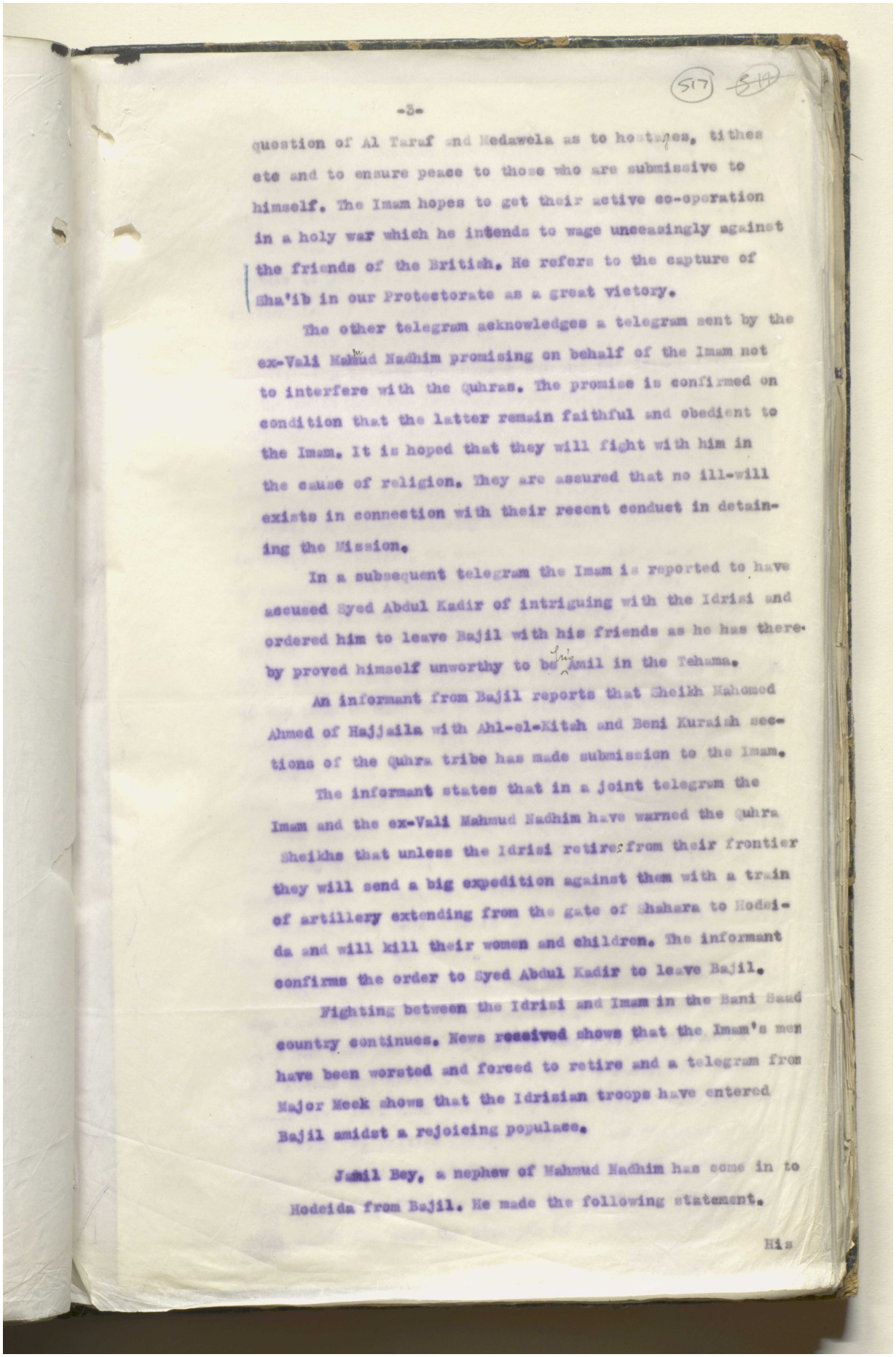

question of Al Taraf and Medawela as to hostages, tithes etc and to ensure peace to those who are submissive to himself. The Imam hopes to get their active co-operation in a holy war which he intends to wage unceasingly against the friends of the British. He refers to the capture of Sha'ib in our Protectorate as a great victory.

The other telegram acknowledges a telegram sent by the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadhim promising on behalf of the Imam not to interfere with the Quhras. The promise is confirmed on condition that the latter remain faithful and obedient to the Imam. It is hoped that they will fight with him in the cause of religion. They are assured that no ill-will exists in connection with their recent conduct in detaining the Mission.

In a subsequent telegram the Imam is reported to have accused Syed Abdul Kadir of intriguing with the Idrisi and ordered him to leave Bajil with his friends as he has thereby proved himself unworthy to be Amil in the Tehama.

An informant from Bajil reports that Sheikh Mahomed Ahmed of Hajjaila with Ahl-el-Kitsh and Beni Kuraish sections of the Quhra tribe has made submission to the Imam.

The informant states that in a joint telegram the Imam and the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadhim have warned the Quhra Sheikhs that unless the Idrisi retires from their frontier they will send a big expedition against them with a train of artillery extending from the gate of Shahara to Hodeida and will kill their women and children. The informant confirms the order to Syed Abdul Kadir to leave Bajil.

Fighting between the Idrisi and Imam in the Bani Saad country continues. News received shows that the Imam's men have been worsted and forced to retire and a telegram from Major Meek shows that the Idrisian troops have entered Bajil amidst a rejoicing populace.

Jamil Bey, a nephew of Mahmud Nadhim has come in to Hodeida from Bajil. He made the following statement.

His

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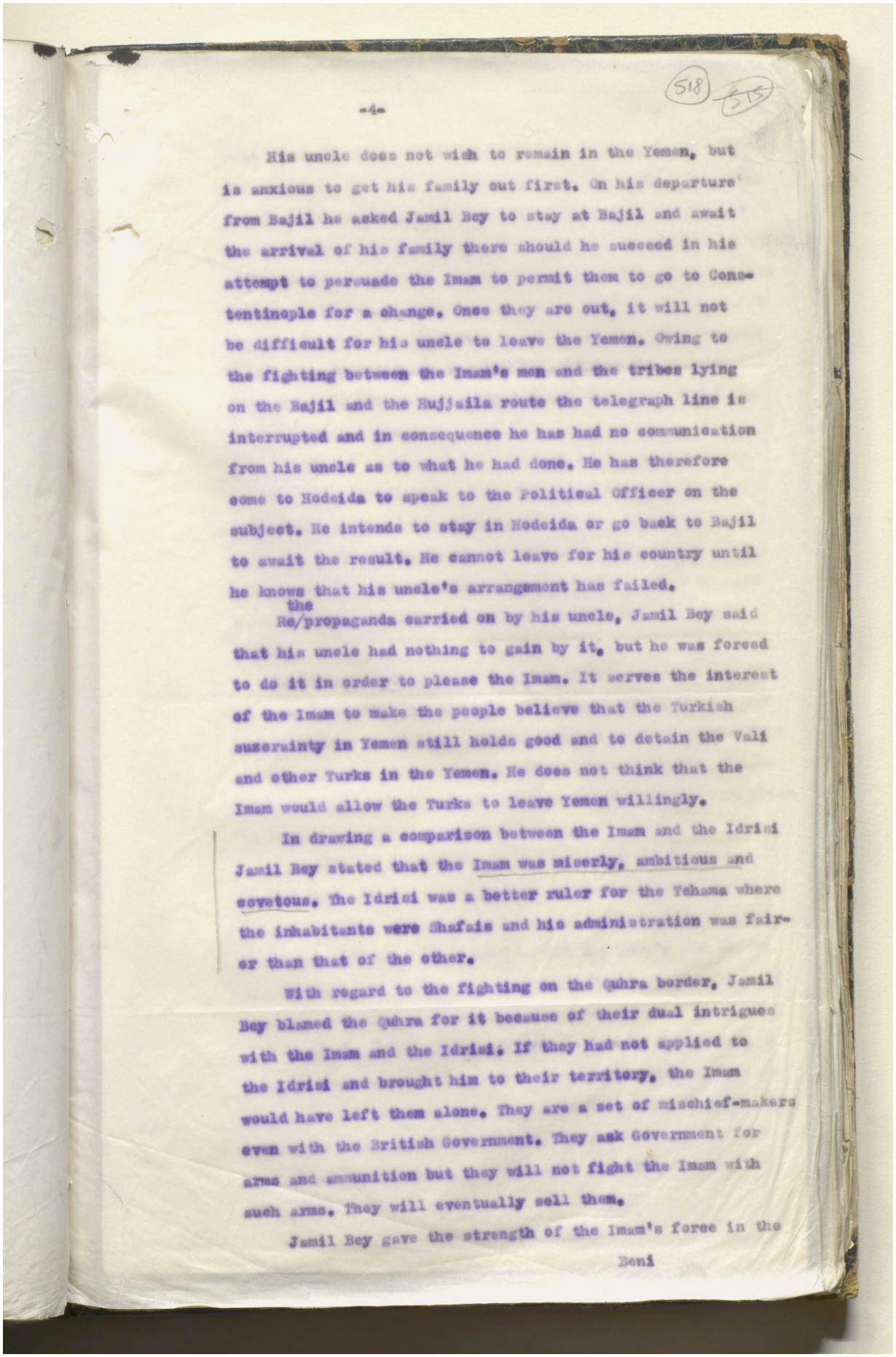

His uncle does not wish to remain in the Yemen, but is anxious to get his family out first. On his departure from Bajil he asked Jamil Bey to stay at Bajil and await the arrival of his family there should he succeed in his attempt to persuade the Imam to permit them to go to Constantinople for a change. Once they are out, it will not be difficult for his uncle to leave the Yemen. Owing to the fighting between the Imam's men and the tribes lying on the Bajil and the Hujjaila route the telegraph line is interrupted and in consequence he has had no communication from his uncle as to what he had done. He has therefore come to Hodeida to speak to the Political Officer on the subject. He intends to stay in Hodeida or go back to Bajil to await the result. He cannot leave for his country until he knows that his uncle's arrangement has failed.

Re/propaganda carried on by his uncle, Jamil Bey said that his uncle had nothing to gain by it, but he was forced to do it in order to please the Imam. It serves the interest of the Imam to make the people believe that the Turkish suzerainty in Yemen still holds good and to detain the Vali and other Turks in the Yemen. He does not think that the Imam would allow the Turks to leave Yemen willingly.

In drawing a comparison between the Imam and the Idrisi Jamil Bey stated that the Imam was miserly, ambitious and covetous. The Idrisi was a better ruler for the Tehama where the inhabitants were Shafais and his administration was fairer than that of the other.

With regard to the fighting on the Quhra border, Jamil Bey blamed the Quhra for it because of their dual intrigues with the Imam and the Idrisi. If they had not applied to the Idrisi and brought him to their territory, the Imam would have left them alone. They are a set of mischief-makers even with the British Government. They ask Government for arms and ammunition but they will not fight the Imam with such arms. They will eventually sell them.

Jamil Bey gave the strength of the Imam's force in the Beni

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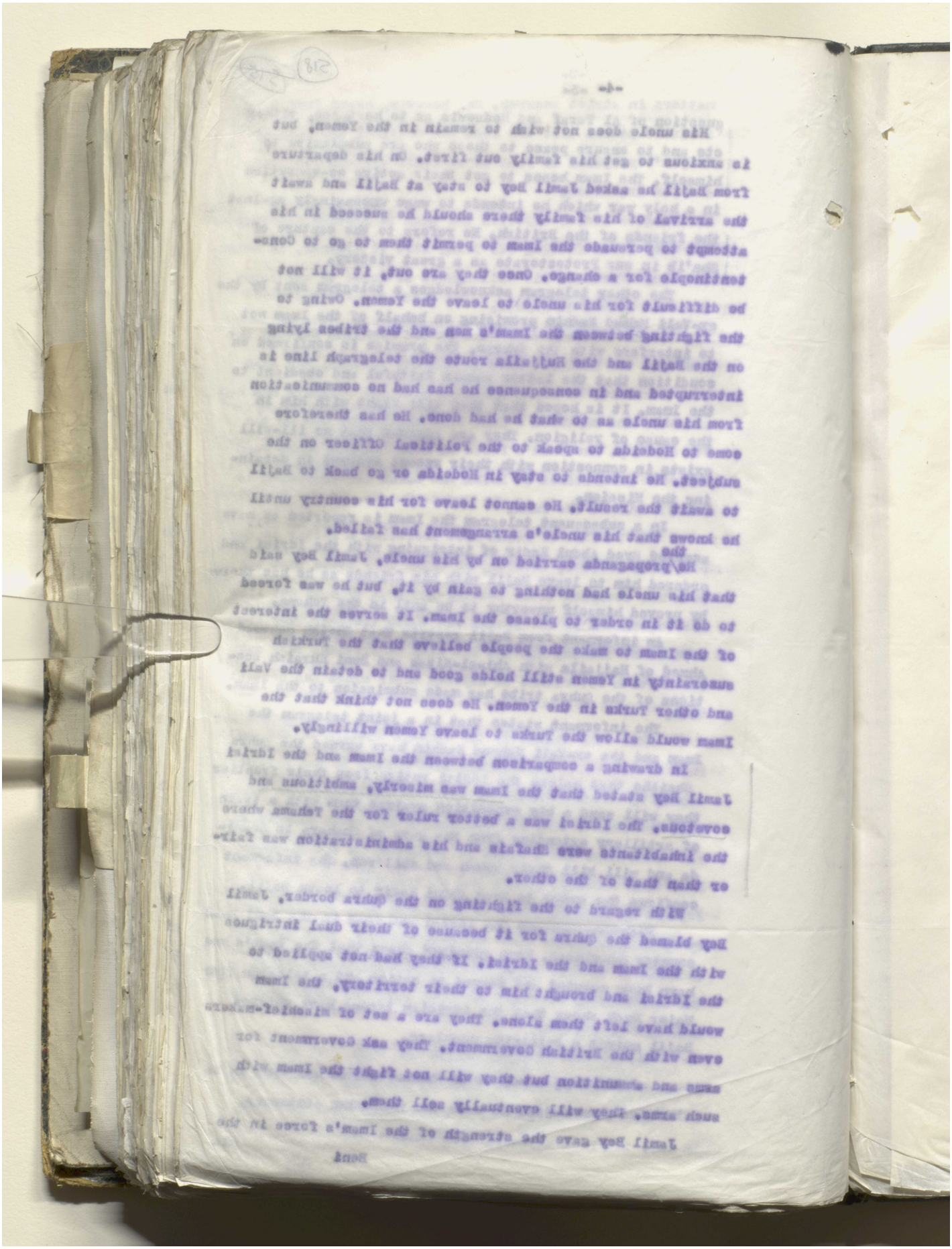

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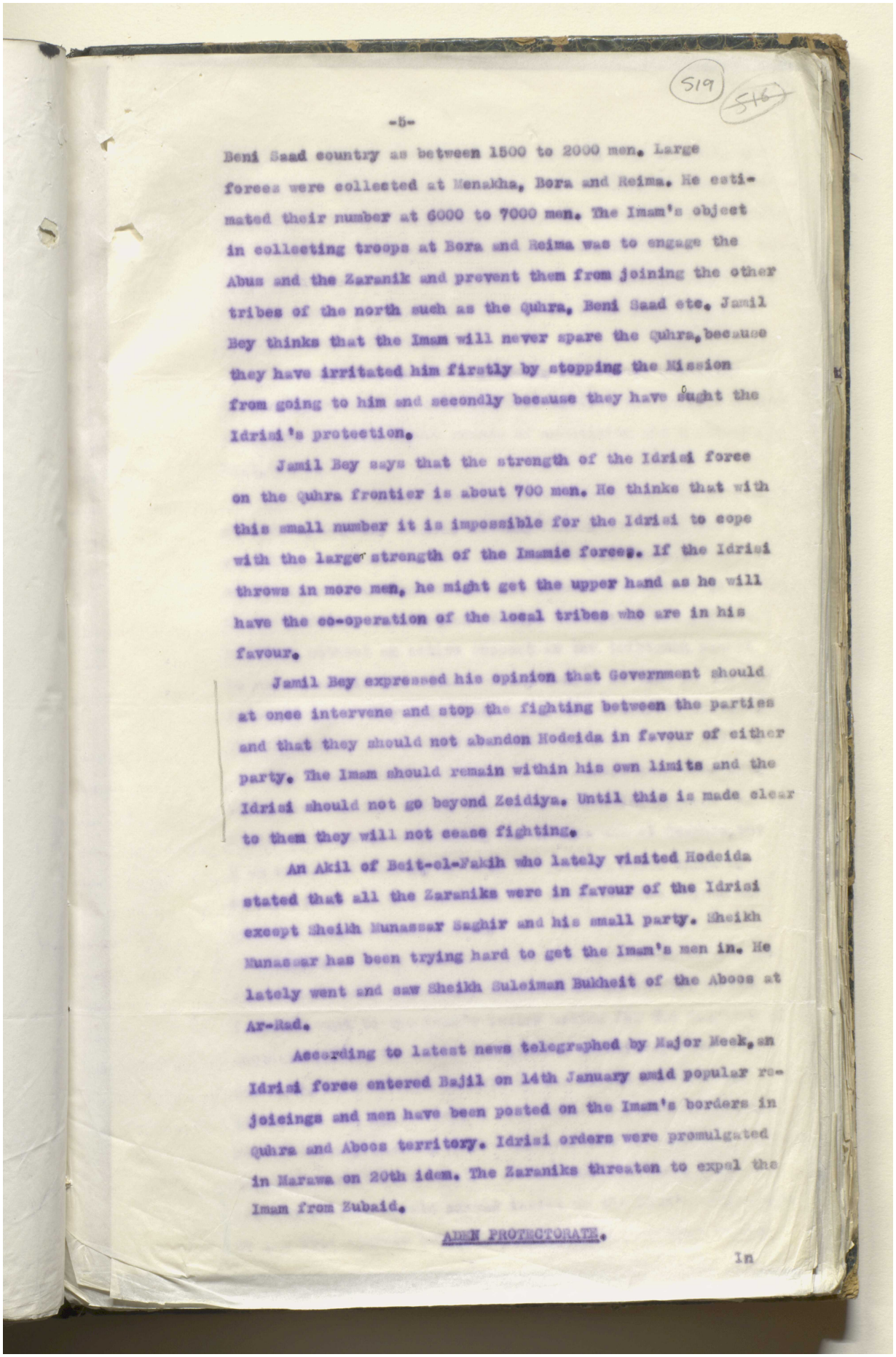

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Beni Saad country as between 1500 to 2000 men. Large forces were collected at Menakha, Bora and Reima. He estimated their number at 6000 to 7000 men. The Imam's object in collecting troops at Bora and Reima was to engage the Abus and the Zaranik and prevent them from joining the other tribes of the north such as the Quhra, Beni Saad etc. Jamil Bey thinks that the Imam will never spare the Quhra, because they have irritated him firstly by stopping the Mission from going to him and secondly because they have sught the Idrisi's protection.

Jamil Bey says that the strength of the Idrisi force on the Quhra frontier is about 700 men. He thinks that with this small number it is impossible for the Idrisi to cope with the large strength of the Immmic forces. If the Idrisi throws in more men, he might get the upper hand as he will have the co-operation of the local tribes who are in his favour.

Jamil Bey expressed his opinion that Government should at once intervene and stop the fighting between the parties and that they should not abandon Hodeida in favour of either party. The Imam should remain within his own limits and the Idrisi should not go beyond Zeidiya. Until this is made clear to them they will not cease fighting.

An Akil of Beit-el-Fakih who lately visited Hodeida stated that all the Zaraniks were in favour of the Idrisi except Sheikh Munasser Saghir and his small party. Sheikh Munasser has been trying hard to get the Imam's men in. He lately went and saw Sheikh Suleiman Bukheit of the Aboos at Ar-Rad.

According to latest news telegraphed by Major Meek, an Idrisi force entered Bajil on 14th January amid popular rejoicings and men have been posted on the Imam's borders in Quhra and Aboos territory. Idrisi orders were promulgated in Marawa on 20th idem. The Zaraniks threaten to expel the Imam from Zubaid.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

In

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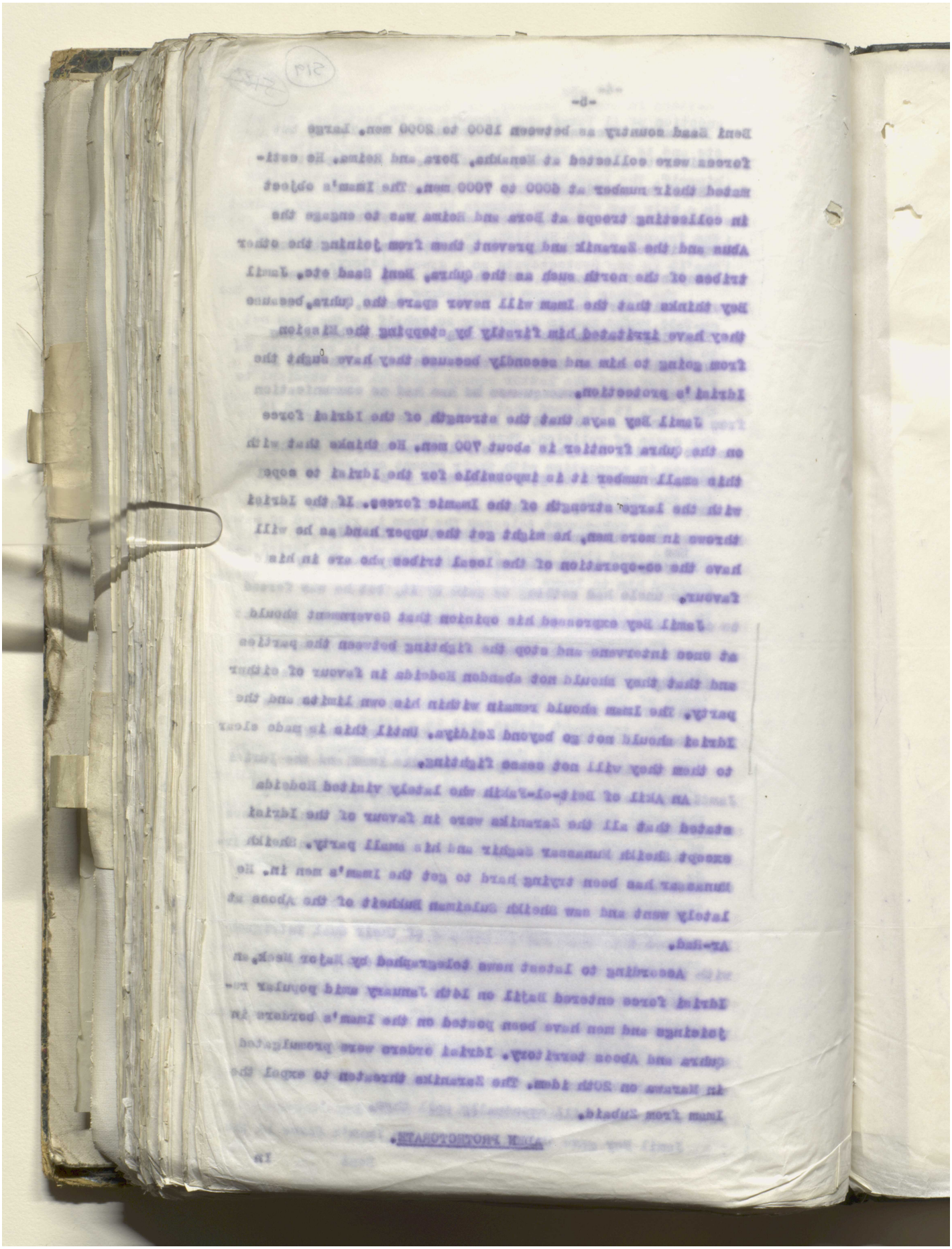

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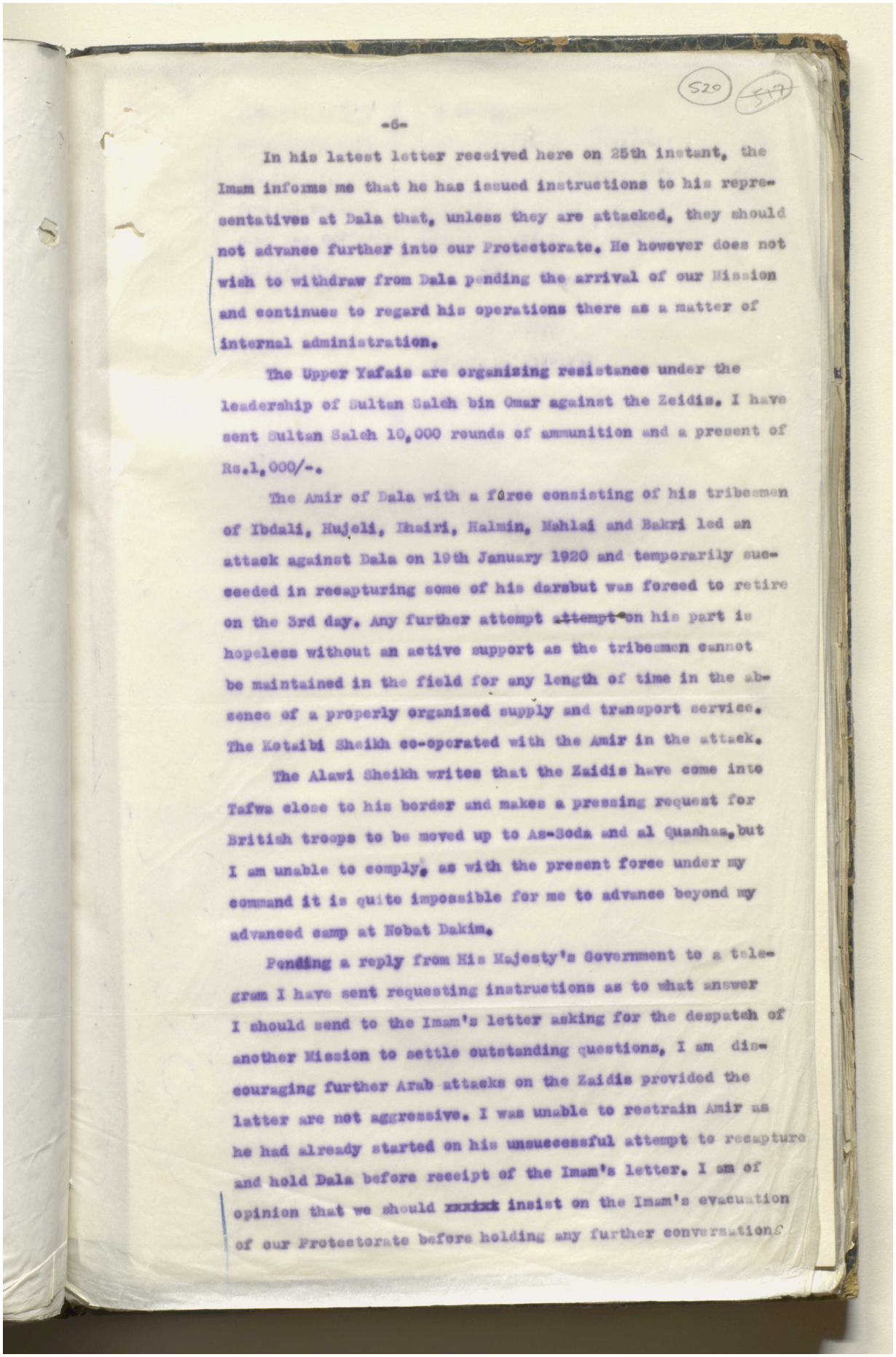

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In his latest letter received here on 25th instant, the Imam informs me that he has issued instructions to his representatives at Dala that, unless they are attacked, they should not advance further into our Protectorate. He however does not wish to withdraw from Dala pending the arrival of our Mission and continues to regard his operations there as a matter of internal administration.

The Upper Yafais are organizing resistance under the leadership of Sultan Saleh bin Omar against the Zeidis. I have sent Sultan Saleh 10,000 rounds of ammunition and a present of Rs.1,000/-.

The Amir of Dala with a force consisting of his tribesmen of Ibdali, Hujeli, Khairi, Halmin, Mehlai and Bakri led an attack against Dala on 19th January 1920 and temporarily succeeded in recapturing some of his darsbut was forced to retire on the 3rd day. Any further attempt ~~attempt~~ on his part is hopeless without an active support as the tribesmen cannot be maintained in the field for any length of time in the absence of a properly organized supply and transport service. The Kotaibi Sheikh co-operated with the Amir in the attack.

The Alawi Sheikh writes that the Zaidis have come into Tafwa close to his border and makes a pressing request for British troops to be moved up to As-Soda and al Quashas, but I am unable to comply, as with the present force under my command it is quite impossible for me to advance beyond my advanced camp at Nobat Dakim.

Pending a reply from His Majesty's Government to a telegram I have sent requesting instructions as to what answer I should send to the Imam's letter asking for the despatch of another Mission to settle outstanding questions, I am discouraging further Arab attacks on the Zaidis provided the latter are not aggressive. I was unable to restrain Amir as he had already started on his unsuccessful attempt to recapture and hold Dala before receipt of the Imam's letter. I am of opinion that we should xxxxxx insist on the Imam's evacuation of our Protectorate before holding any further conversations

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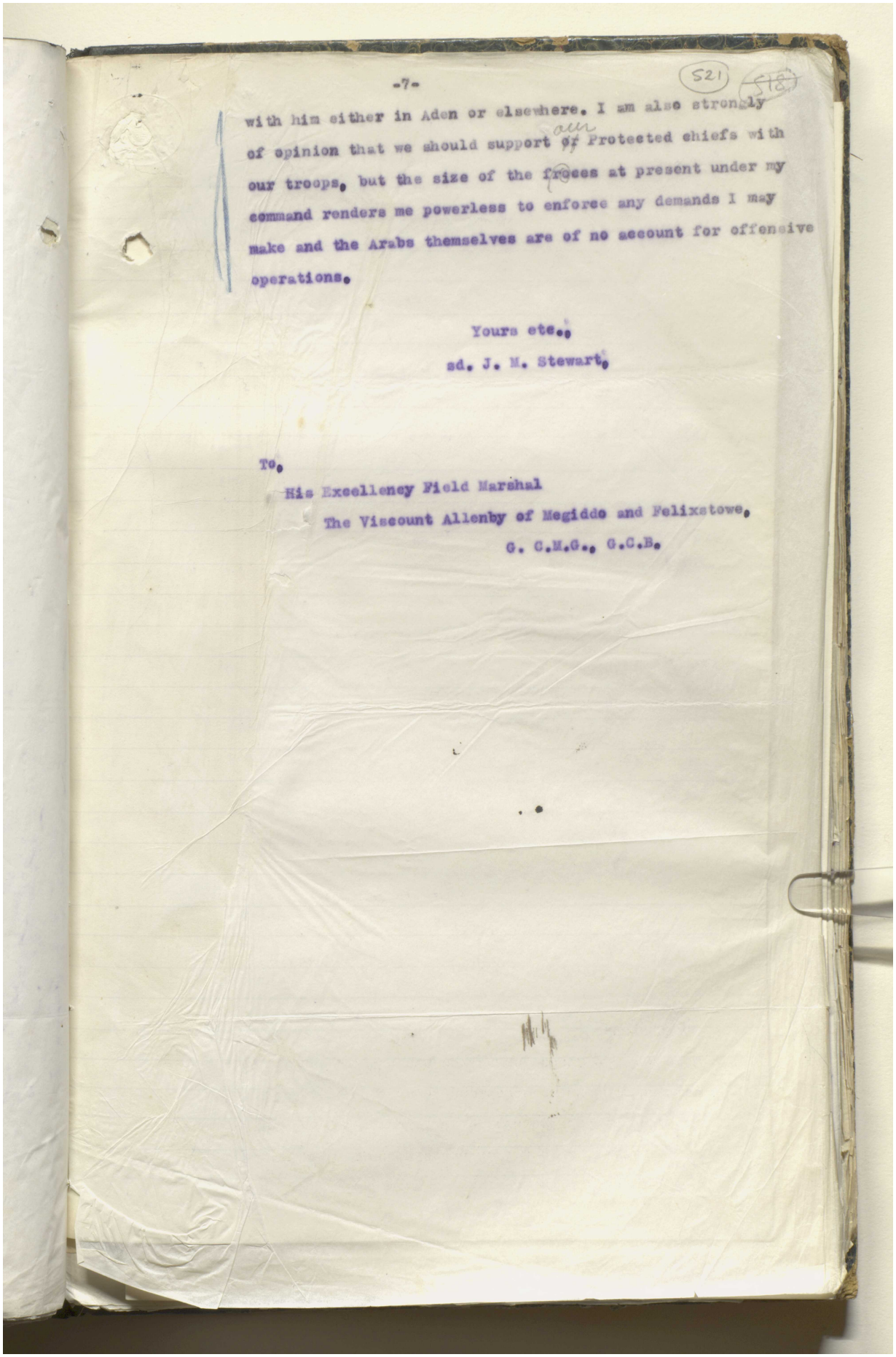

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with him either in Aden or elsewhere. I am also strongly of opinion that we should support our Protected chiefs with our troops, but the size of the forces at present under my command renders me powerless to enforce any demands I may make and the Arabs themselves are of no account for offensive operations.

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency Field Marshal
The Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixstowe,
G. C.M.G., G.C.B.

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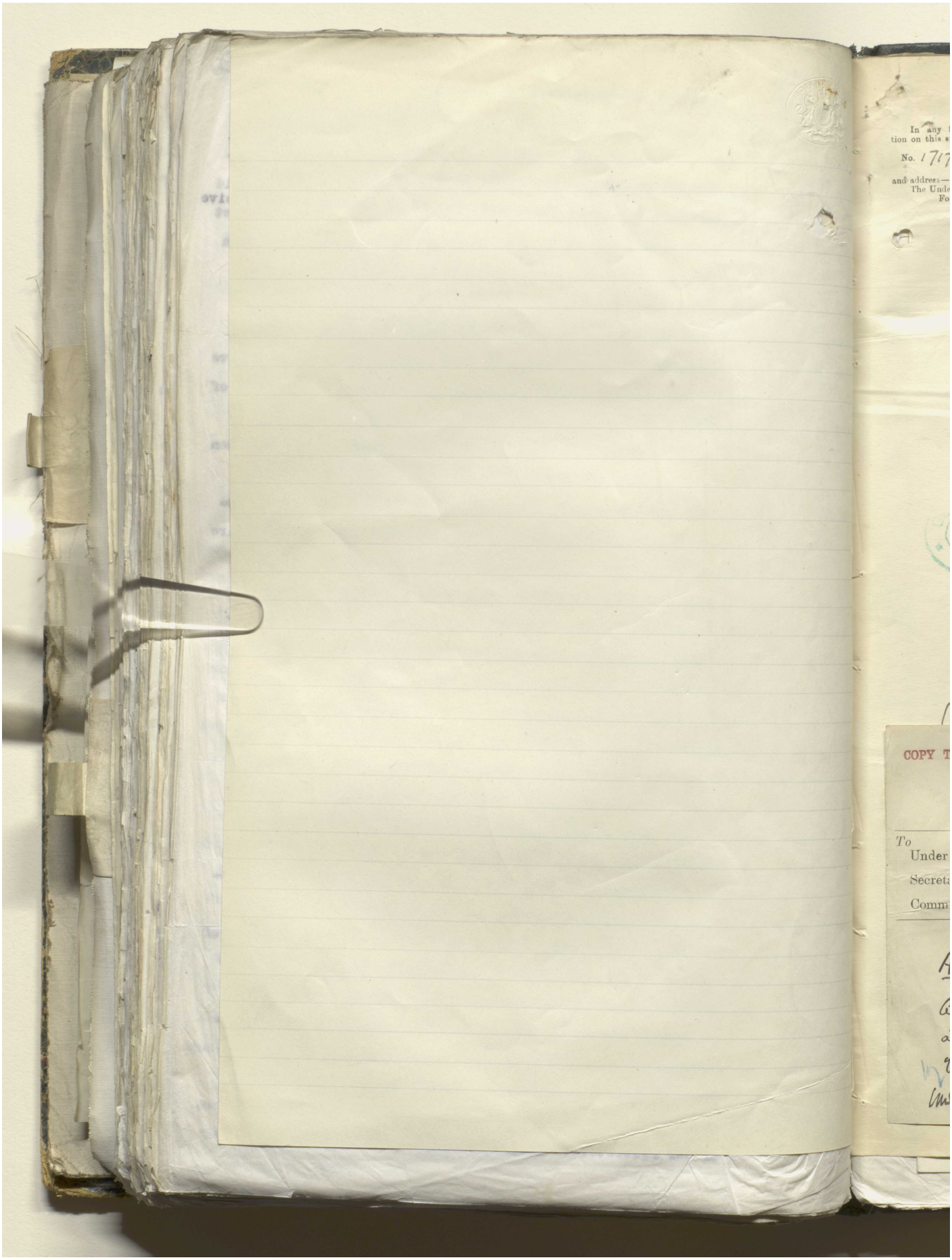

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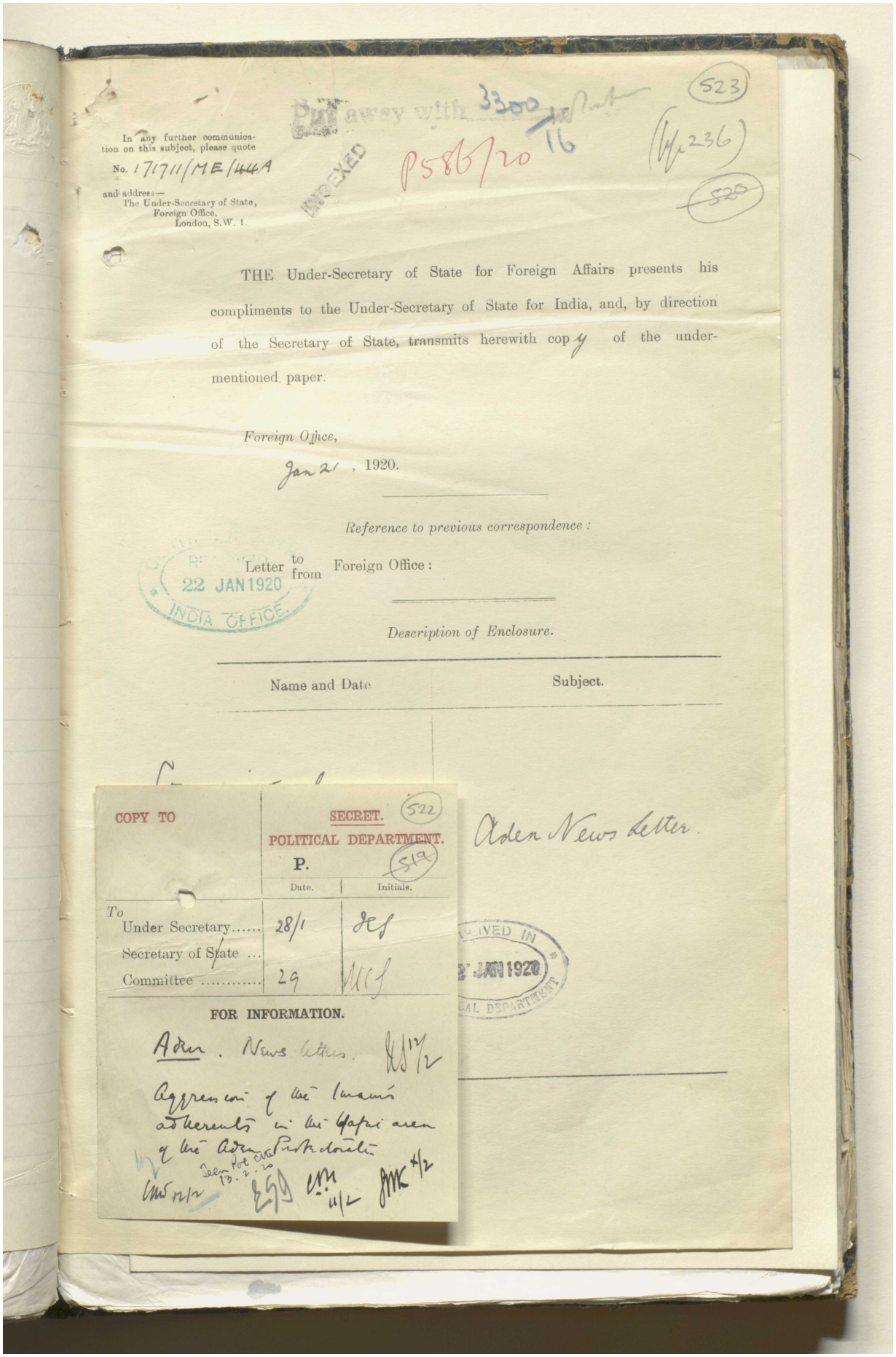

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No. 17/11/ME/44A
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

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P586/20
INCLOSED
523
(4,236)
520

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Jan 21, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to / from Foreign Office:

22 JAN 1920 INDIA OFFICE

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
	Aden News Letter.

COPY TO	SECRET. 522 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. P. 519	
	Date.	Initials.
To Under Secretary.....	28/1	
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	29	

RECEIVED IN 29 JAN 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden. News Letter.
Aggression of the Imam's adherents in the Yafai area of the Aden Protectorate.
Seen for orders 13.2.20

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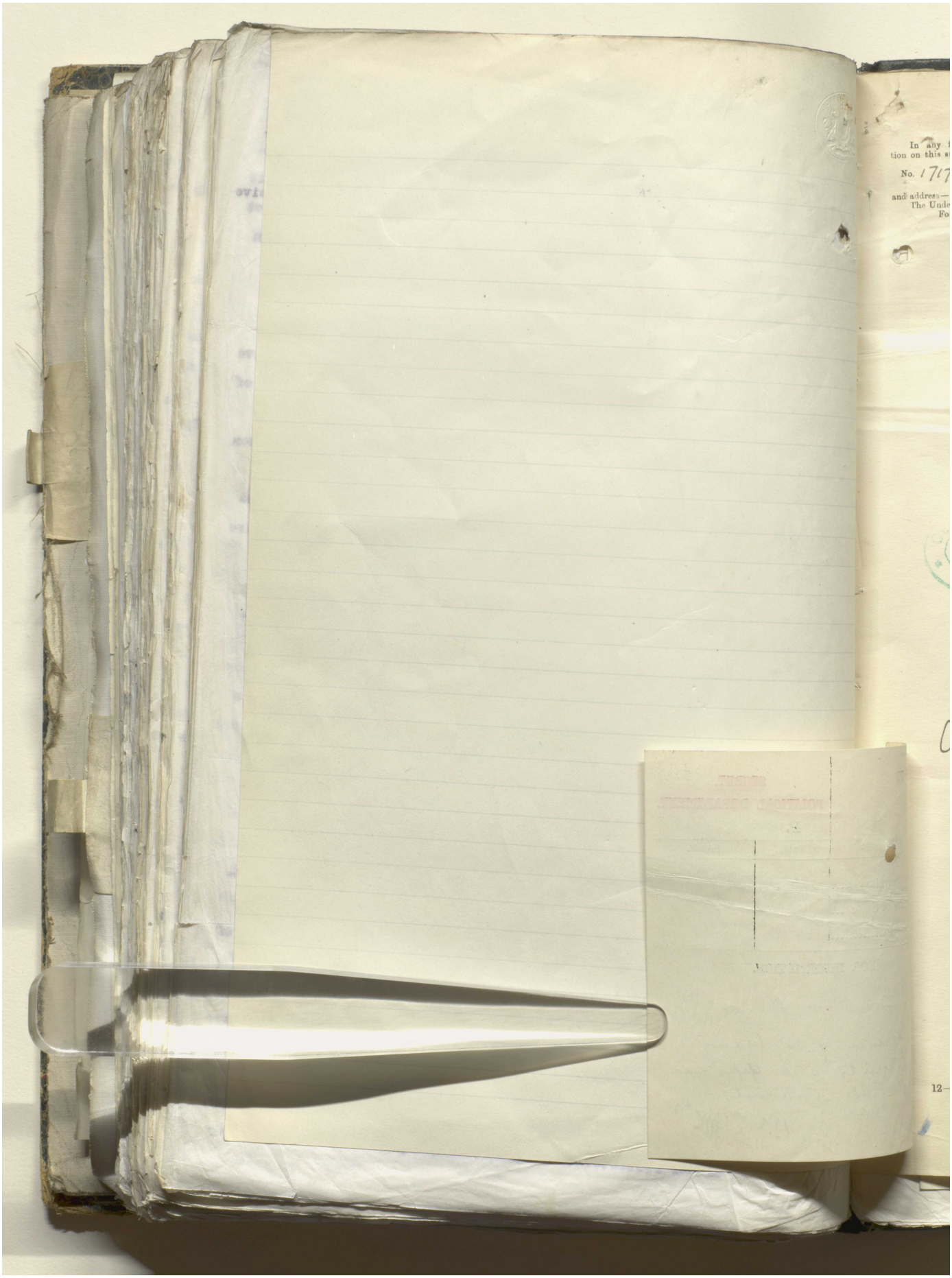

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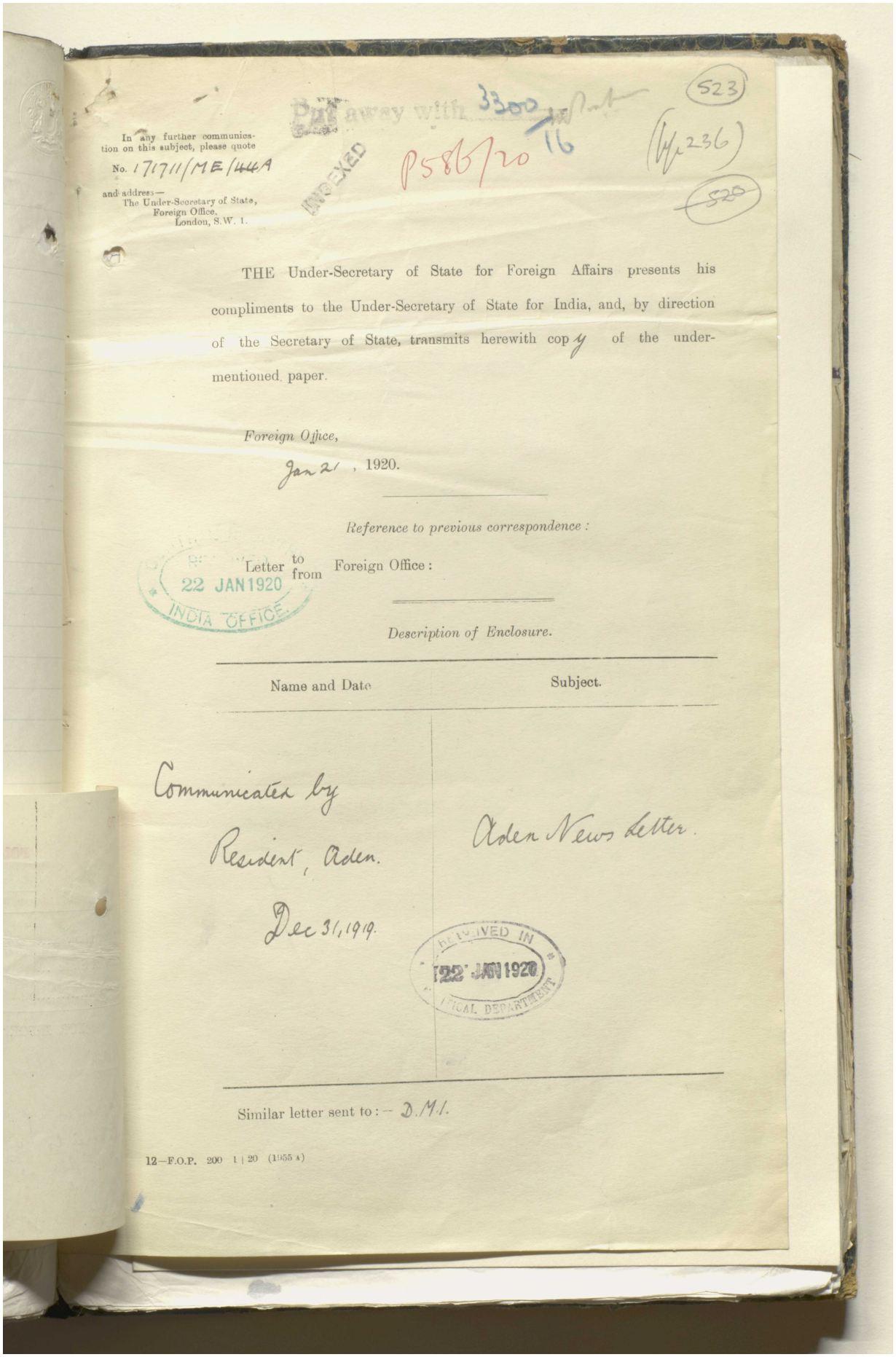

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P 586/20
523
(Mr 236)
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London, S.W. 1.

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Jan 21, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to / from Foreign Office:

22 JAN 1920
INDIA OFFICE

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
Communicated by Resident, Aden. Dec 31, 1919.	Aden News Letter.

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22 JAN 1920
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Similar letter sent to:— D.M.I.

12—F.O.P. 200 1|20 (1955 a)

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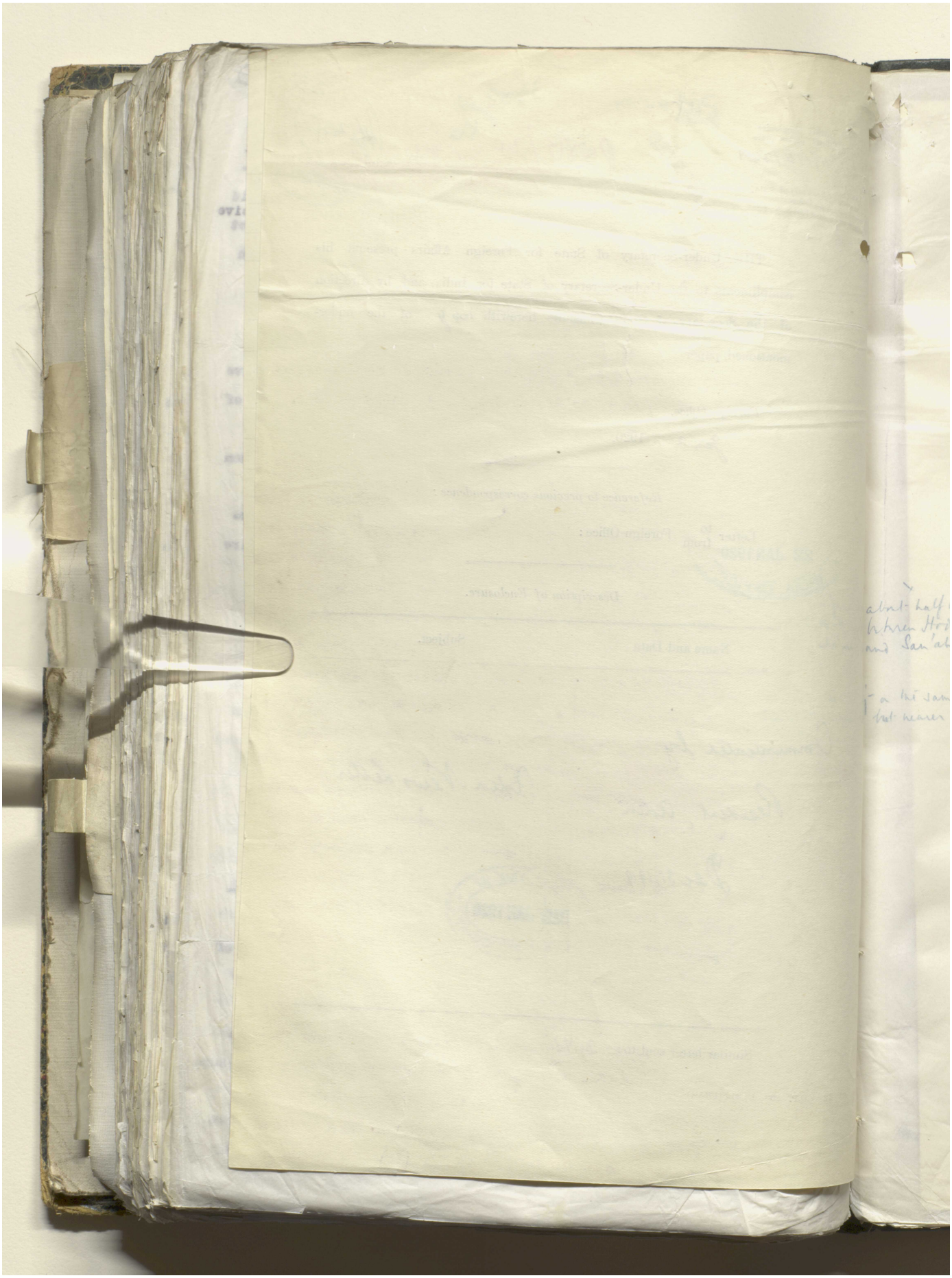

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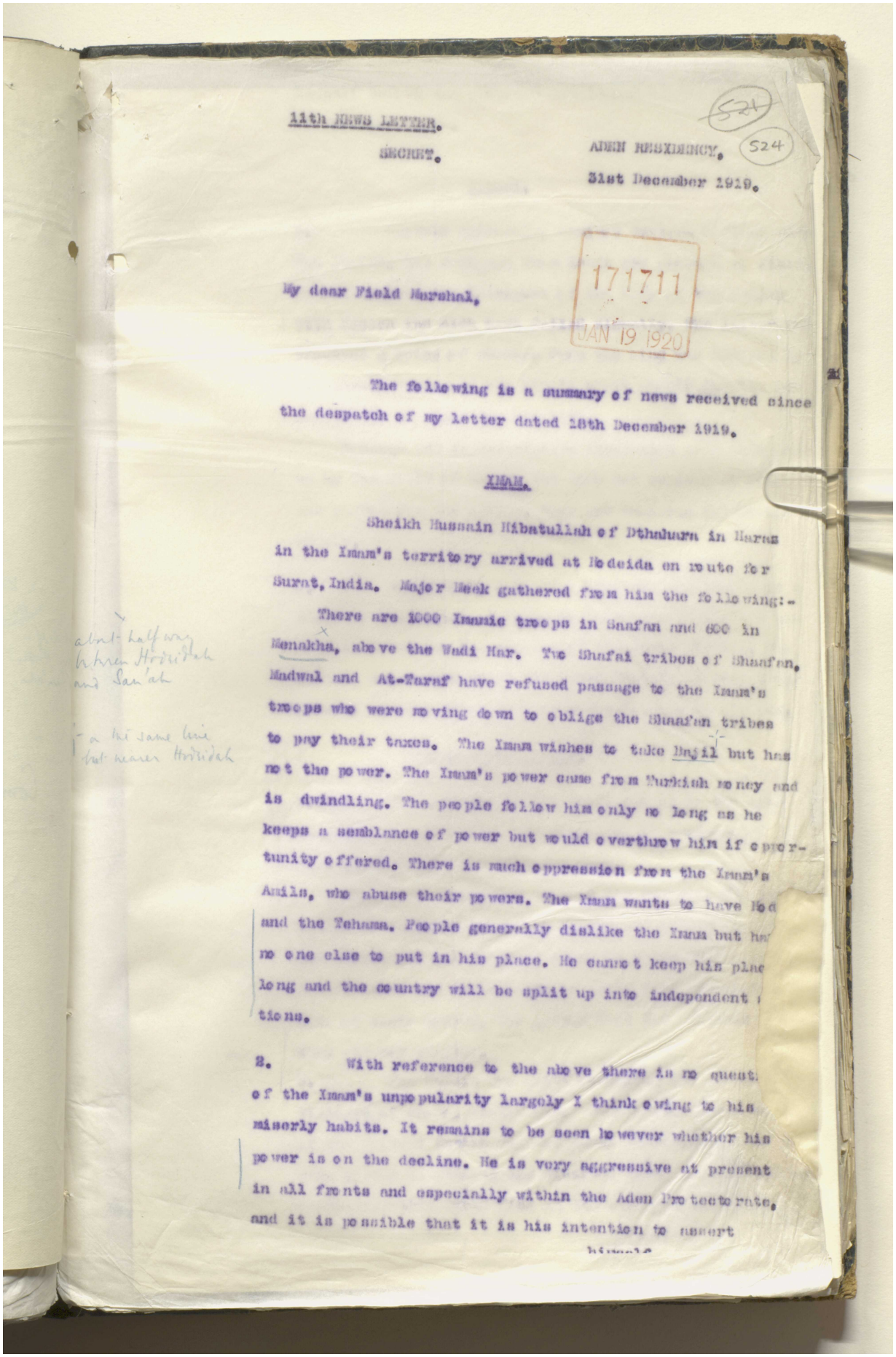

11th NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

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ADEN RESIDENCY,

31st December 1919.

171711
JAN 19 1920

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a summary of news received since the despatch of my letter dated 18th December 1919.

YEMEN.

Sheikh Hussain Hibatullah of Dthuburn in Haraz in the Imam's territory arrived at Hodeida en route for Surat, India. Major Meek gathered from him the following:-

There are 1000 Imamic troops in Sanfan and 600 in Menakha, above the Wadi Har. The Shafai tribes of Bhaafan, Madwal and At-Taraf have refused passage to the Imam's troops who were moving down to oblige the Bhaafan tribes to pay their taxes. The Imam wishes to take Bajil but has not the power. The Imam's power came from Turkish money and is dwindling. The people follow him only so long as he keeps a semblance of power but would overthrow him if opportunity offered. There is much oppression from the Imam's Amils, who abuse their powers. The Imam wants to have Hod and the Tehama. People generally dislike the Imam but ha no one else to put in his place. He cannot keep his plac long and the country will be split up into independent tions.

2. With reference to the above there is no questi of the Imam's unpopularity largely I think owing to his miserly habits. It remains to be seen however whether his power is on the decline. He is very aggressive at present in all fronts and especially within the Aden Protectorate, and it is possible that it is his intention to assert himself

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himself before the proposed settlement of the boundaries of Arabian Chiefs.

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IDRISI.

3. Captain Fazluddin, Liaison Medical Officer with the Idrisi, has returned from leave and proceeded to Jizan. He writes that the intrigues of the King of the Hedjaz with Hassan ibn Aidh have failed signally. The latter who received a bribe of £3000/- from the King was deposed by his ~~xxxxx~~ tribe and the King's agent Sharif Abdulla Hazim had to fly at night for his life.

A large and representative deputation from Abha headed by the uncle of Hassan ibn Aidh has arrived at Jizan to ask pardon for the latter. They are awaiting the Idrisi's reply.

4. Major Meek, Political Officer, Hodeida, paid a visit to the Idrisi at Jizan to thank the Idrisi for his help in obtaining the release of the Jacob Mission. The meeting was most cordial and Sayed Mustafa al Idrisi has offered to take Major Meek over the country in his car.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

5. The activity of the Zaidi troops in the Aden Protectorate continues. The following is a resume of news received for the last ten days.

The Zaidis proceeded against the Shairis. The latter headed by Sheikh Saleh of al Malaha and others resisted the Zaidis and killed 12 of them. On being reinforced the Zaidis drove the Shairis out of their dars and destroyed some of their houses. The latter left for Halmain where they are now staying.

6. The Zaidis are still occupying the Yafla villages of Shoke, Khalla Asa. They captured the ne[w] of the Yaflahi Sheikh and his party numbering 70 men who were posted as pickets, ~~xxx~~ disarmed them and carried away everything they could find in the villages including

jowari

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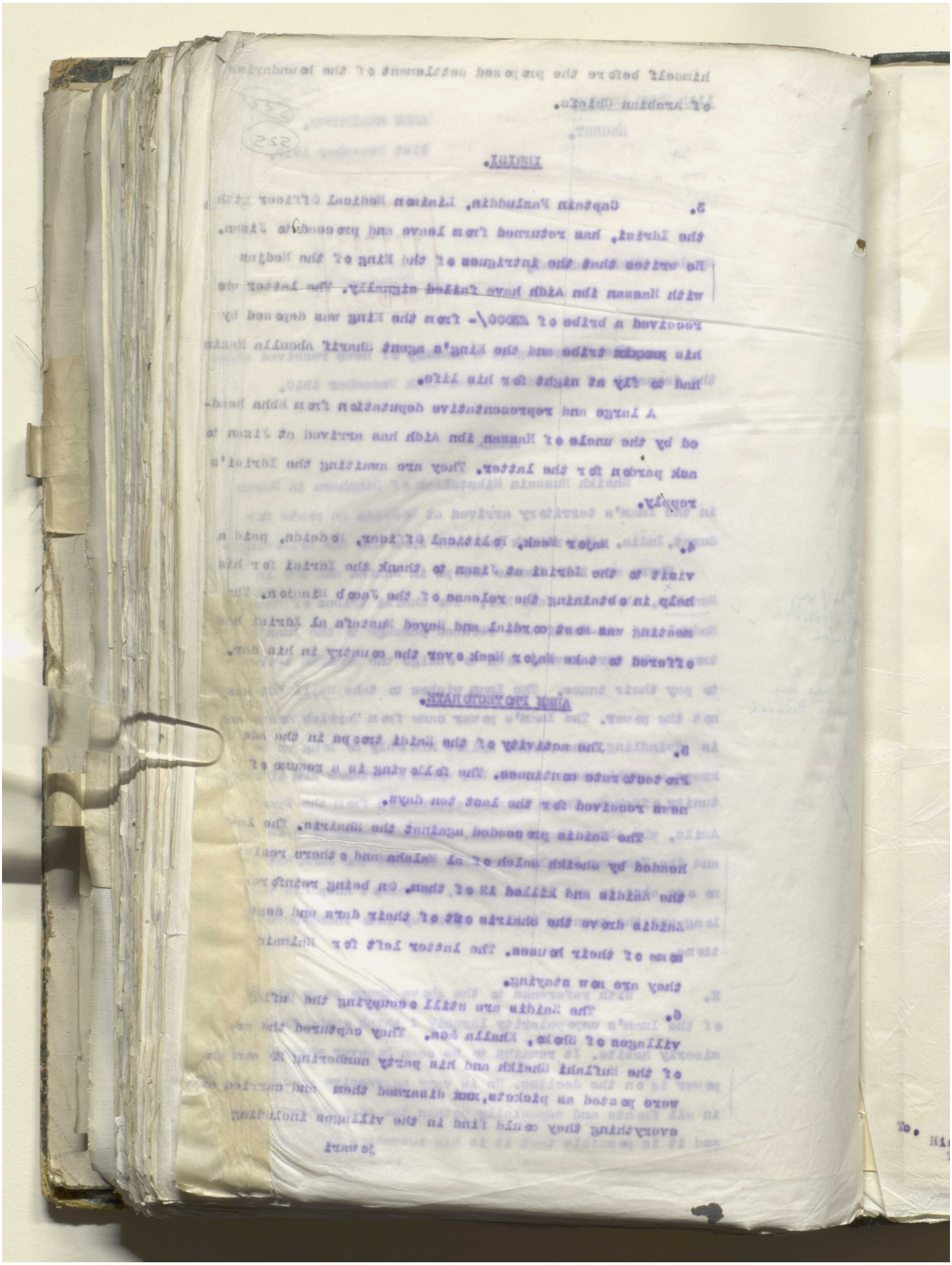

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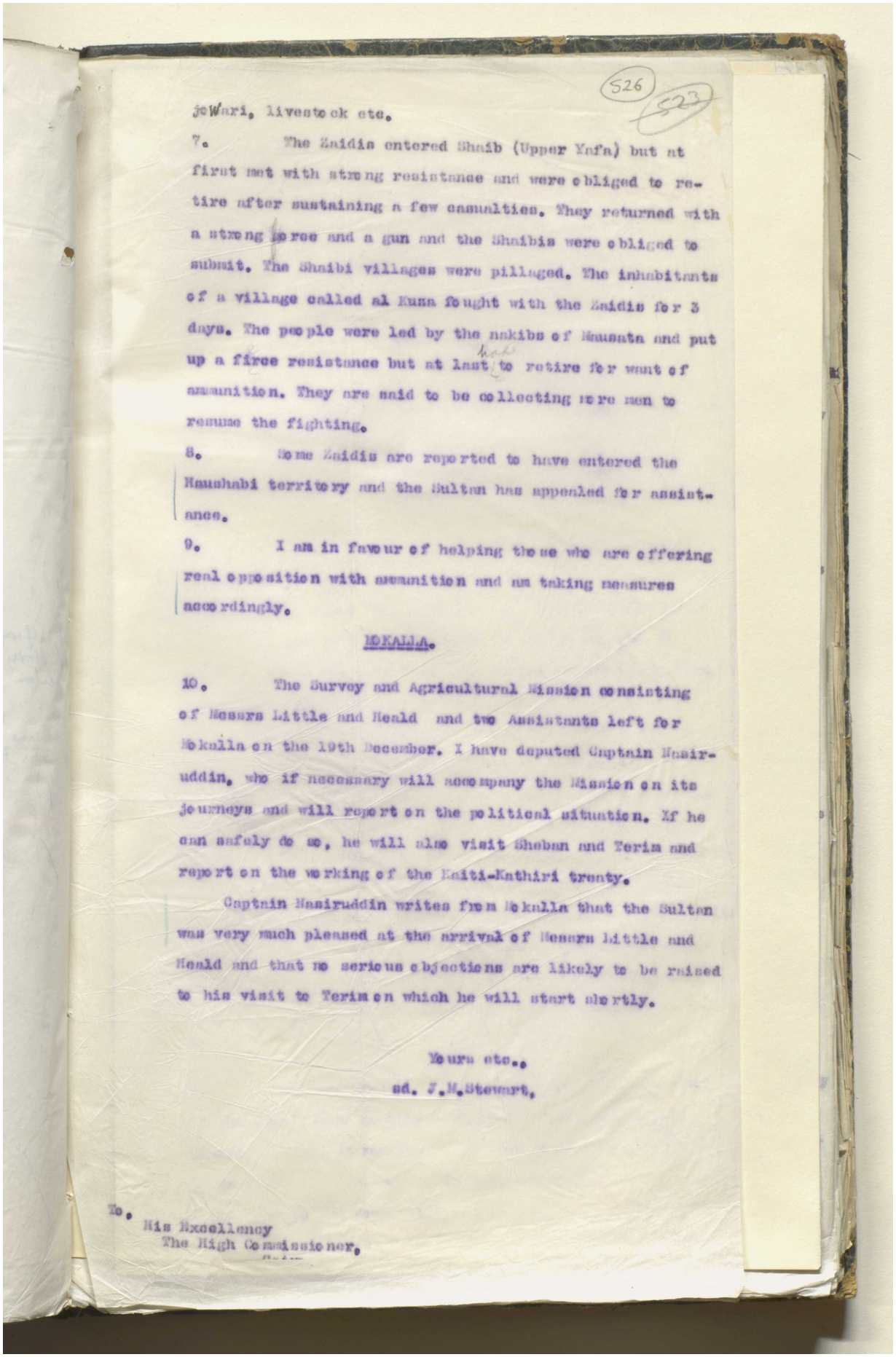

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jowari, livestock etc.

7. The Zaidis entered Shaib (Upper Yafa) but at first met with strong resistance and were obliged to retire after sustaining a few casualties. They returned with a strong force and a gun and the Shaibis were obliged to submit. The Shaibi villages were pillaged. The inhabitants of a village called al Kusa fought with the Zaidis for 3 days. The people were led by the nakibs of Mausata and put up a fierce resistance but at last to retire for want of ammunition. They are said to be collecting more men to resume the fighting.

8. Some Zaidis are reported to have entered the Haushabi territory and the Sultan has appealed for assistance.

9. I am in favour of helping those who are offering real opposition with ammunition and am taking measures accordingly.

MUKALLA.

10. The Survey and Agricultural Mission consisting of Messrs Little and Heald and two Assistants left for Mukalla on the 19th December. I have deputed Captain Nasiruddin, who if necessary will accompany the Mission on its journeys and will report on the political situation. If he can safely do so, he will also visit Sheban and Terim and report on the working of the Kaiti-Kathiri treaty.

Captain Nasiruddin writes from Mukalla that the Sultan was very much pleased at the arrival of Messrs Little and Heald and that no serious objections are likely to be raised to his visit to Terim on which he will start shortly.

Yours etc.,
sd. J.M.Stewart.

To,
His Excellency
The High Commissioner,

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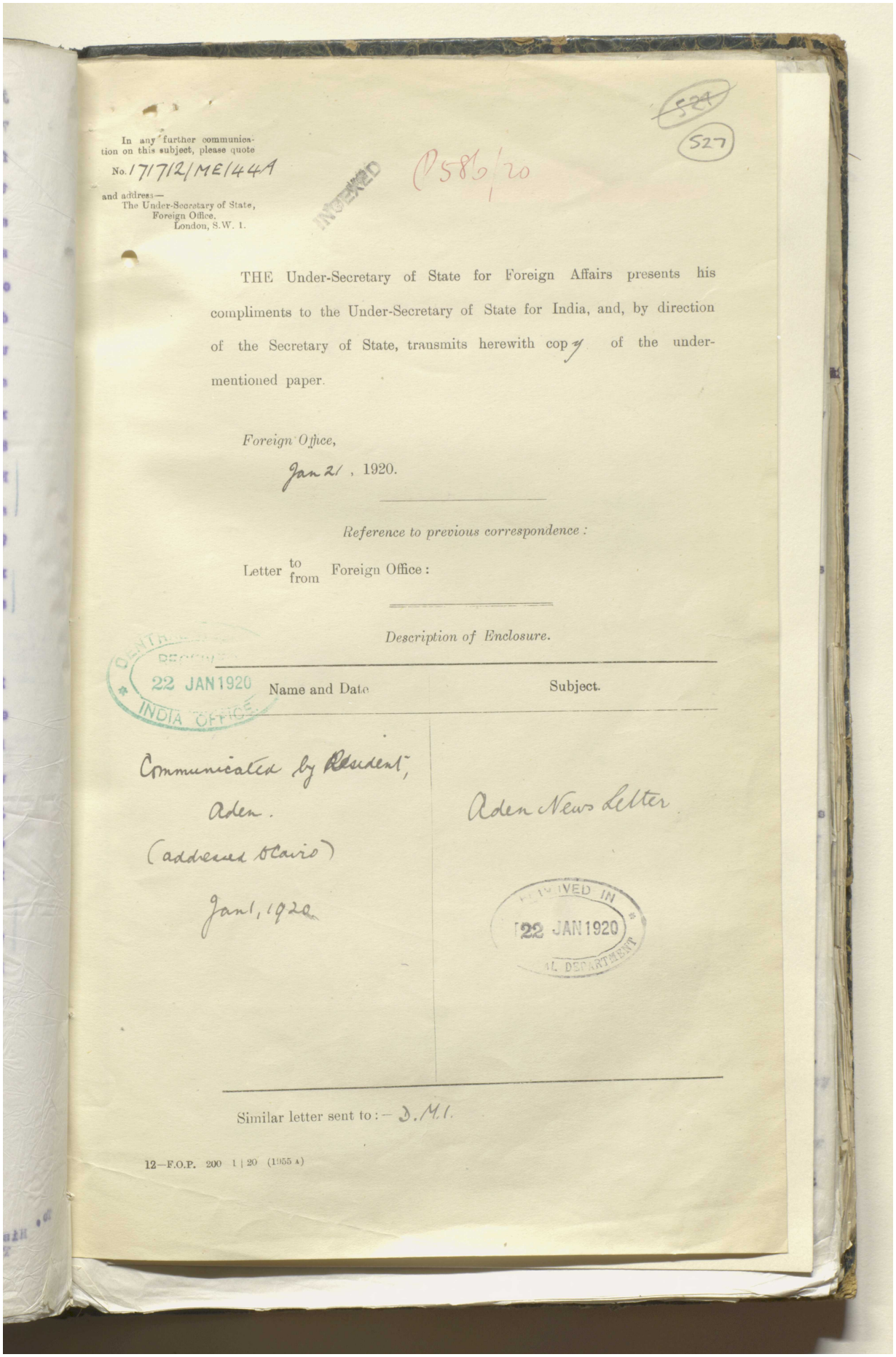

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No. 17172/ME/44A
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

INDEXED P586/20

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Jan 21, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
Communicated by Resident, Aden. (addressed Cairo) Jan 1, 1920	Aden News Letter

DENTH... REGISTRY 22 JAN 1920 INDIA OFFICE

RECEIVED IN 22 JAN 1920 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Similar letter sent to :– J.M.I.

12—F.O.P. 200 1 | 20 (1955 a)

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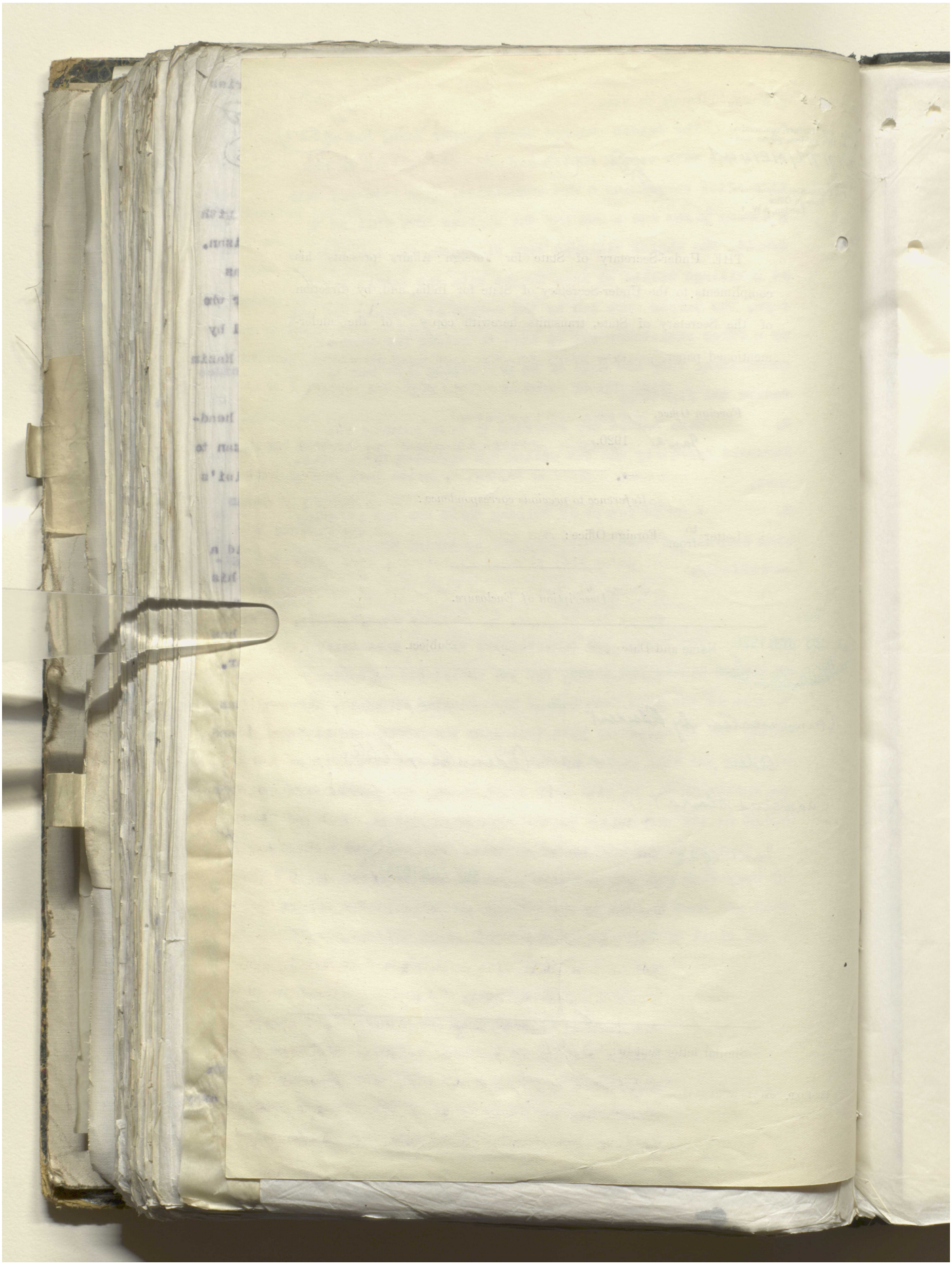

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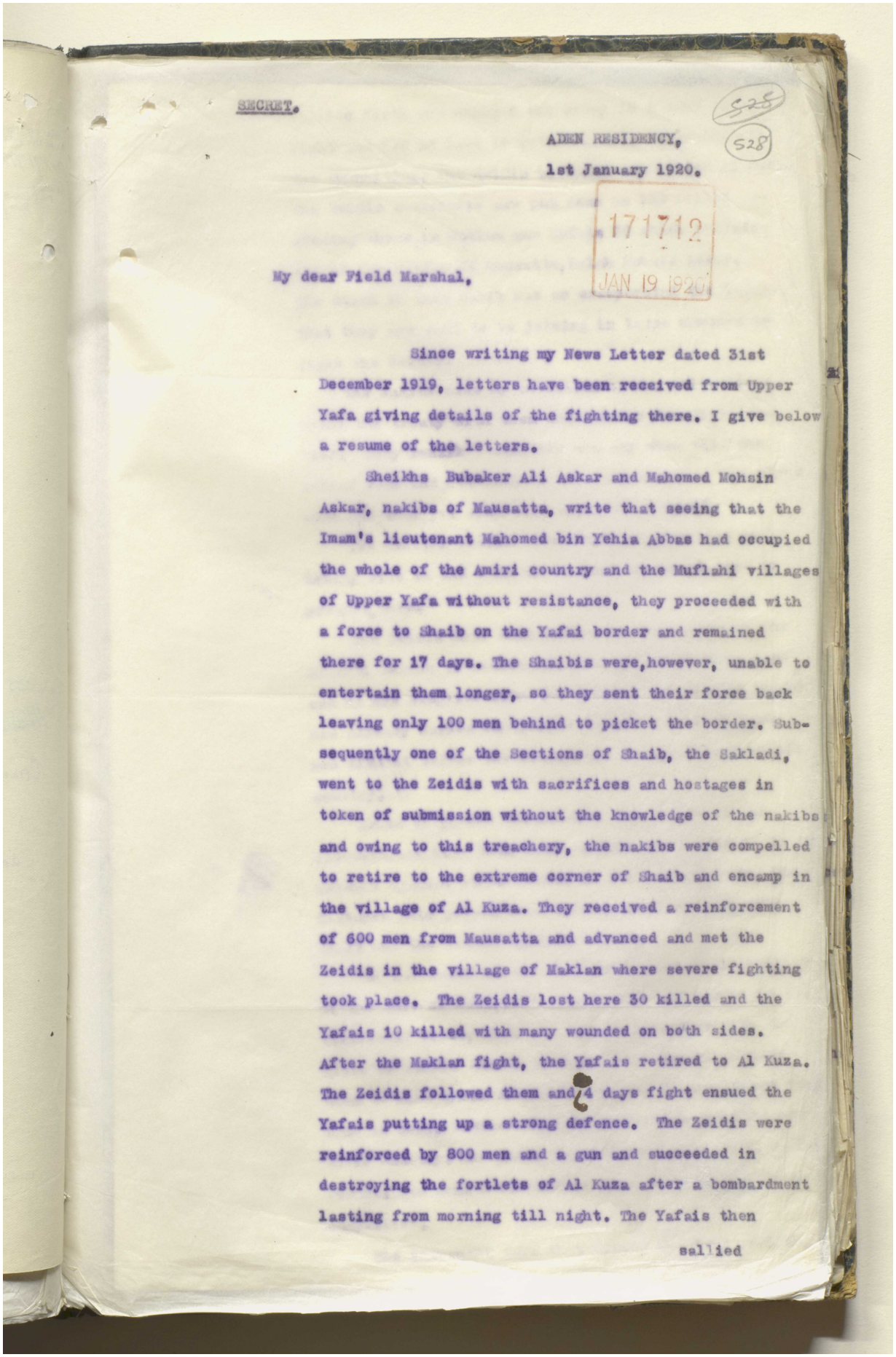

SECRET.

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ADEN RESIDENCY,
1st January 1920.

171712
JAN 19 1920

My dear Field Marshal,

Since writing my News Letter dated 31st December 1919, letters have been received from Upper Yafa giving details of the fighting there. I give below a resume of the letters.

Sheikhs Bubaker Ali Askar and Mahomed Mohsin Askar, nakibs of Mausatta, write that seeing that the Imam's lieutenant Mahomed bin Yehia Abbas had occupied the whole of the Amiri country and the Muflahi villages of Upper Yafa without resistance, they proceeded with a force to Shaib on the Yafai border and remained there for 17 days. The Shaibis were, however, unable to entertain them longer, so they sent their force back leaving only 100 men behind to picket the border. Subsequently one of the Sections of Shaib, the Sakladi, went to the Zeidis with sacrifices and hostages in token of submission without the knowledge of the nakibs and owing to this treachery, the nakibs were compelled to retire to the extreme corner of Shaib and encamp in the village of Al Kuza. They received a reinforcement of 600 men from Mausatta and advanced and met the Zeidis in the village of Maklan where severe fighting took place. The Zeidis lost here 30 killed and the Yafais 10 killed with many wounded on both sides. After the Maklan fight, the Yafais retired to Al Kuza. The Zeidis followed them and 4 days fight ensued the Yafais putting up a strong defence. The Zeidis were reinforced by 800 men and a gun and succeeded in destroying the fortlets of Al Kuza after a bombardment lasting from morning till night. The Yafais then

sallied

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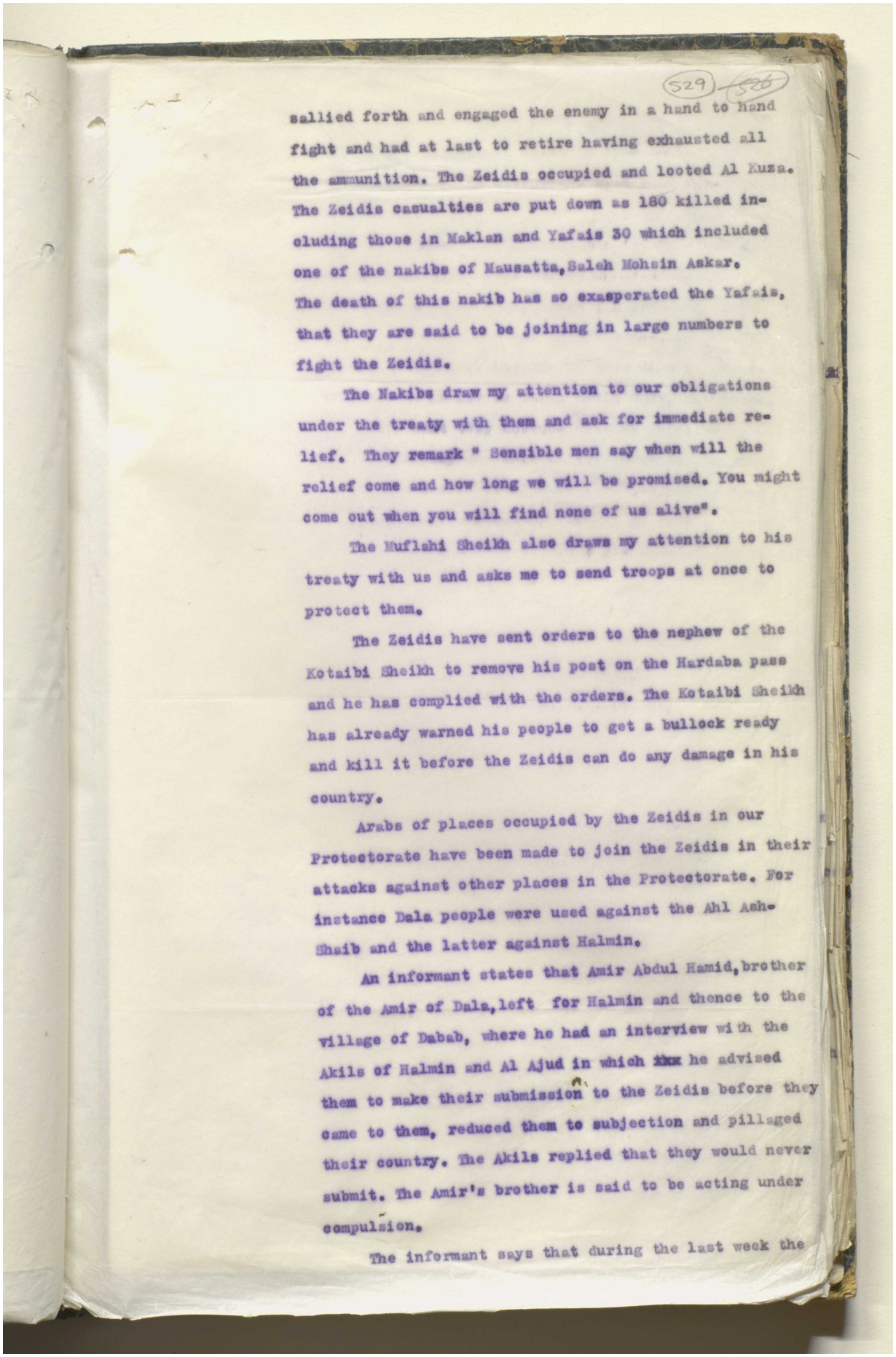

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sallied forth and engaged the enemy in a hand to hand fight and had at last to retire having exhausted all the ammunition. The Zeidis occupied and looted Al Kuza. The Zeidis casualties are put down as 180 killed including those in Maklan and Yafais 30 which included one of the nakibs of Mausatta, Saleh Mohsin Askar. The death of this nakib has so exasperated the Yafais, that they are said to be joining in large numbers to fight the Zeidis.

The Nakibs draw my attention to our obligations under the treaty with them and ask for immediate relief. They remark " Sensible men say when will the relief come and how long we will be promised. You might come out when you will find none of us alive".

The Muflahi Sheikh also draws my attention to his treaty with us and asks me to send troops at once to protect them.

The Zeidis have sent orders to the nephew of the Kotaibi Sheikh to remove his post on the Hardaba pass and he has complied with the orders. The Kotaibi Sheikh has already warned his people to get a bullock ready and kill it before the Zeidis can do any damage in his country.

Arabs of places occupied by the Zeidis in our Protectorate have been made to join the Zeidis in their attacks against other places in the Protectorate. For instance Dala people were used against the Ahl Ash-Shaib and the latter against Halmin.

An informant states that Amir Abdul Hamid, brother of the Amir of Dala, left for Halmin and thence to the village of Dabab, where he had an interview with the Akils of Halmin and Al Ajud in which he advised them to make their submission to the Zeidis before they came to them, reduced them to subjection and pillaged their country. The Akils replied that they would never submit. The Amir's brother is said to be acting under compulsion.

The informant says that during the last week the

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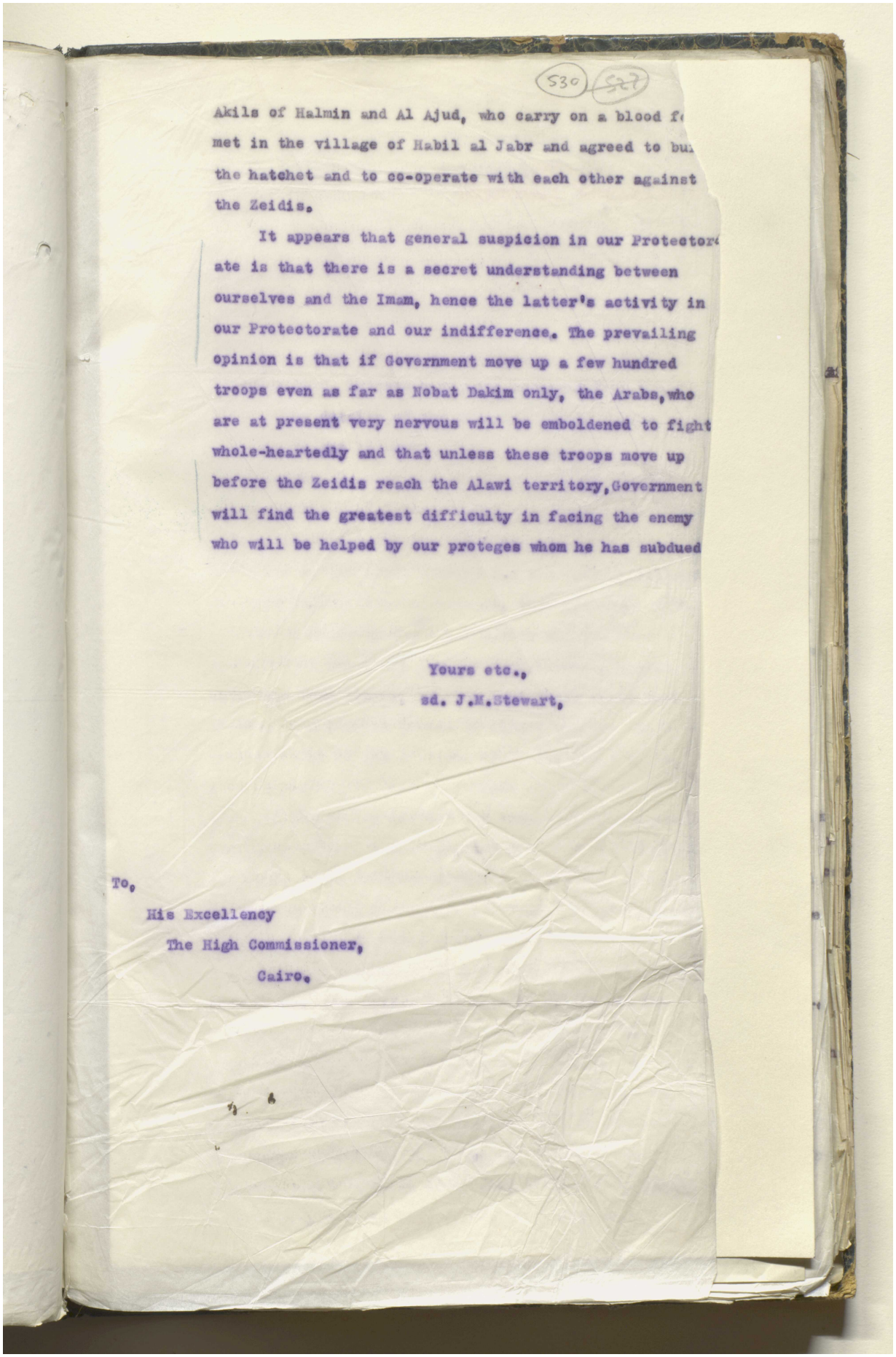

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Akils of Halmin and Al Ajud, who carry on a blood f
met in the village of Habil al Jabr and agreed to bu
the hatchet and to co-operate with each other against
the Zeidis.

It appears that general suspicion in our Protector
ate is that there is a secret understanding between
ourselves and the Imam, hence the latter's activity in
our Protectorate and our indifference. The prevailing
opinion is that if Government move up a few hundred
troops even as far as Nobat Dakim only, the Arabs, who
are at present very nervous will be emboldened to fight
whole-heartedly and that unless these troops move up
before the Zeidis reach the Alawi territory, Government
will find the greatest difficulty in facing the enemy
who will be helped by our proteges whom he has subdued

Yours etc.,
sd. J.M.Stewart,

To,
His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
Cairo.

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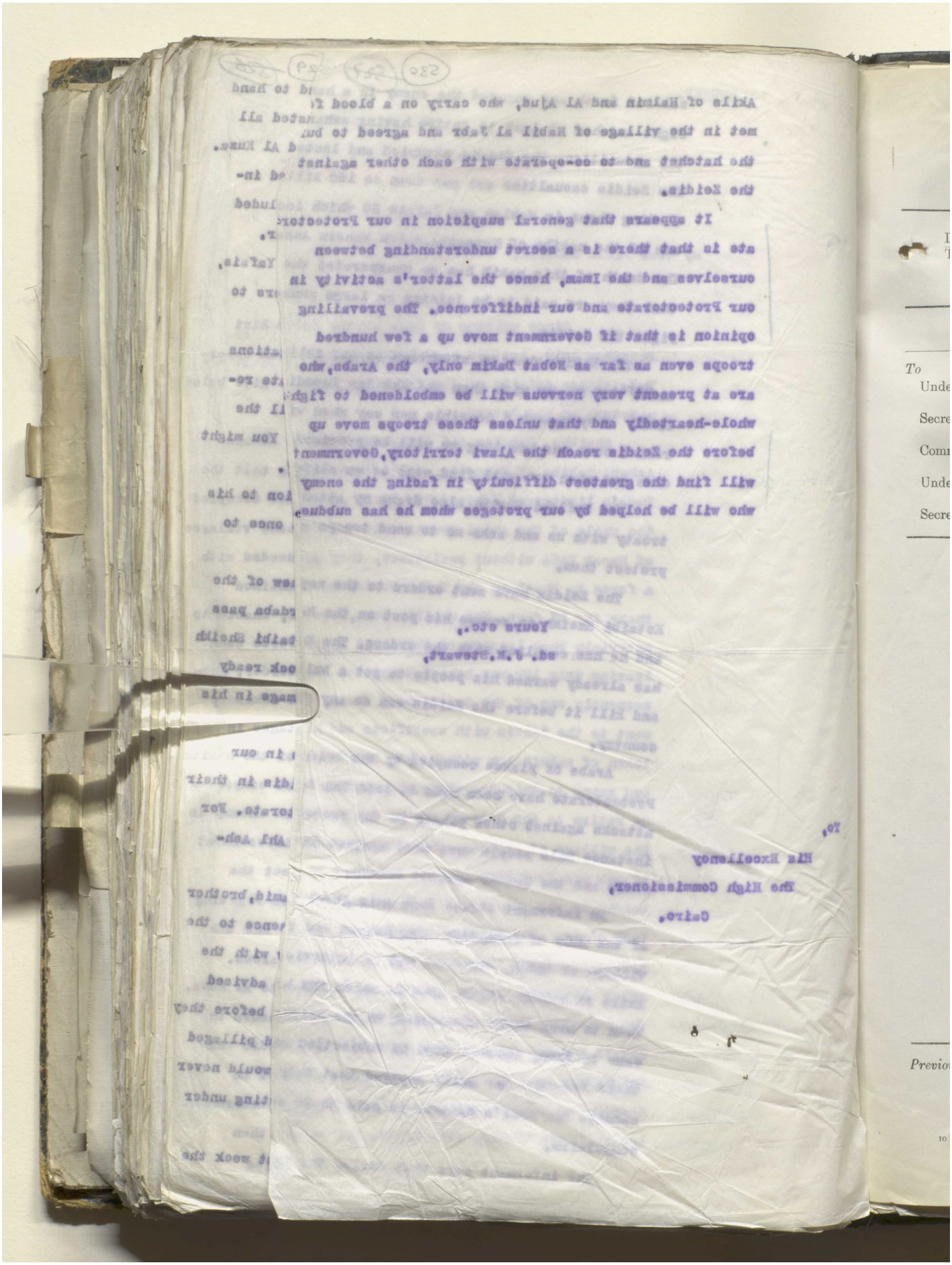

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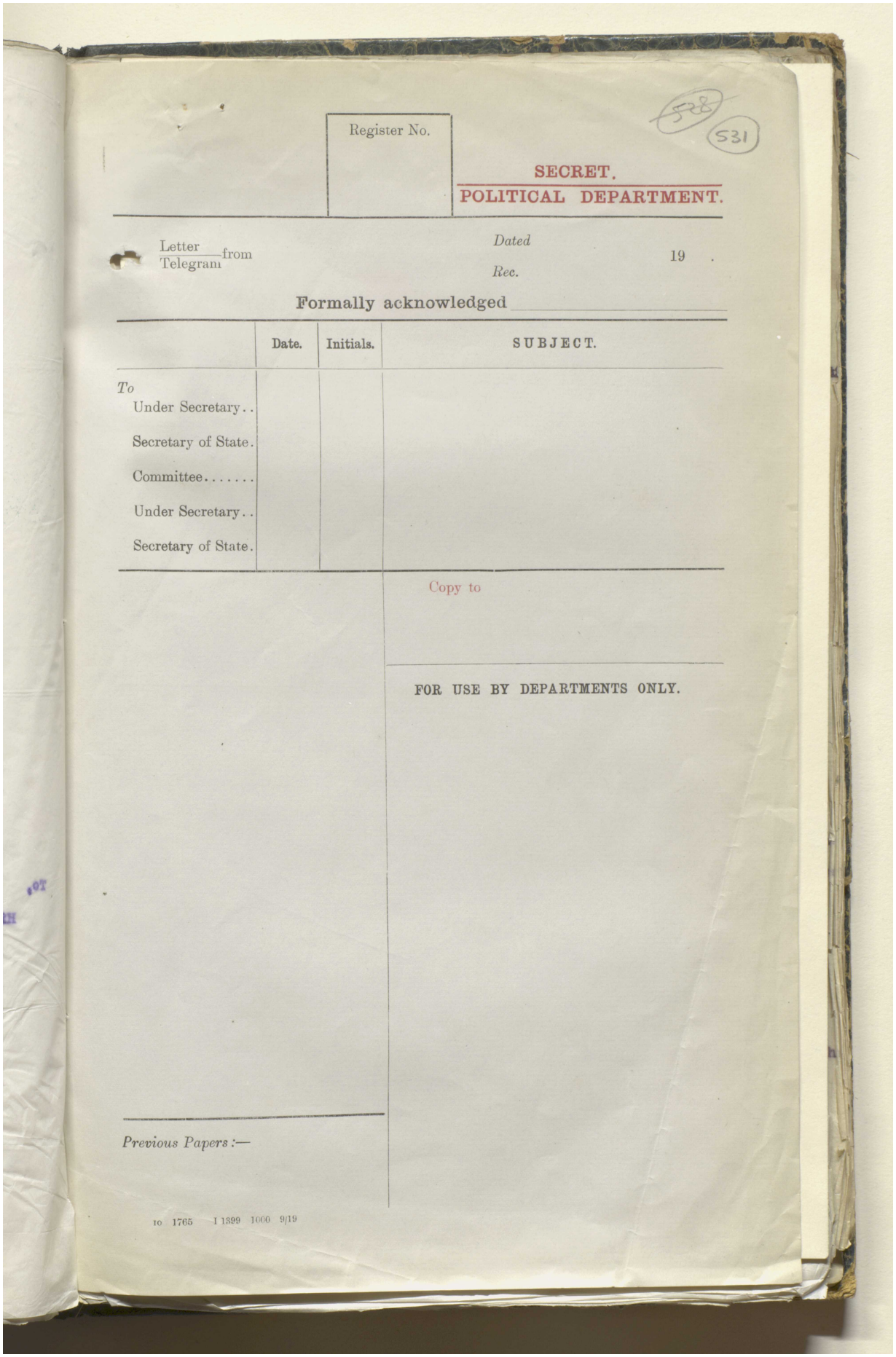

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Dated

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19 .

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Under Secretary.. Secretary of State. Committee..... Under Secretary.. Secretary of State.			

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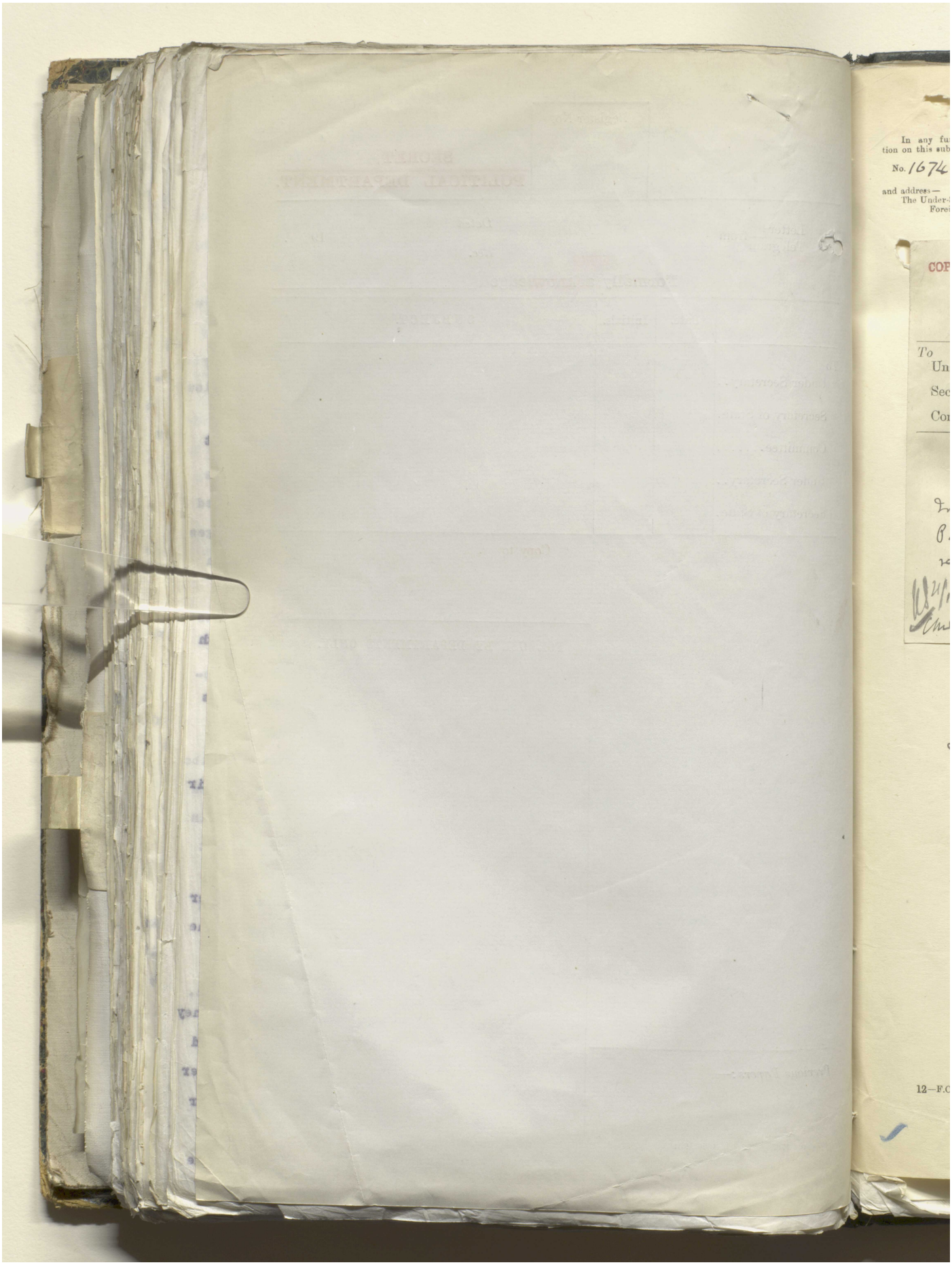

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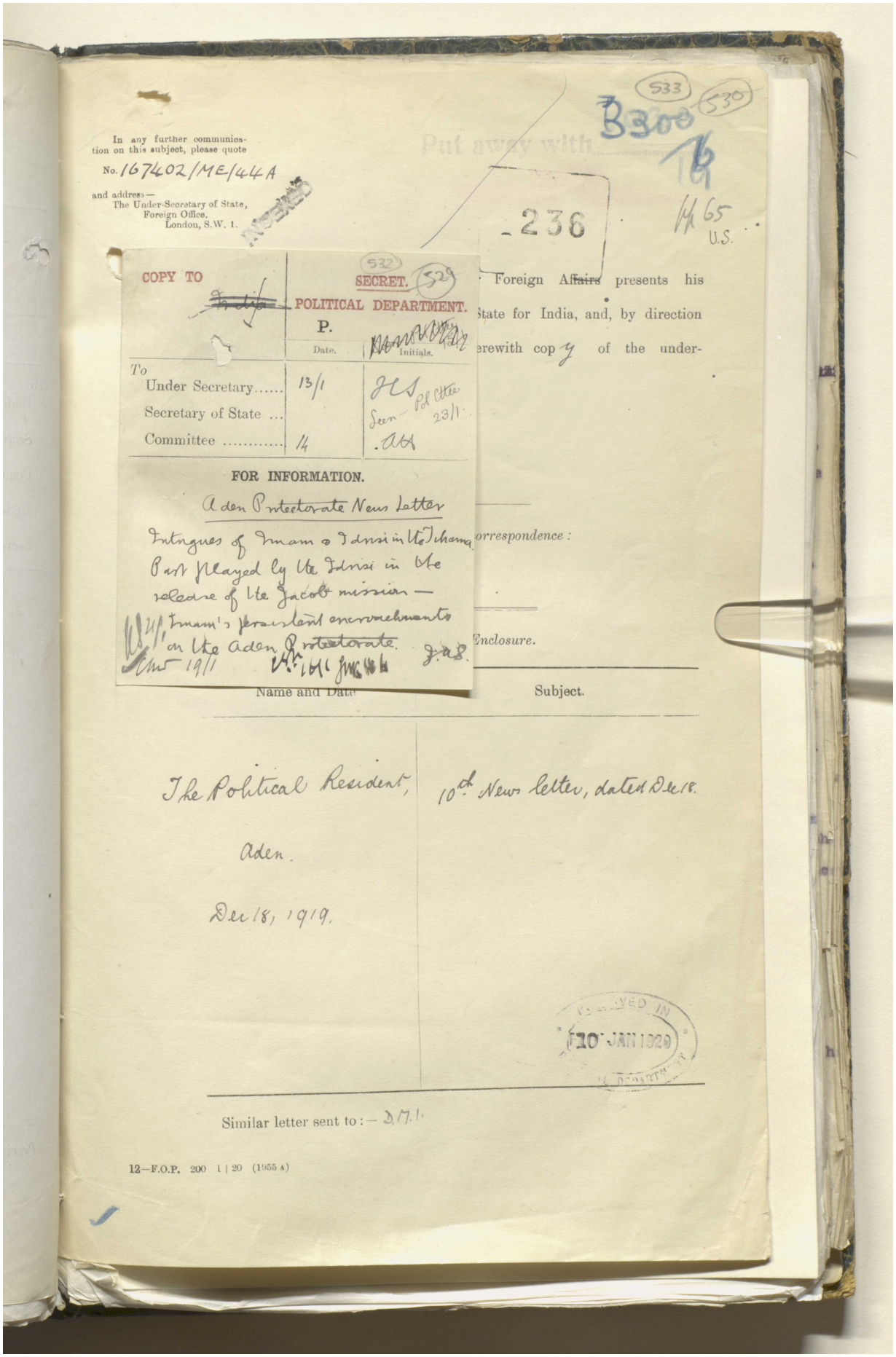

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and address—
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Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	13/1	JCS Pol Cttee 23/1
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	14	AH

FOR INFORMATION.
Aden Protectorate News Letter
Intrigues of Imam & Idrisi in Ulterior
Part played by the Idrisi in the
release of the Jacob mission —
Imam's persistent encroachments
on the Aden Protectorate.
WS 21/1 19/1 JAS

Foreign Affairs presents his
State for India, and, by direction
herewith copy of the under-

orrespondence :

Enclosure.

Name and Date | Subject.

The Political Resident, | 10th News letter, dated Dec 18.
Aden.
Dec 18, 1919.

RECEIVED IN
10 JAN 1920
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to :— D.M.I.

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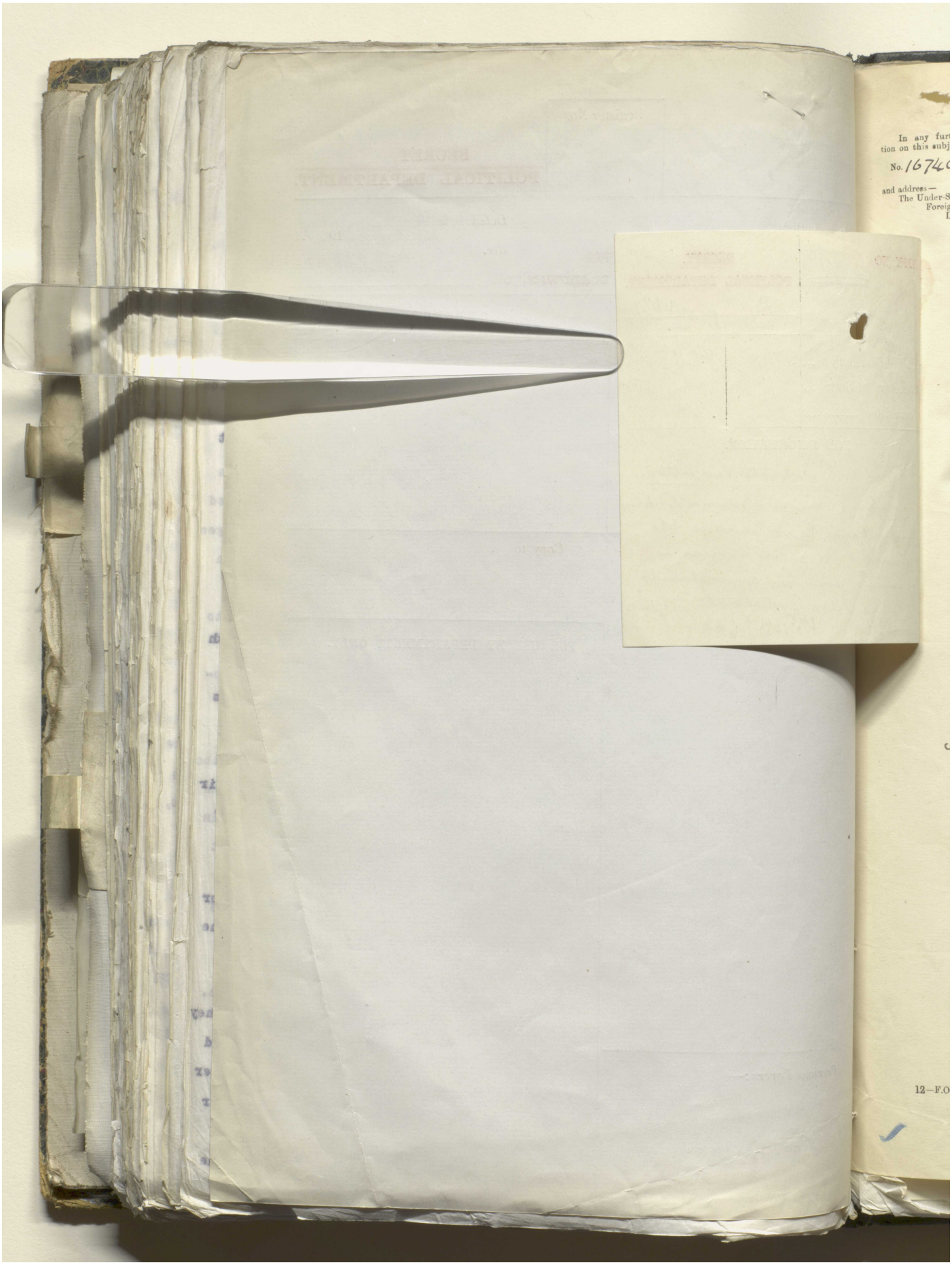

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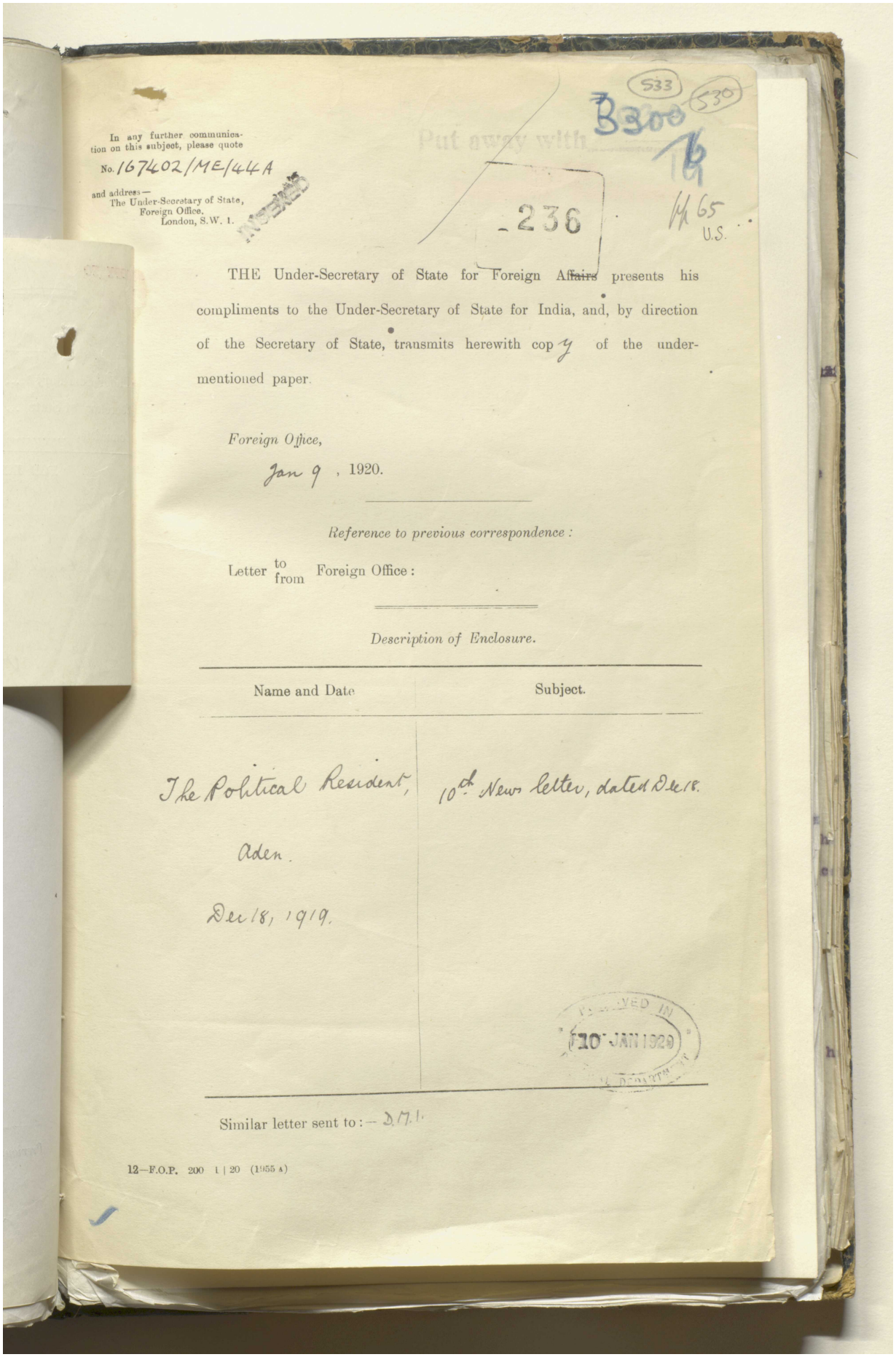

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The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Jan 9, 1920.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
The Political Resident, Aden. Dec 18, 1919.	10th News letter, dated Dec 18.

RECEIVED IN 10 JAN 1920 DEPARTMENT

Similar letter sent to :— G.M.I.

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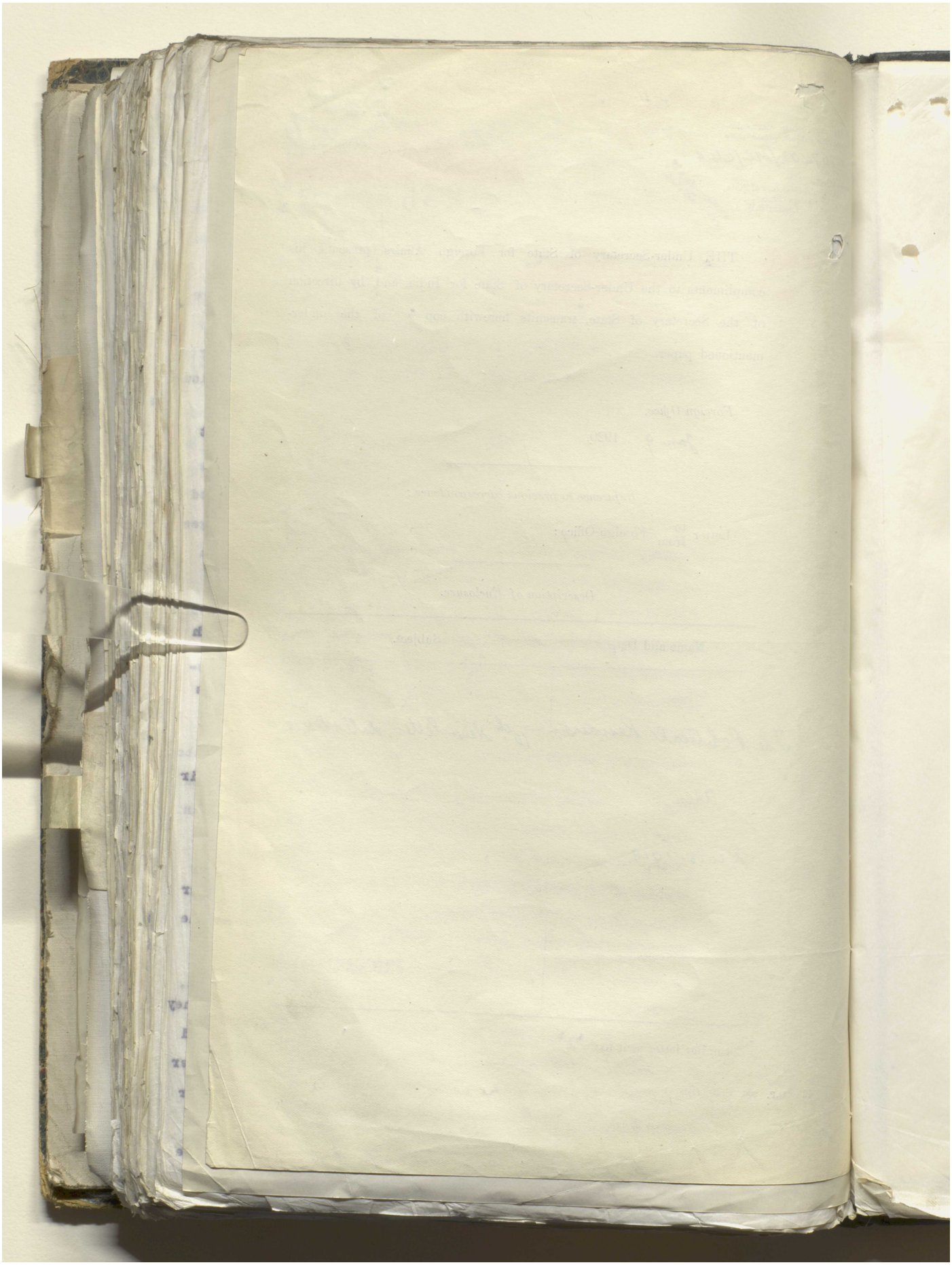

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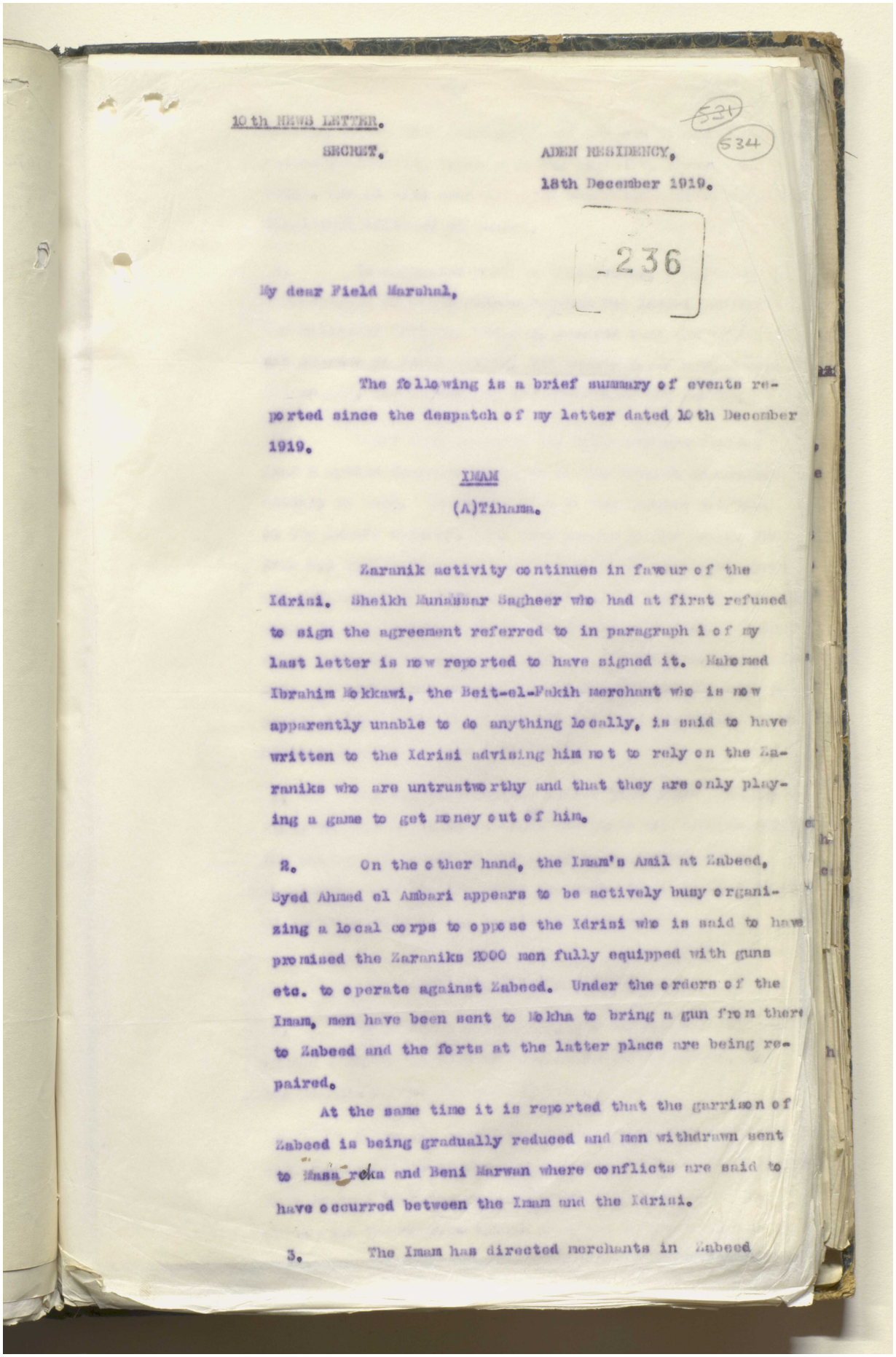

10th NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

18th December 1919.

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My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a brief summary of events reported since the despatch of my letter dated 10th December 1919.

IMAM

(A)Tihama.

Zaranik activity continues in favour of the Idrisi. Sheikh Munassar Sagheer who had at first refused to sign the agreement referred to in paragraph 1 of my last letter is now reported to have signed it. Mahomed Ibrahim Mokkawi, the Beit-el-Fakih merchant who is now apparently unable to do anything locally, is said to have written to the Idrisi advising him not to rely on the Zaraniks who are untrustworthy and that they are only playing a game to get money out of him.

2. On the other hand, the Imam's Amil at Zabeed, Syed Ahmed el Ambari appears to be actively busy organizing a local corps to oppose the Idrisi who is said to have promised the Zaraniks 2000 men fully equipped with guns etc. to operate against Zabeed. Under the orders of the Imam, men have been sent to Mokha to bring a gun from there to Zabeed and the forts at the latter place are being repaired.

At the same time it is reported that the garrison of Zabeed is being gradually reduced and men withdrawn sent to Hasa'reka and Beni Marwan where conflicts are said to have occurred between the Imam and the Idrisi.

3. The Imam has directed merchants in Zabeed

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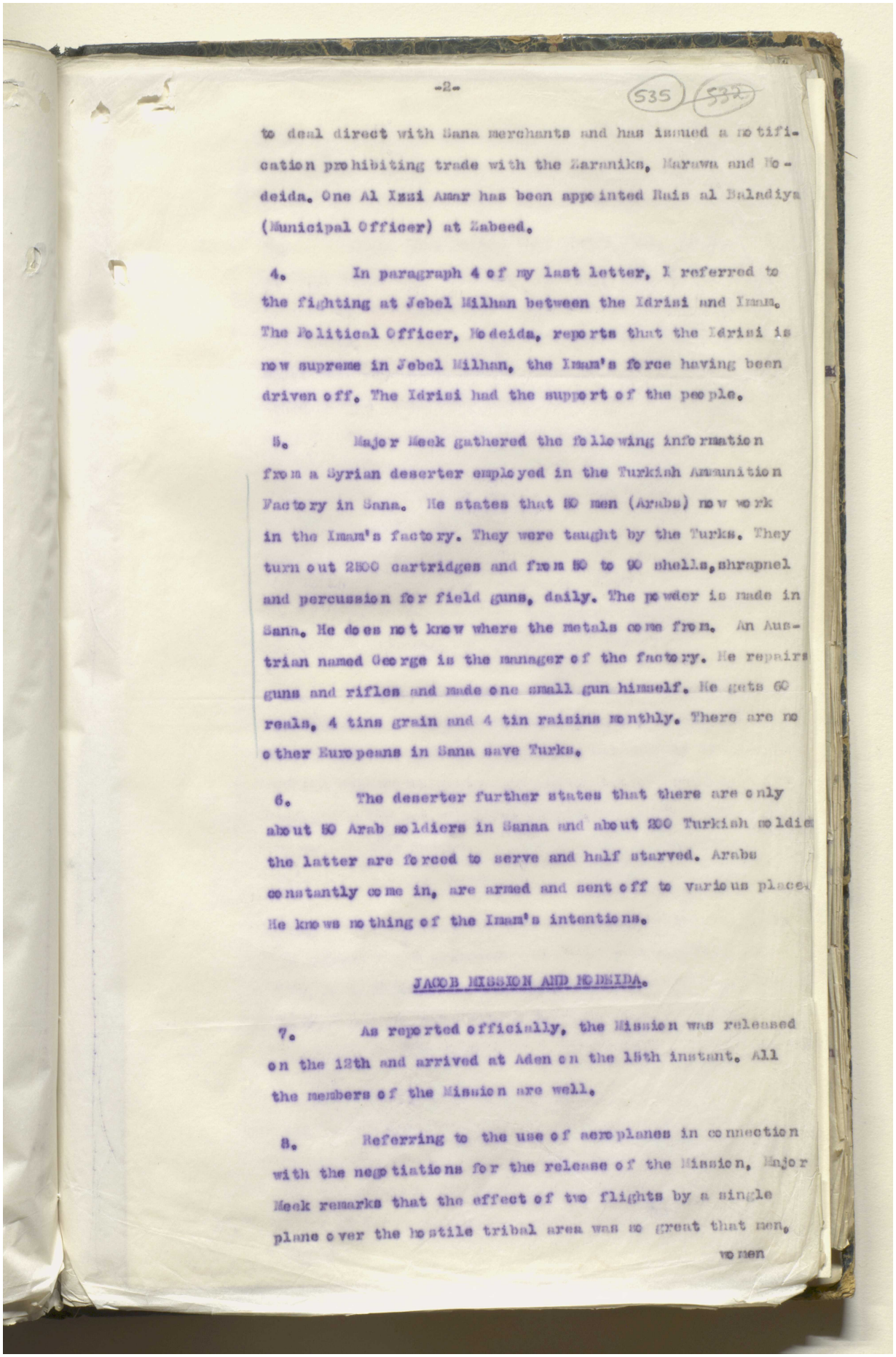

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to deal direct with Sana merchants and has issued a notification prohibiting trade with the Zaraniks, Marawa and Hodeida. One Al Izzi Amar has been appointed Rais al Baladiya (Municipal Officer) at Zabeed.

4. In paragraph 4 of my last letter, I referred to the fighting at Jebel Milhan between the Idrisi and Imam. The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that the Idrisi is now supreme in Jebel Milhan, the Imam's force having been driven off. The Idrisi had the support of the people.

5. Major Meek gathered the following information from a Syrian deserter employed in the Turkish Ammunition Factory in Sana. He states that 80 men (Arabs) now work in the Imam's factory. They were taught by the Turks. They turn out 2500 cartridges and from 80 to 90 shells, shrapnel and percussion for field guns, daily. The powder is made in Sana. He does not know where the metals come from. An Austrian named George is the manager of the factory. He repairs guns and rifles and made one small gun himself. He gets 60 reals, 4 tins grain and 4 tin raisins monthly. There are no other Europeans in Sana save Turks.

6. The deserter further states that there are only about 50 Arab soldiers in Sanaa and about 200 Turkish soldiers the latter are forced to serve and half starved. Arabs constantly come in, are armed and sent off to various places. He knows nothing of the Imam's intentions.

JACOB MISSION AND HODEIDA.

7. As reported officially, the Mission was released on the 12th and arrived at Aden on the 15th instant. All the members of the Mission are well.

8. Referring to the use of aeroplanes in connection with the negotiations for the release of the Mission, Major Meek remarks that the effect of two flights by a single plane over the hostile tribal area was so great that men, women

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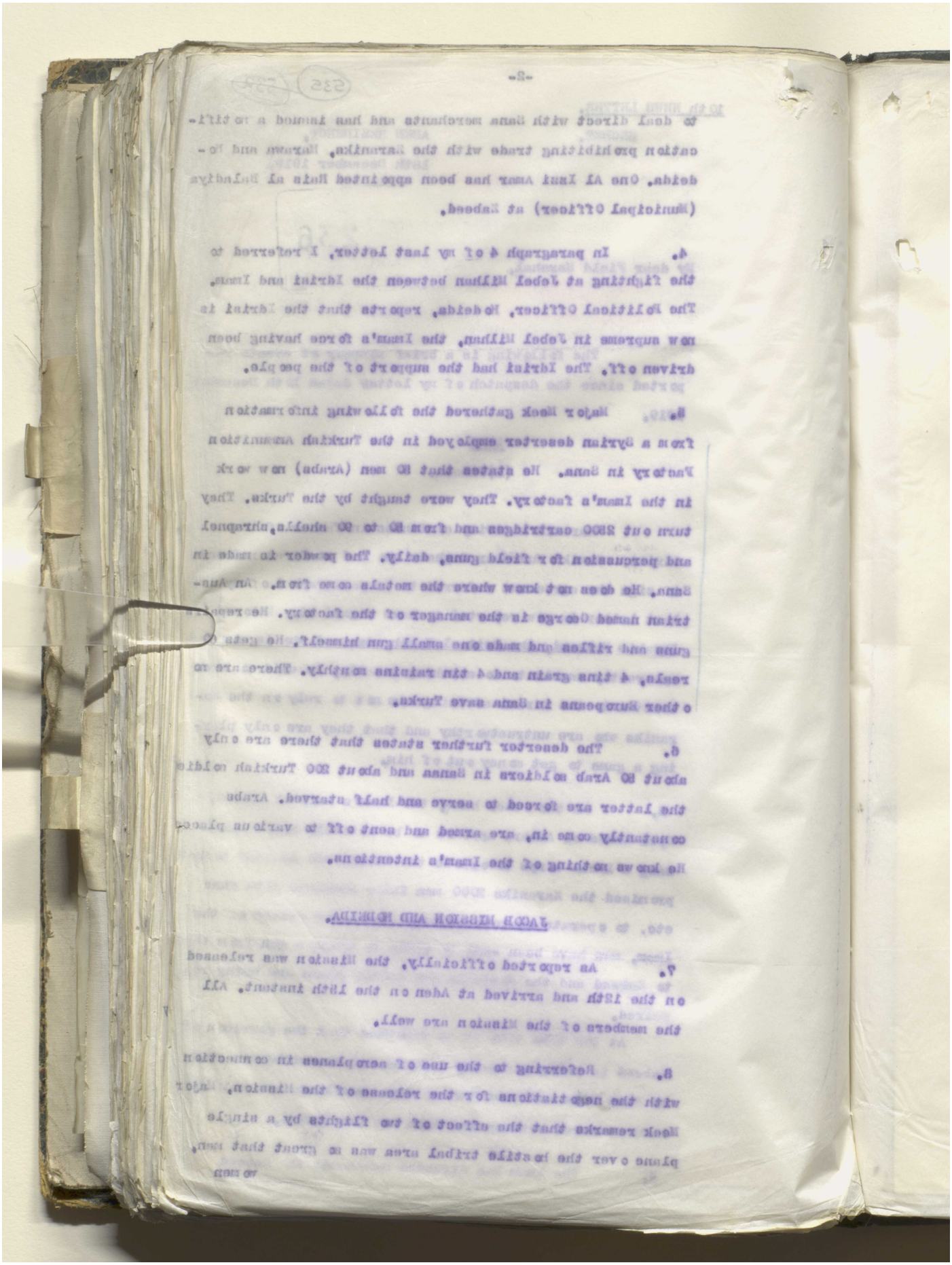

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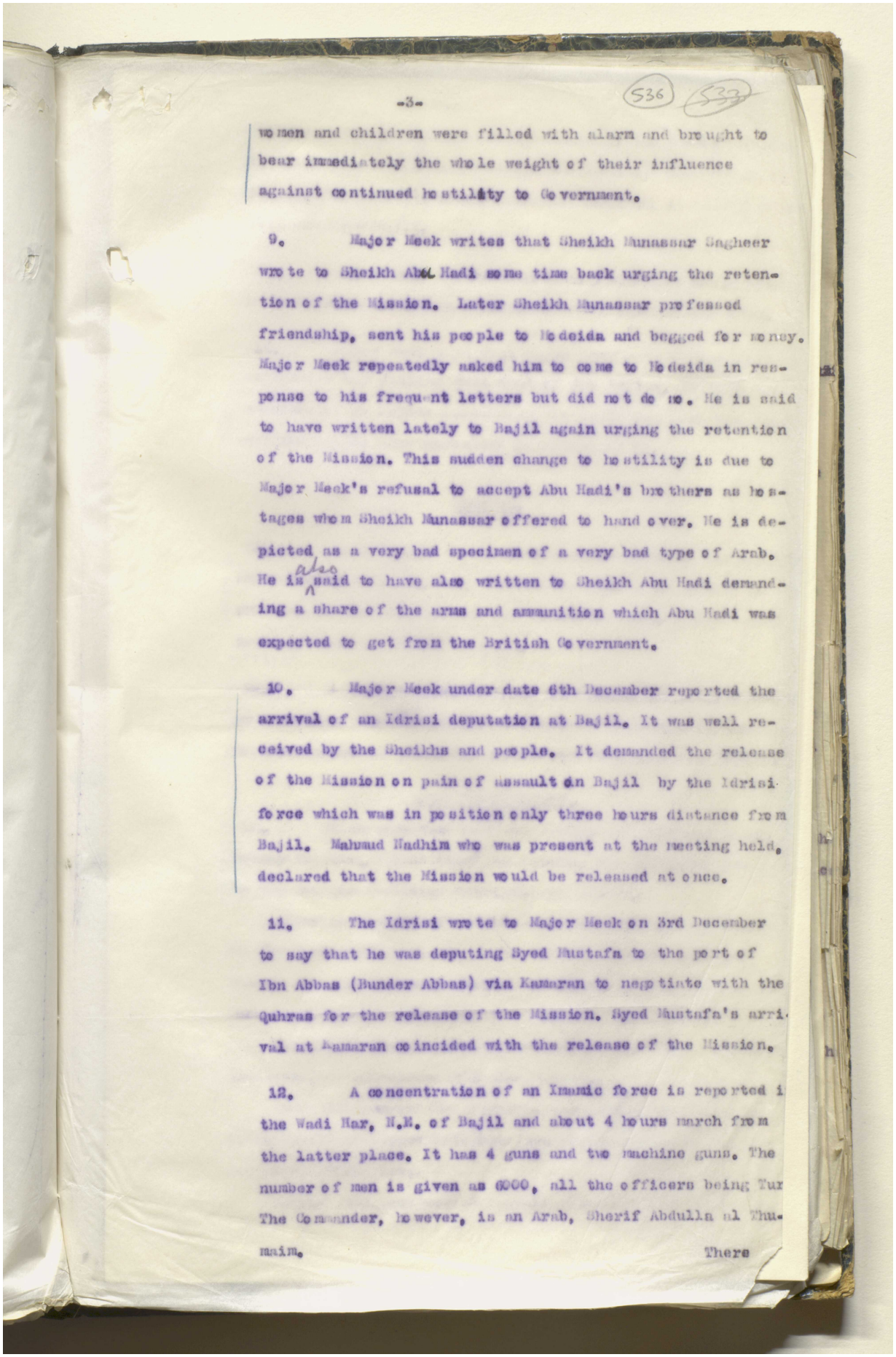

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women and children were filled with alarm and brought to bear immediately the whole weight of their influence against continued hostility to Government.

9. Major Meek writes that Sheikh Munassar Sagheer wrote to Sheikh Abd Hadi some time back urging the retention of the Mission. Later Sheikh Munassar professed friendship, sent his people to Hodeida and begged for money. Major Meek repeatedly asked him to come to Hodeida in response to his frequent letters but did not do so. He is said to have written lately to Bajil again urging the retention of the Mission. This sudden change to hostility is due to Major Meek's refusal to accept Abu Hadi's brothers as hostages whom Sheikh Munassar offered to hand over. He is depicted as a very bad specimen of a very bad type of Arab. He is also said to have also written to Sheikh Abu Hadi demanding a share of the arms and ammunition which Abu Hadi was expected to get from the British Government.

10. Major Meek under date 6th December reported the arrival of an Idrisi deputation at Bajil. It was well received by the Sheikhs and people. It demanded the release of the Mission on pain of assault on Bajil by the Idrisi force which was in position only three hours distance from Bajil. Mahmud Hadhim who was present at the meeting held, declared that the Mission would be released at once.

11. The Idrisi wrote to Major Meek on 3rd December to say that he was deputing Syed Mustafa to the port of Ibn Abbas (Bunder Abbas) via Kamaran to negotiate with the Quhras for the release of the Mission. Syed Mustafa's arrival at Kamaran coincided with the release of the Mission.

12. A concentration of an Imamic force is reported in the Wadi Har, N.E. of Bajil and about 4 hours march from the latter place. It has 4 guns and two machine guns. The number of men is given as 6000, all the officers being Turks. The Commander, however, is an Arab, Sherif Abdulla al Thumaim. There

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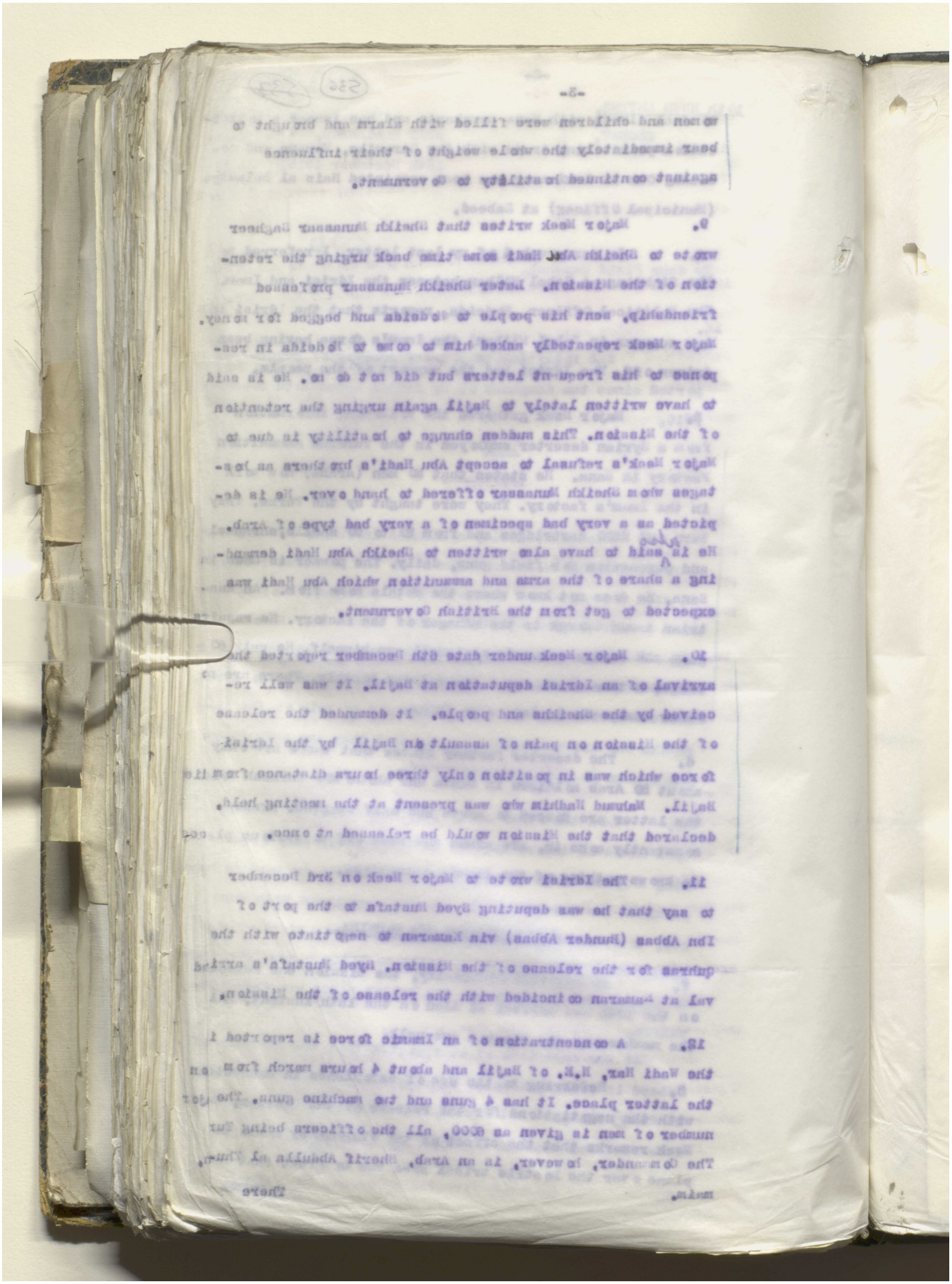

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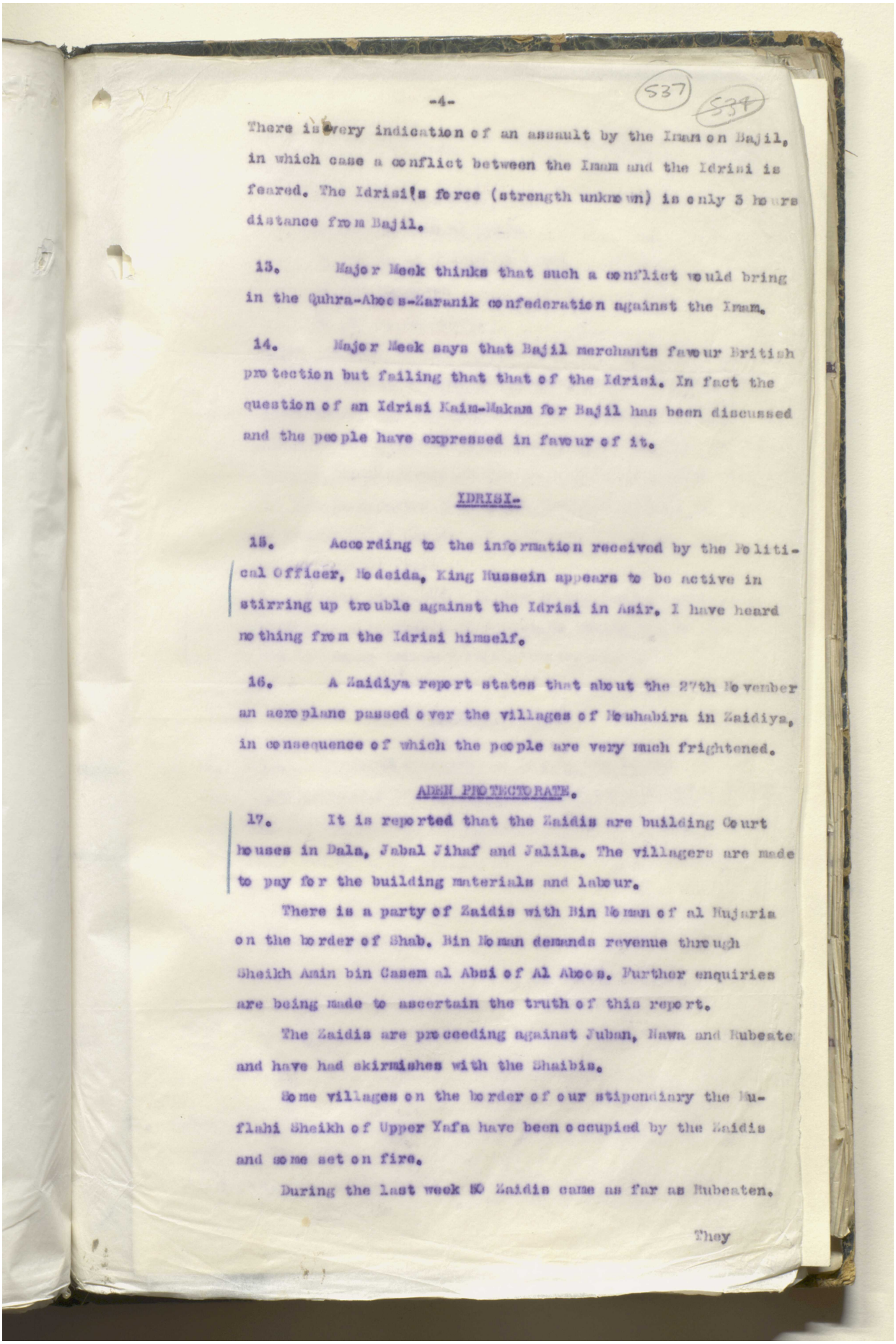

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There is every indication of an assault by the Imam on Bajil, in which case a conflict between the Imam and the Idrisi is feared. The Idrisi's force (strength unknown) is only 3 hours distance from Bajil.

13. Major Meek thinks that such a conflict would bring in the Quhra-Abees-Zaranik confederation against the Imam.

14. Major Meek says that Bajil merchants favour British protection but failing that that of the Idrisi. In fact the question of an Idrisi Kaim-Makam for Bajil has been discussed and the people have expressed in favour of it.

IDRISI.

15. According to the information received by the Political Officer, Hodeida, King Hussein appears to be active in stirring up trouble against the Idrisi in Asir. I have heard nothing from the Idrisi himself.

16. A Zaidiya report states that about the 27th November an aeroplane passed over the villages of Mouhabira in Zaidiya, in consequence of which the people are very much frightened.

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

17. It is reported that the Zaidis are building Court houses in Dala, Jabal Jihaf and Jalila. The villagers are made to pay for the building materials and labour.

There is a party of Zaidis with Bin Noman of al Hujaria on the border of Shab. Bin Noman demands revenue through Sheikh Amin bin Casem al Absi of Al Abees. Further enquiries are being made to ascertain the truth of this report.

The Zaidis are proceeding against Juban, Hawa and Rubeate and have had skirmishes with the Shaibis.

Some villages on the border of our stipendiary the Muflahi Sheikh of Upper Yafa have been occupied by the Zaidis and some set on fire.

During the last week 50 Zaidis came as far as Rubeaten.

They

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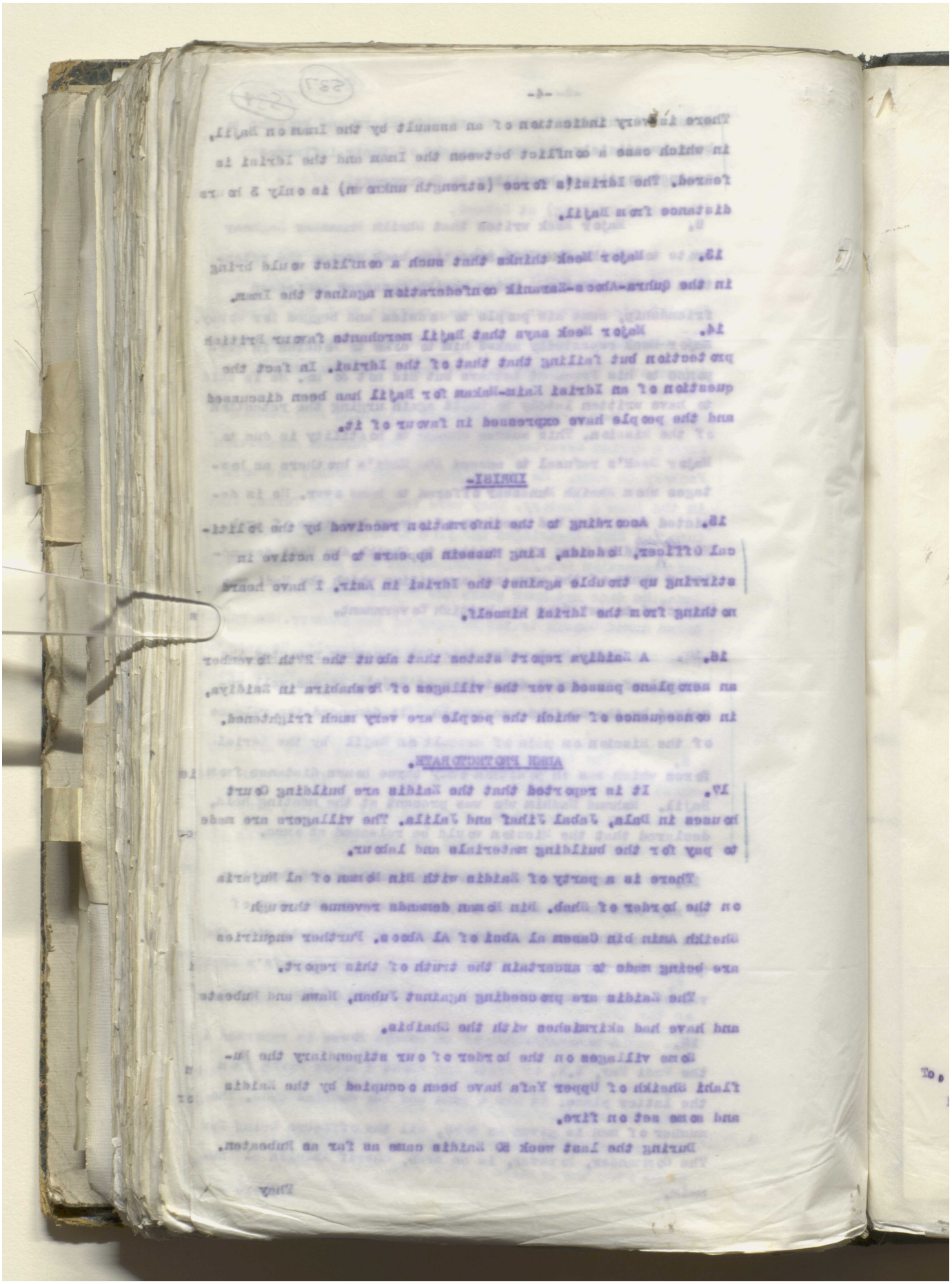

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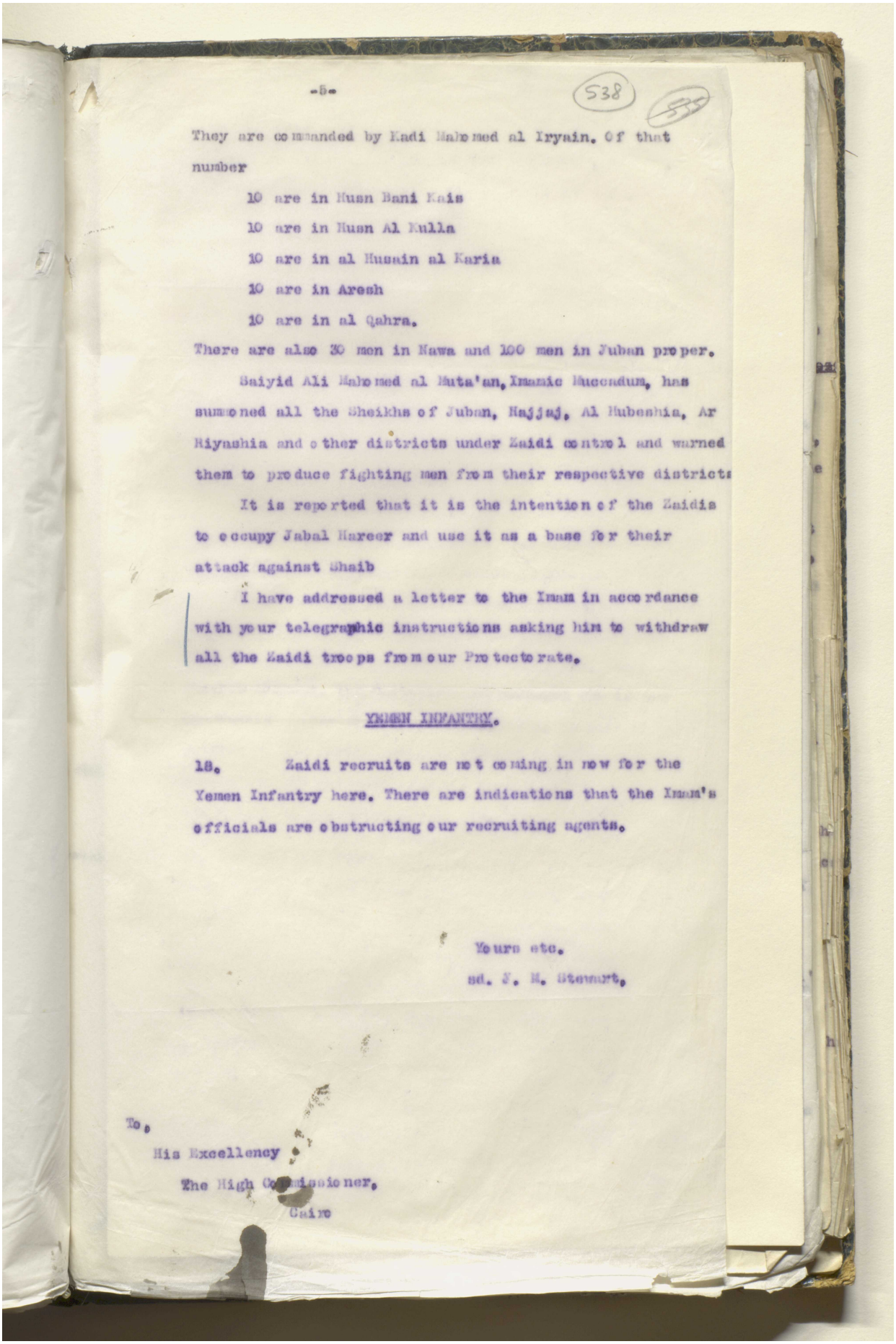

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They are commanded by Kadi Mahomed al Iryain. Of that number

10 are in Husn Bani Kais
10 are in Husn Al Kulla
10 are in al Husain al Karia
10 are in Aresh
10 are in al Qahra.

There are also 30 men in Nawa and 100 men in Juban proper.

Saiyid Ali Mahomed al Muta'an, Imamic Mucondum, has summoned all the Sheikhs of Juban, Hajjaj, Al Hubeshia, Ar Riyashia and other districts under Zaidi control and warned them to produce fighting men from their respective districts.

It is reported that it is the intention of the Zaidis to occupy Jabal Harcer and use it as a base for their attack against Shaib

I have addressed a letter to the Imam in accordance with your telegraphic instructions asking him to withdraw all the Zaidi troops from our Protectorate.

YEMEN INFANTRY.

18. Zaidi recruits are not coming in now for the Yemen Infantry here. There are indications that the Imam's officials are obstructing our recruiting agents.

Yours etc.
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
Cairo

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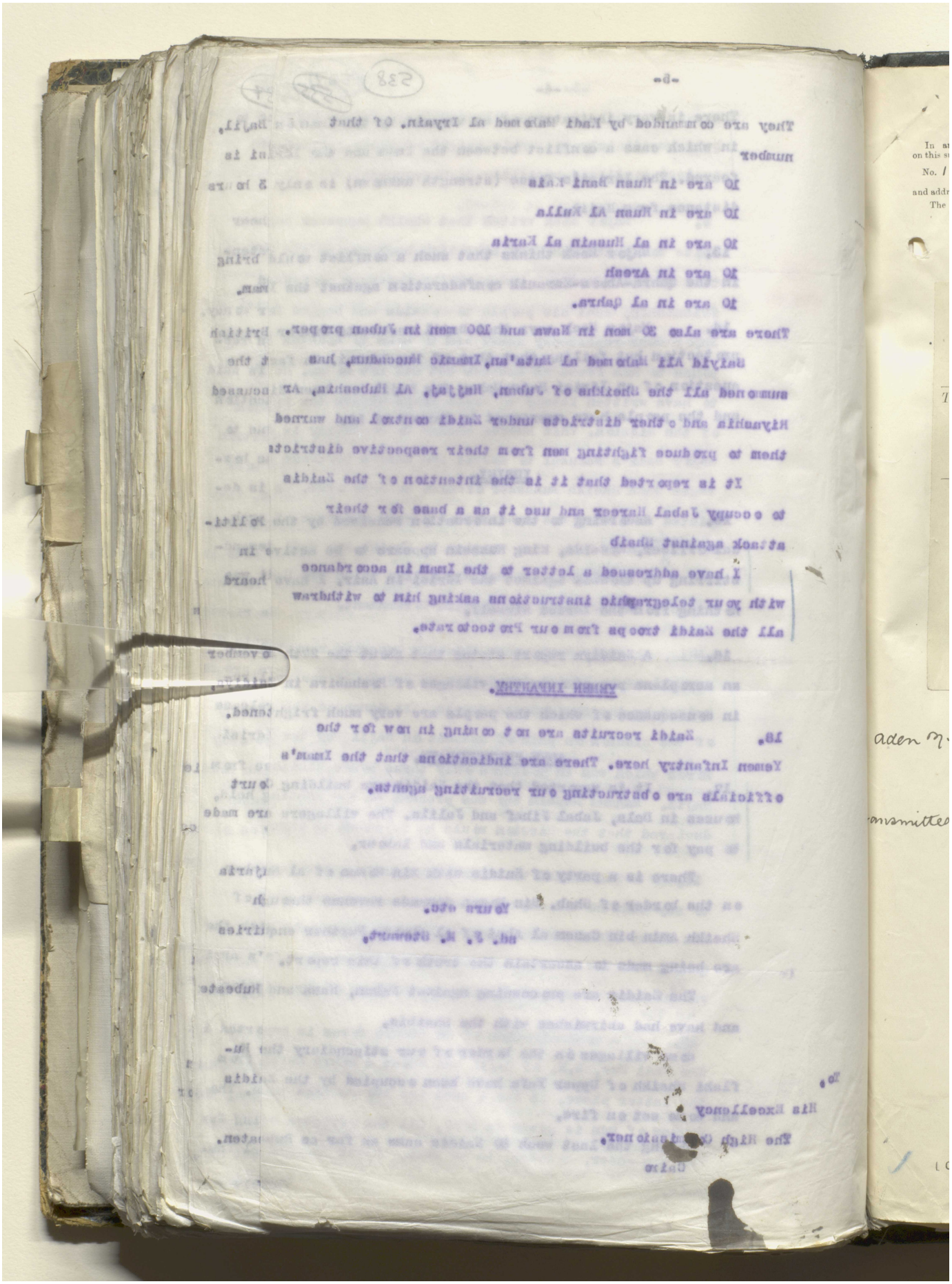

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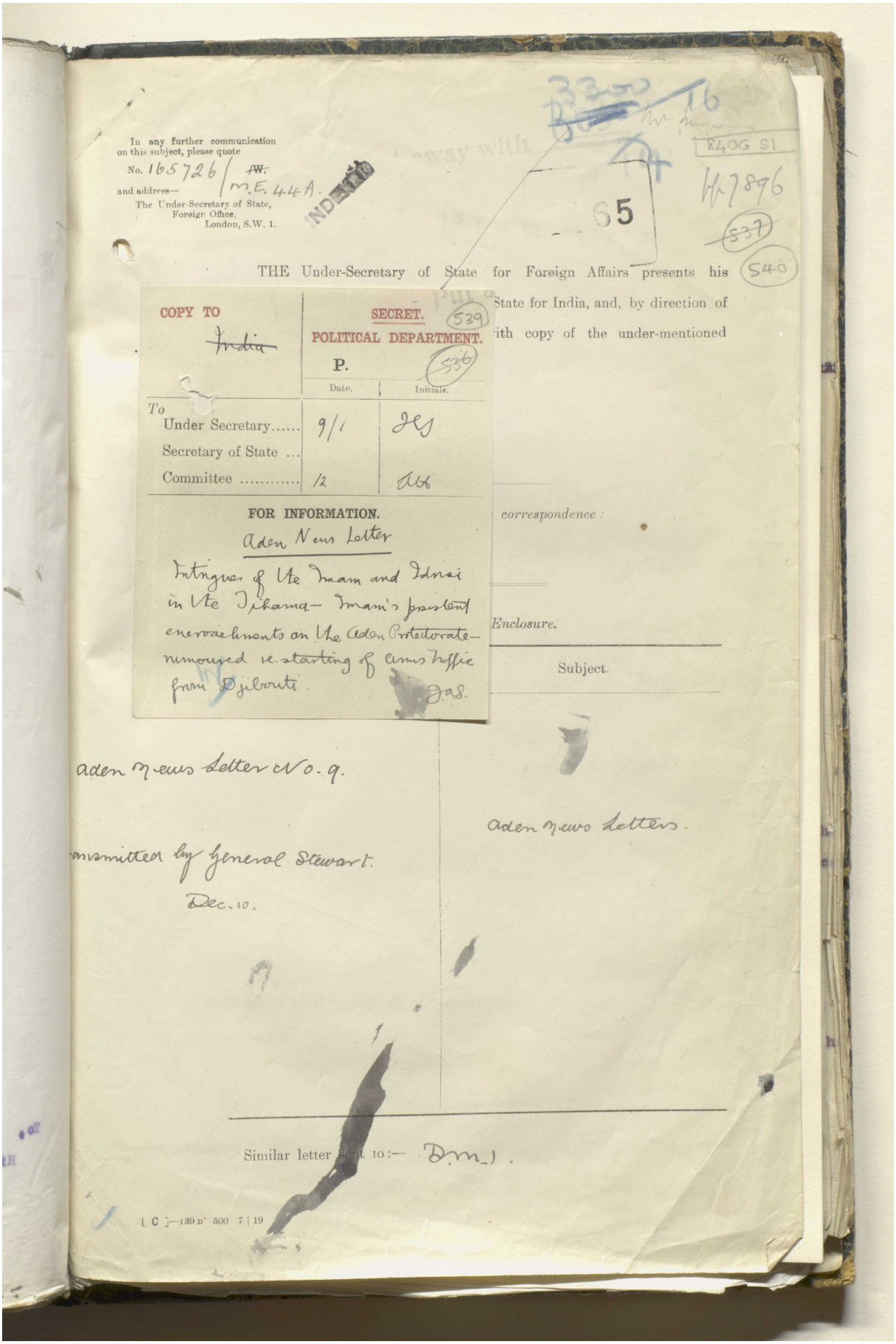

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his
State for India, and, by direction of
ith copy of the under-mentioned

COPY TO
~~India~~

SECRET. 539
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P. 536

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	9/1	JES
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	12	AM

FOR INFORMATION.
Aden News Letter

Intrigues of the Imam and Idrisi in the Tihama – Imam's persistent encroachments on the Aden Protectorate – rumoured re-starting of arms traffic from Djibouti.
J.A.S.

correspondence :

Enclosure.

Subject.

aden news letter No. 9.

Aden news letters.

ansmitted by General Stewart.

Dec. 10.

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[C]—139 D 500 7 | 19

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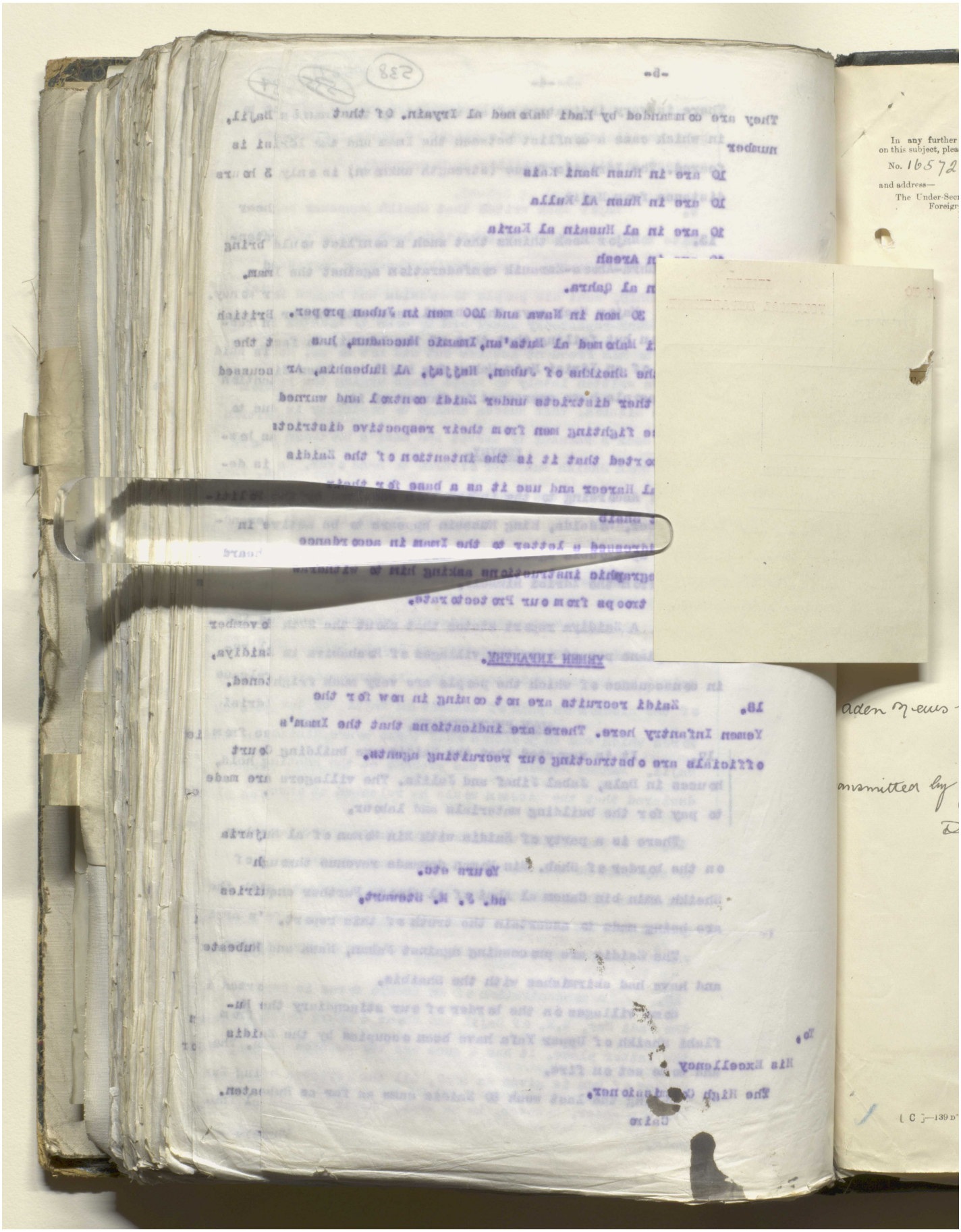

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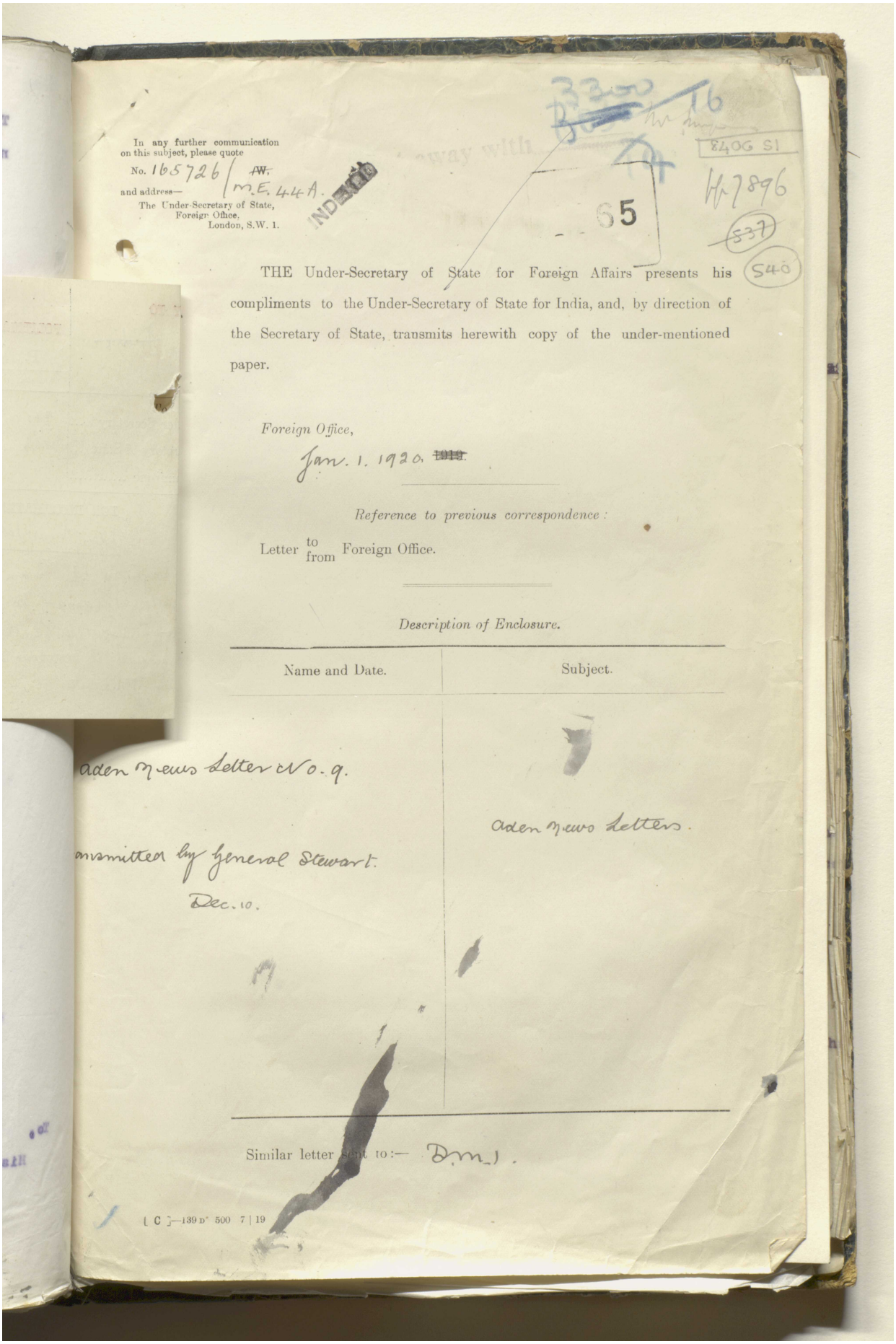

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Jan. 1. 1920. ~~1919~~

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to / from Foreign Office.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Aden News Letter No. 9. Transmitted by General Stewart. Dec. 10.	Aden News Letters.

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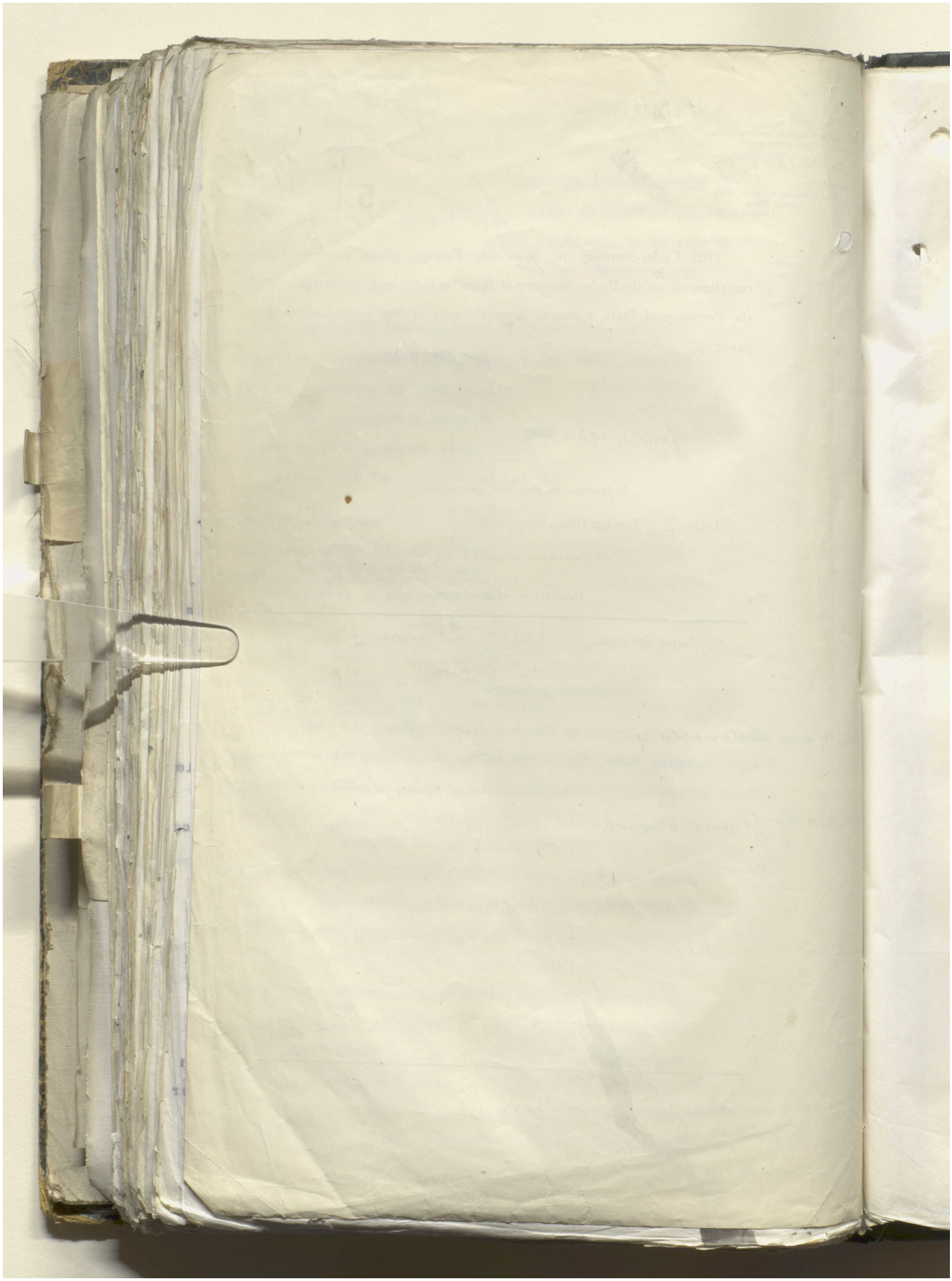

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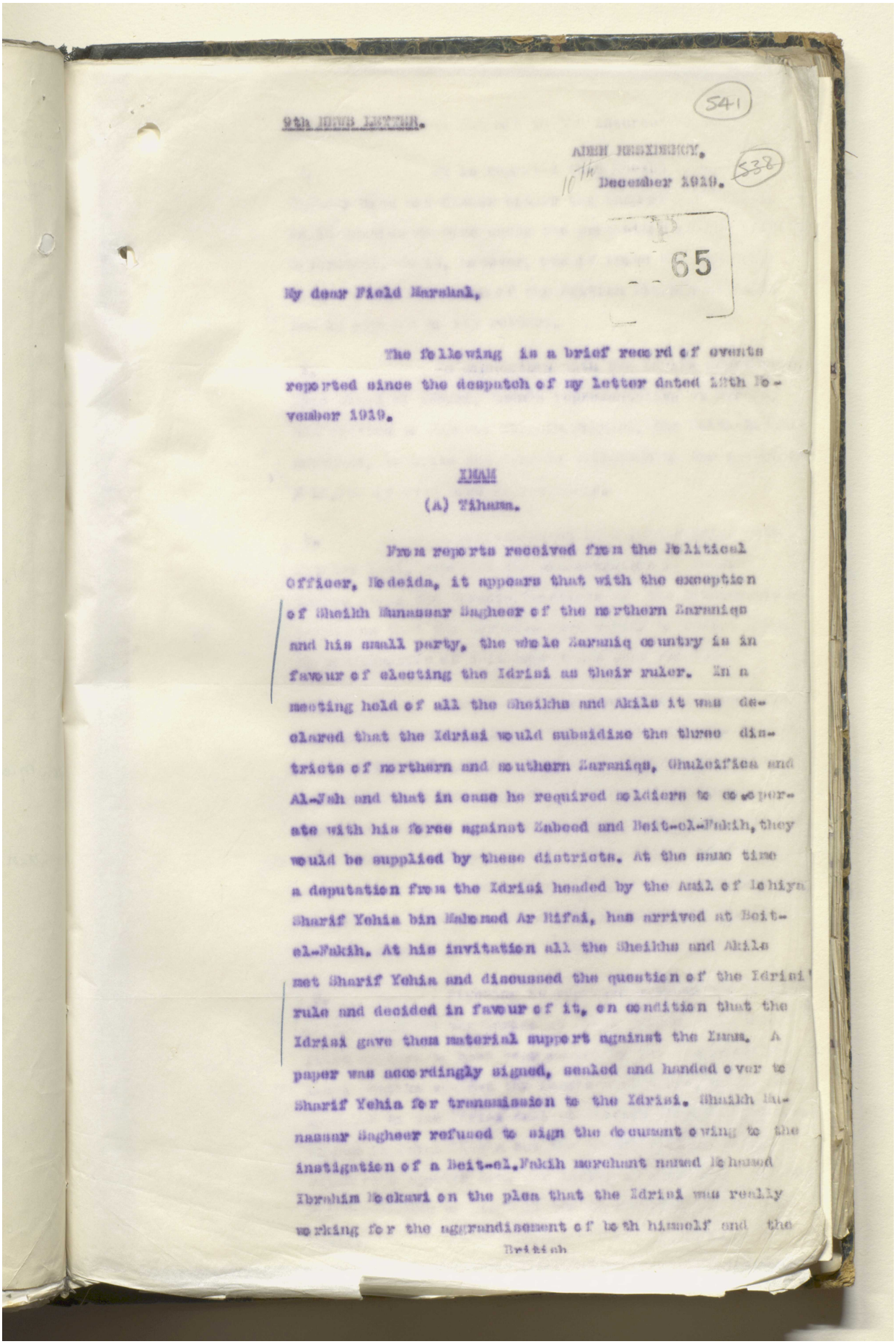

9th NEWS LETTER.

(541)

ADEN RESIDENCY,
10th December 1919. (538)

P 65

My dear Field Marshal,

The following is a brief record of events reported since the despatch of my letter dated 18th November 1919.

YEMEN

(A) Tihama.

From reports received from the Political Officer, Hodeida, it appears that with the exception of Sheikh Munassar Bagheer of the northern Zaraniqs and his small party, the whole Zaraniq country is in favour of electing the Idrisi as their ruler. In a meeting held of all the Sheikhs and Akils it was declared that the Idrisi would subsidize the three districts of northern and southern Zaraniqs, Ghuleifiqa and Al-Fah and that in case he required soldiers to co-operate with his force against Zabeed and Beit-el-Fakih, they would be supplied by these districts. At the same time a deputation from the Idrisi headed by the Amil of Lohiya Sharif Yehia bin Mahomed Ar Rifai, has arrived at Beit-el-Fakih. At his invitation all the Sheikhs and Akils met Sharif Yehia and discussed the question of the Idrisi's rule and decided in favour of it, on condition that the Idrisi gave them material support against the Imam. A paper was accordingly signed, sealed and handed over to Sharif Yehia for transmission to the Idrisi. Sheikh Munassar Bagheer refused to sign the document owing to the instigation of a Beit-el-Fakih merchant named Mohamed Ibrahim Mekawi on the plea that the Idrisi was really working for the aggrandisement of both himself and the

British

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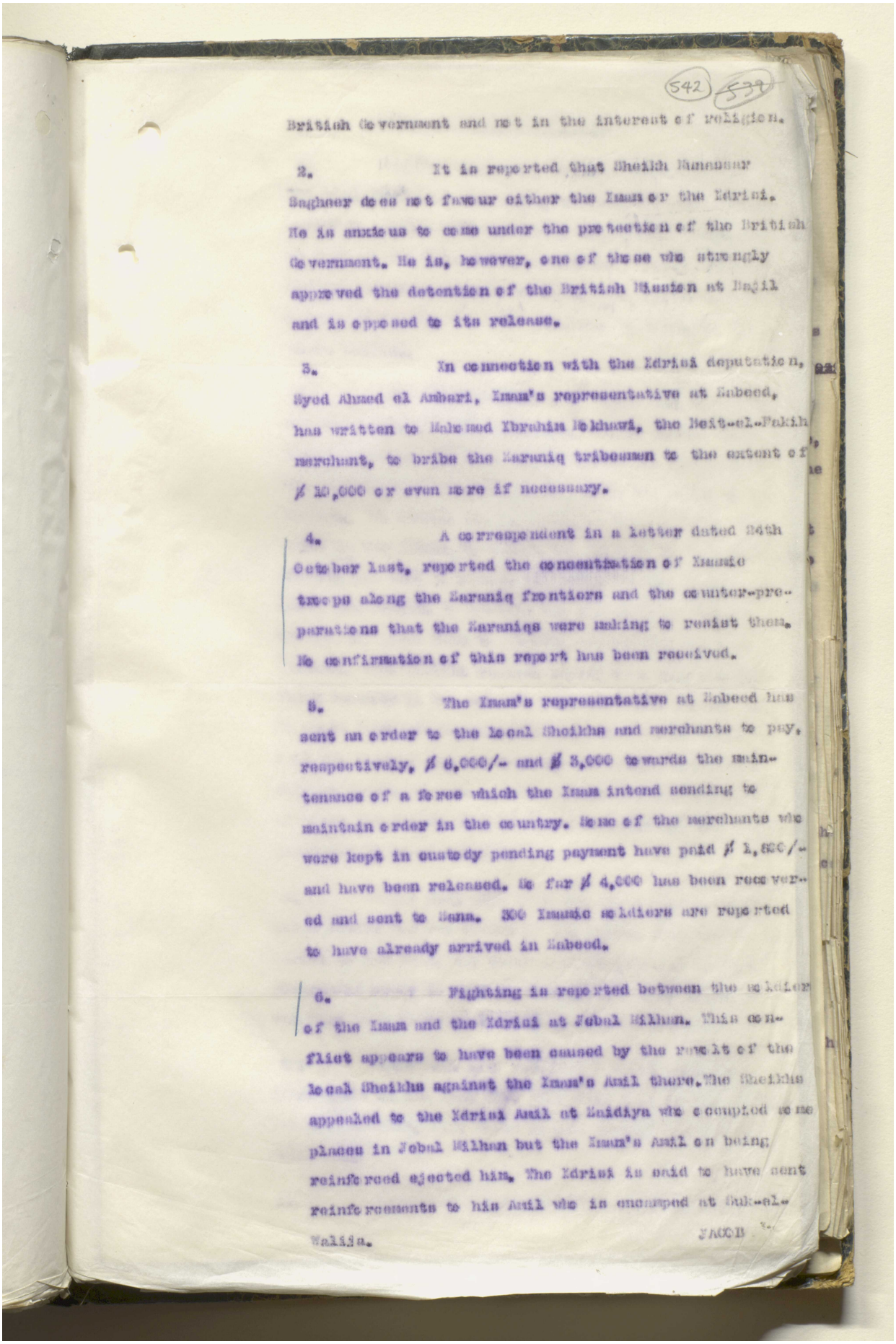

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British Government and not in the interest of religion.

2. It is reported that Sheikh Hussanur Bagheer does not favour either the Imam or the Idrisi. He is anxious to come under the protection of the British Government. He is, however, one of those who strongly approved the detention of the British Mission at Bajil and is opposed to its release.

3. In connection with the Idrisi deputation, Syed Ahmed al Ambari, Imam's representative at Hubeed, has written to Mahmud Ibrahim Bakhawi, the Beit-el-Fakih merchant, to bribe the Haraniq tribesmen to the extent of ₤ 10,000 or even more if necessary.

4. A correspondent in a letter dated 24th October last, reported the concentration of Imamic troops along the Haraniq frontiers and the counter-preparations that the Haraniqs were making to resist them. No confirmation of this report has been received.

5. The Imam's representative at Hubeed has sent an order to the local Sheikhs and merchants to pay, respectively, ₤ 6,000/- and ₤ 3,000 towards the maintenance of a force which the Imam intend sending to maintain order in the country. Some of the merchants who were kept in custody pending payment have paid ₤ 1,800/- and have been released. So far ₤ 4,000 has been received and sent to Sana. 300 Imamic soldiers are reported to have already arrived in Hubeed.

6. Fighting is reported between the soldiers of the Imam and the Idrisi at Jebal Hilhum. This conflict appears to have been caused by the revolt of the local Sheikhs against the Imam's Amil there. The Sheikhs appealed to the Idrisi Amil at Luddiya who occupied some places in Jebal Hilhan but the Imam's Amil on being reinforced ejected him. The Idrisi is said to have sent reinforcements to his Amil who is encamped at Suk-el-Walida.

JACOB

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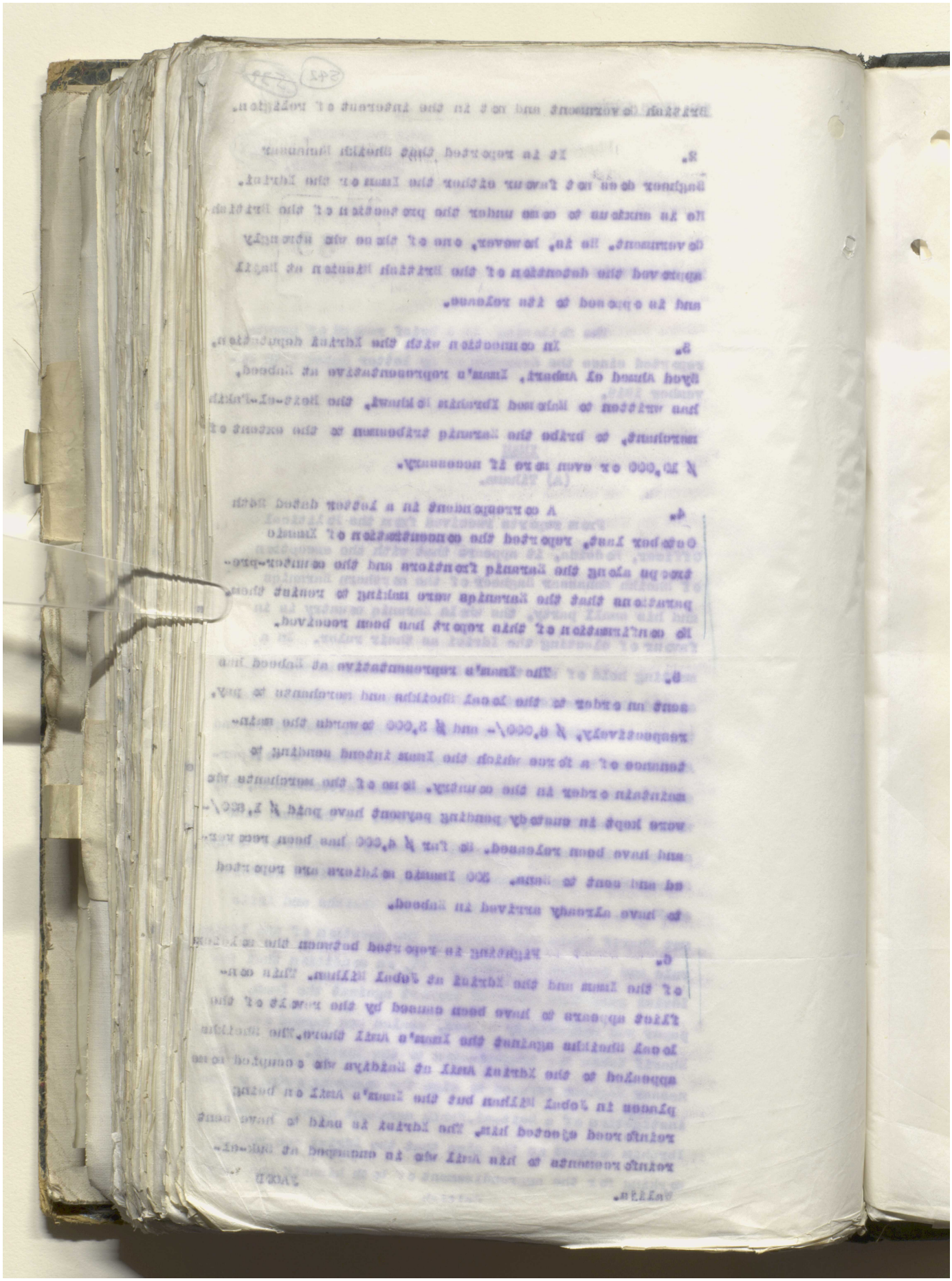

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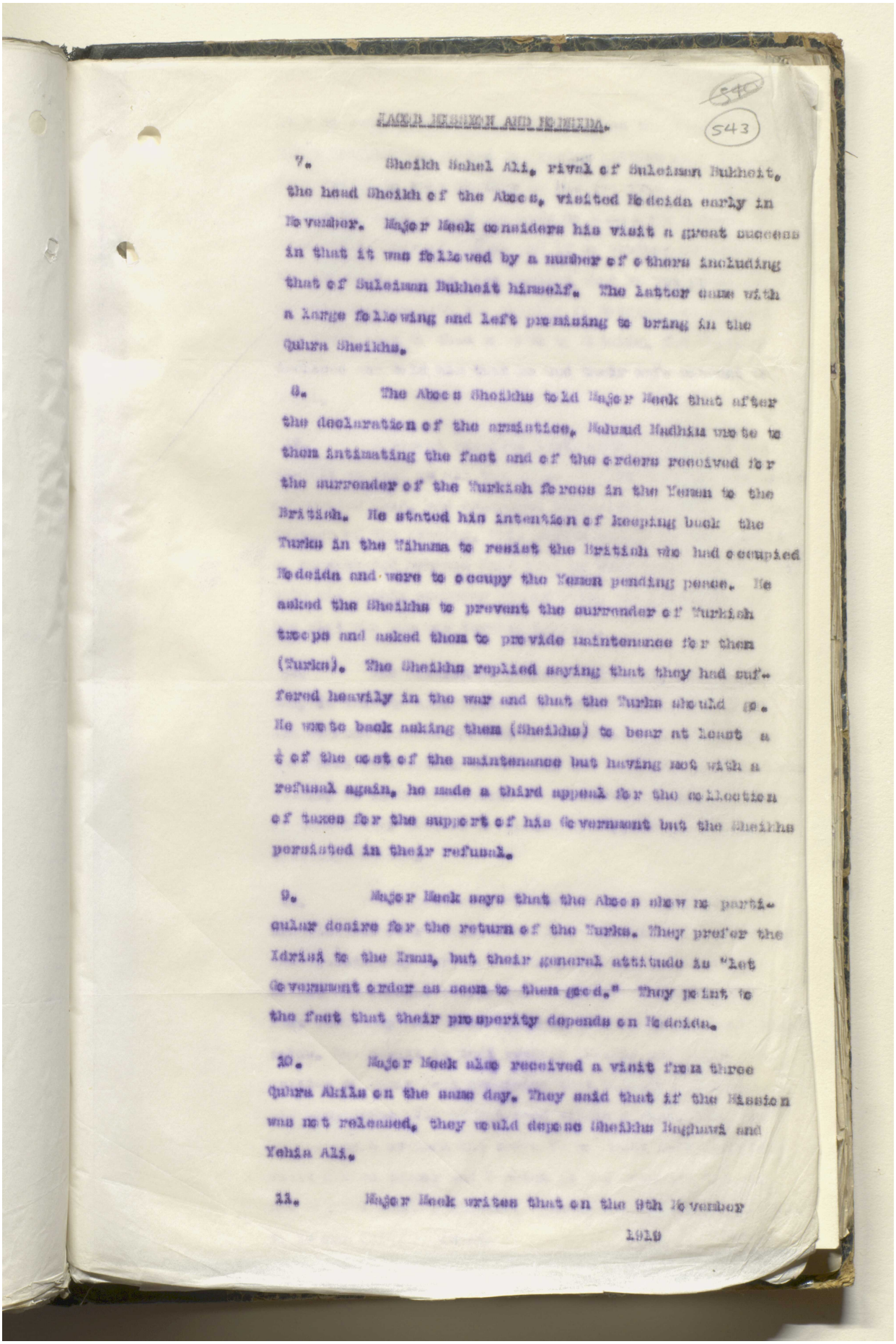

HAJJA MISSION AND HODEIDA.

7. Sheikh Sahel Ali, rival of Suleiman Bukheit, the head Sheikh of the Abees, visited Hodeida early in November. Major Meek considers his visit a great success in that it was followed by a number of others including that of Suleiman Bukheit himself. The latter came with a large following and left promising to bring in the Qubra Sheikhs.

8. The Abees Sheikhs told Major Meek that after the declaration of the armistice, Mahmud Nadhim wrote to them intimating the fact and of the orders received for the surrender of the Turkish forces in the Yemen to the British. He stated his intention of keeping back the Turks in the Tihama to resist the British who had occupied Hodeida and were to occupy the Yemen pending peace. He asked the Sheikhs to prevent the surrender of Turkish troops and asked them to provide maintenance for them (Turks). The Sheikhs replied saying that they had suffered heavily in the war and that the Turks should go. He wrote back asking them (Sheikhs) to bear at least a ¼ of the cost of the maintenance but having met with a refusal again, he made a third appeal for the collection of taxes for the support of his Government but the Sheikhs persisted in their refusal.

9. Major Meek says that the Abees show no particular desire for the return of the Turks. They prefer the Idrisi to the Imam, but their general attitude is "let Government order as seem to them good." They point to the fact that their prosperity depends on Hodeida.

10. Major Meek also received a visit from three Qubra Akils on the same day. They said that if the Mission was not released, they would depose Sheikhs Baghuwa and Yehia Ali.

11. Major Meek writes that on the 9th November

1919

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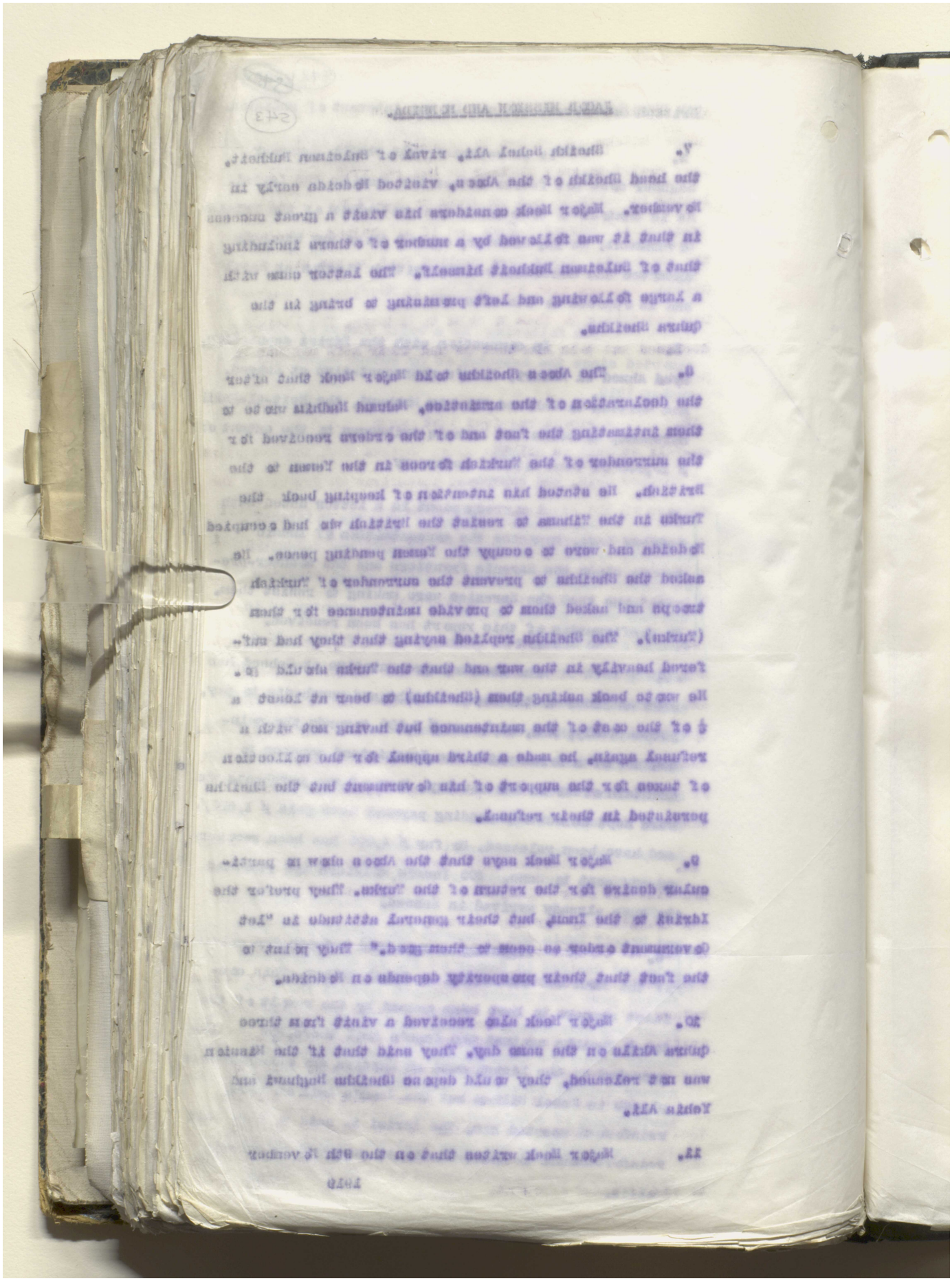

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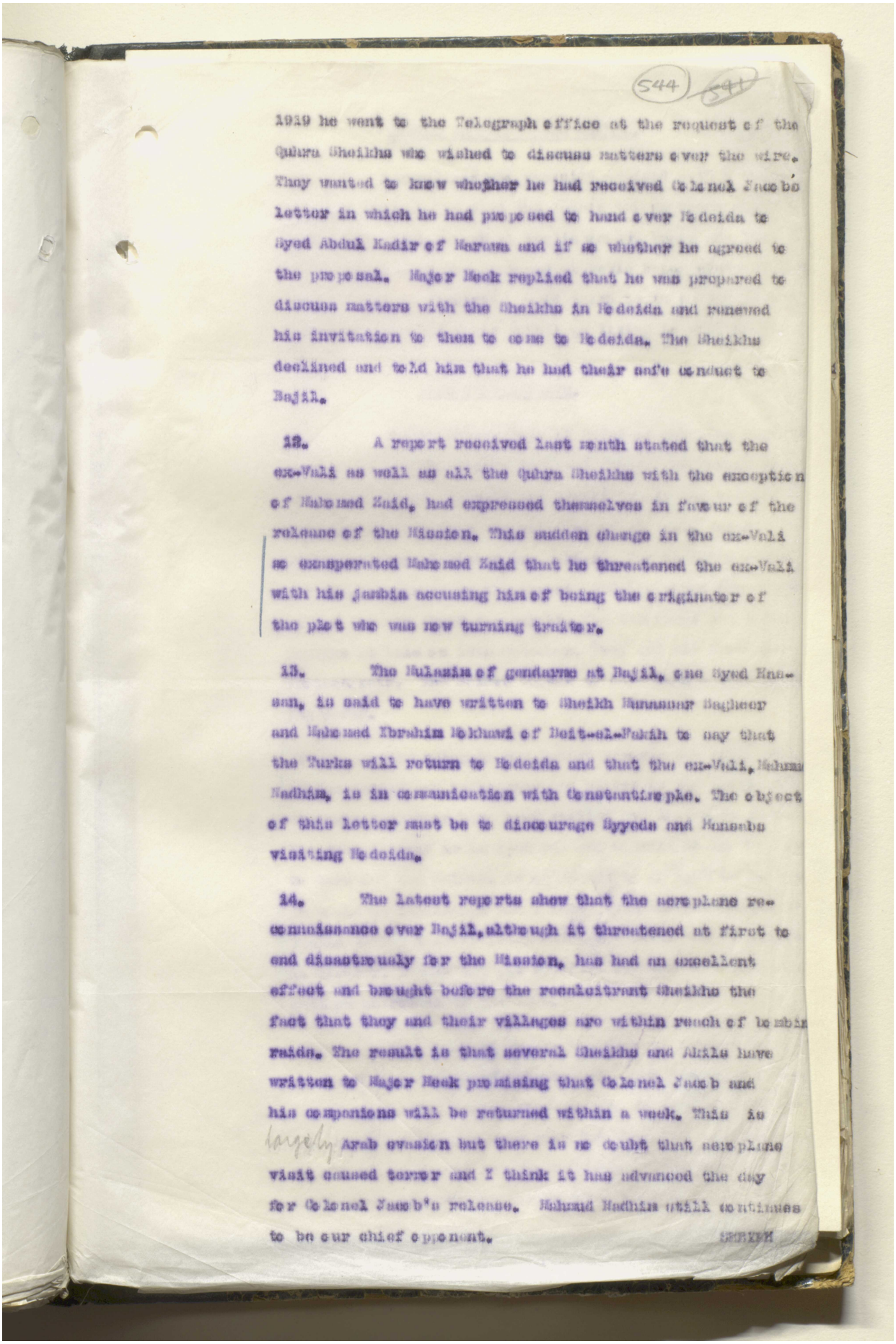

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1919 he went to the Telegraph office at the request of the Qubra Sheikhs who wished to discuss matters over the wire. They wanted to know whether he had received Colonel Jacob's letter in which he had proposed to hand over Hodeida to Syed Abdul Kadir of Haraun and if so whether he agreed to the proposal. Major Heck replied that he was prepared to discuss matters with the Sheikhs in Hodeida and renewed his invitation to them to come to Hodeida. The Sheikhs declined and told him that he had their safe conduct to Bajil.

13. A report received last month stated that the ex-Wali as well as all the Qubra Sheikhs with the exception of Mahomed Zaid, had expressed themselves in favour of the release of the Mission. This sudden change in the ex-Wali's exasperated Mahomed Zaid that he threatened the ex-Wali with his jambia accusing him of being the originator of the plot who was now turning traitor.

15. The Sultan of gendarme at Bajil, one Syed Hassan, is said to have written to Sheikh Hussain Bagheer and Mahomed Ibrahim Mahawi of Beit-el-Fakih to say that the Turks will return to Hodeida and that the ex-Wali, Mahmud Nadhim, is in communication with Constantinople. The object of this letter must be to discourage Syeds and Hussains visiting Hodeida.

14. The latest reports show that the aeroplane reconnaissance over Bajil, although it threatened at first to end disastrously for the Mission, has had an excellent effect and brought before the recalcitrant Sheikhs the fact that they and their villages are within reach of bombing raids. The result is that several Sheikhs and Akils have written to Major Heck promising that Colonel Jacob and his companions will be returned within a week. This is largely Arab evasion but there is no doubt that aeroplane visit caused terror and I think it has advanced the day for Colonel Jacob's release. Mahmud Nadhim still continues to be our chief opponent.

SECRET

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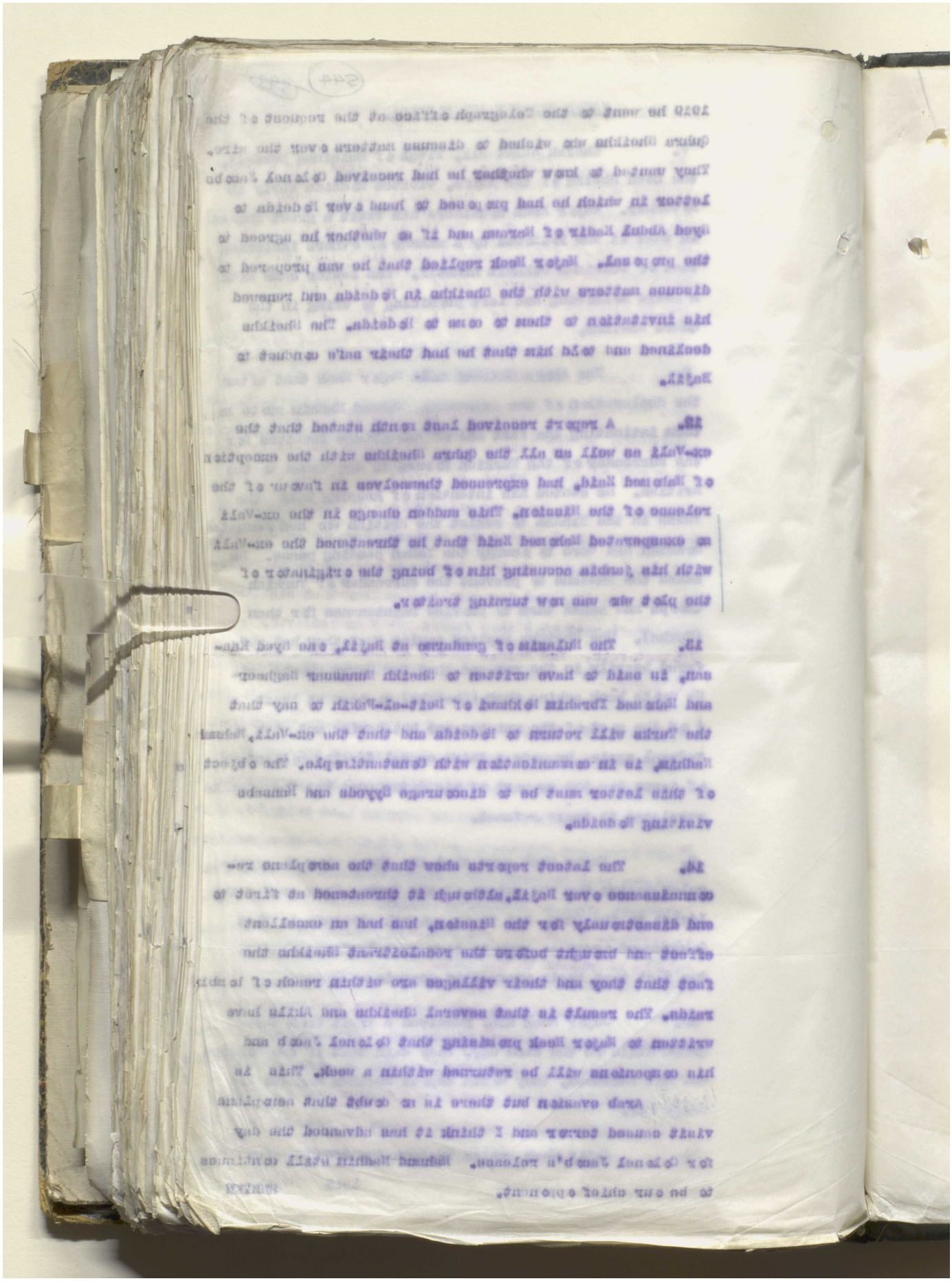

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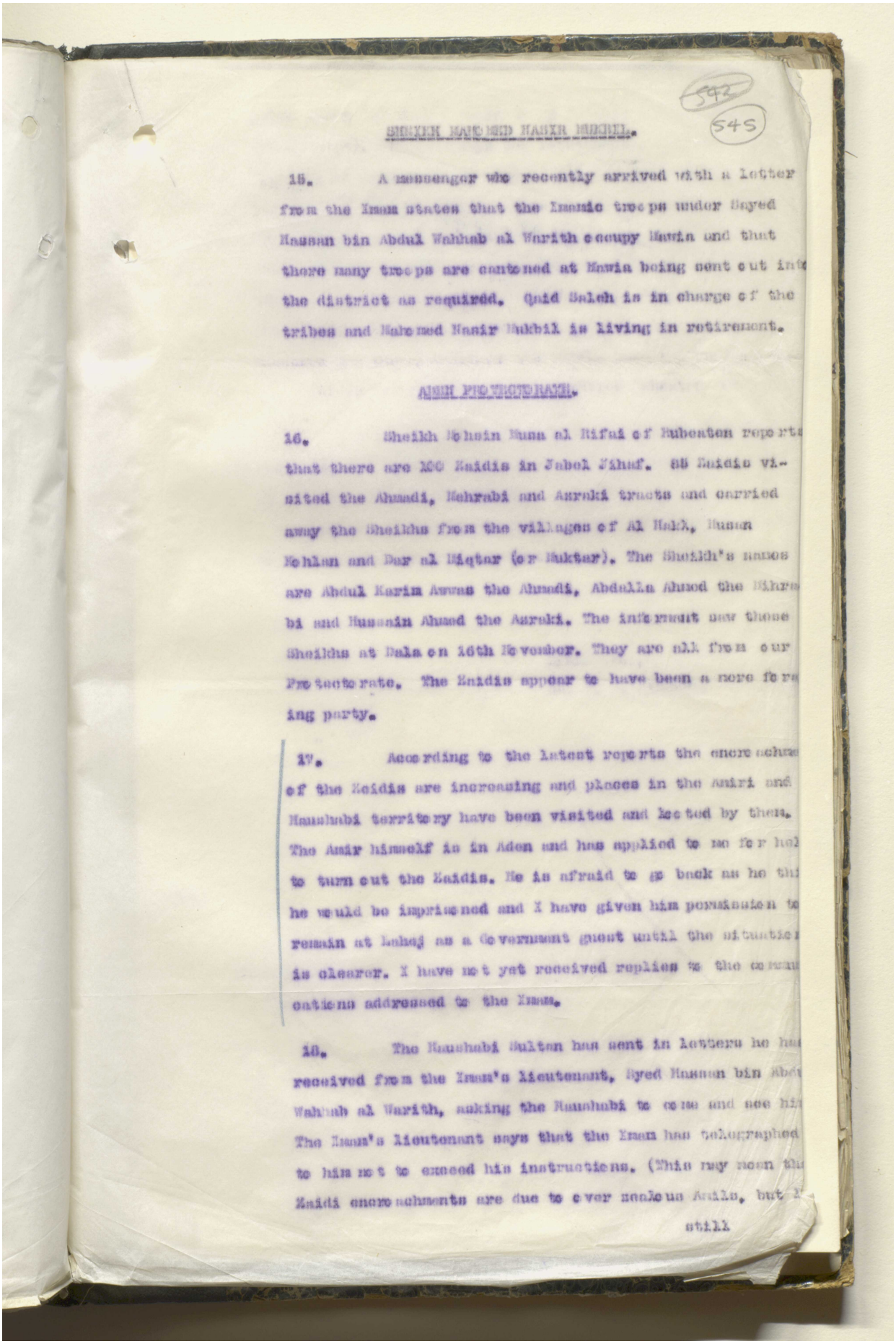

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SHEIKH MAHOMED NASIR BUKHAIL.

15. A messenger who recently arrived with a letter from the Imam states that the Imamic troops under Sayed Hassan bin Abdul Wahhab al Warith occupy Hawin and that there many troops are cantoned at Hawin being sent out into the district as required. Qaid Saleh is in charge of the tribes and Mahomed Nasir Bukhail is living in retirement.

ASIR PROTECTORATE.

16. Sheikh Mohsin Muna al Rifai of Rubeaten reports that there are 400 Zaidis in Jabel Jihaf. 80 Zaidis visited the Ahmadi, Mahrabi and Asraki tracts and carried away the Sheikhs from the villages of Al Hakk, Hasan Mohsin and Dar al Hiqtar (or Huktar). The Sheikh's names are Abdul Karim Awwas the Ahmadi, Abdulla Ahmed the Mahrabi and Hussain Ahmed the Asraki. The informant saw these Sheikhs at Dala on 16th November. They are all from our Protectorate. The Zaidis appear to have been a more foraging party.

17. According to the latest reports the encroachments of the Zaidis are increasing and places in the Amiri and Naushabi territory have been visited and looted by them. The Amir himself is in Aden and has applied to me for help to turn out the Zaidis. He is afraid to go back as he thinks he would be imprisoned and I have given him permission to remain at Lahej as a Government guest until the situation is clearer. I have not yet received replies to the communications addressed to the Imam.

18. The Naushabi Sultan has sent in letters he has received from the Imam's Lieutenant, Syed Hassan bin Abdul Wahhab al Warith, asking the Naushabi to come and see him. The Imam's Lieutenant says that the Imam has telegraphed to him not to exceed his instructions. (This may mean that Zaidi encroachments are due to over zealous Amils, but I still

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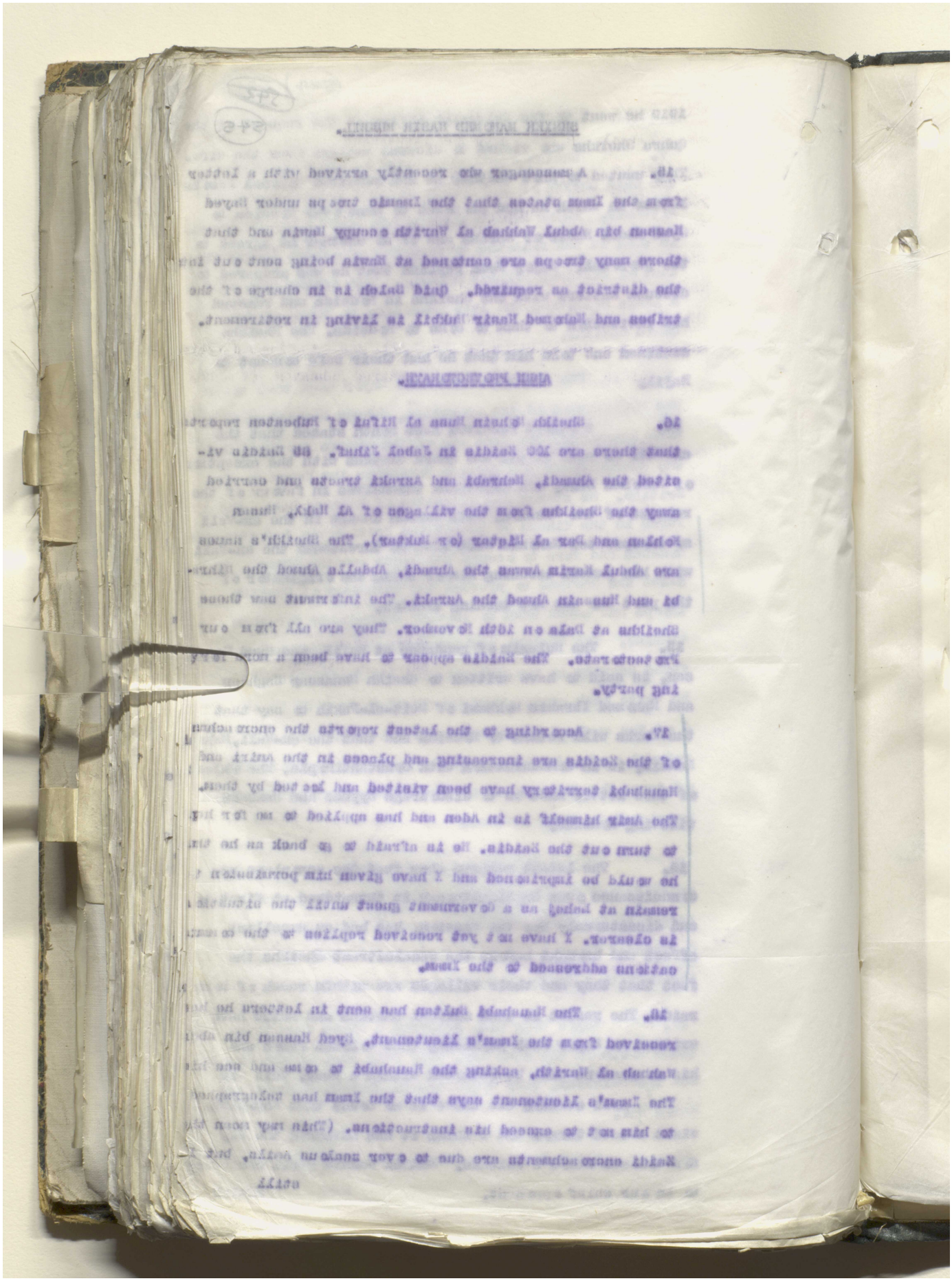

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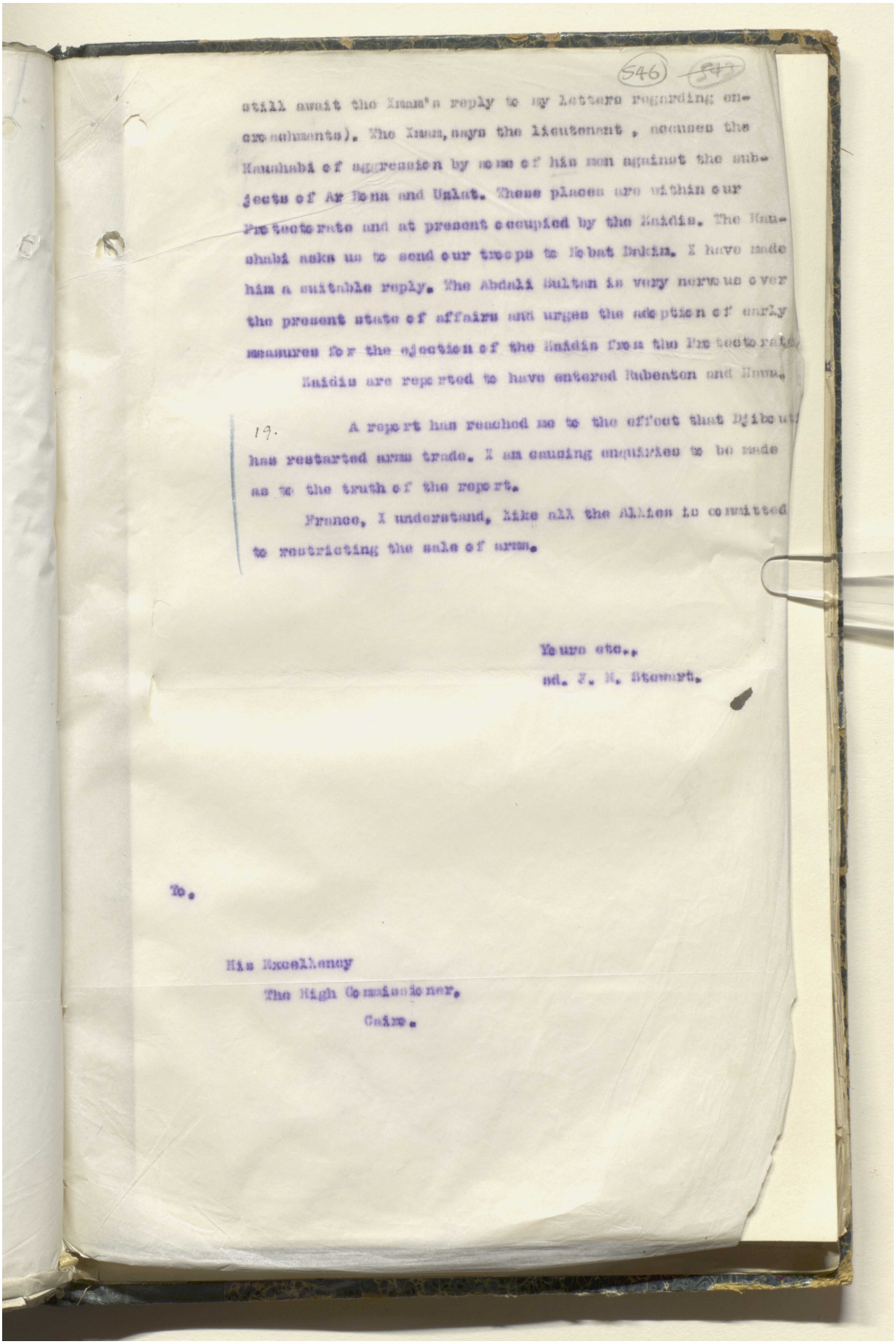

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still await the Imam's reply to my letters regarding enclosuments). The Imam, says the Lieutenant, accuses the Haushabi of aggression by some of his men against the subjects of Ar Rena and Unlat. These places are within our Protectorate and at present occupied by the Naidis. The Haushabi asks us to send our troops to Nebat Dukim. I have made him a suitable reply. The Abdali Sultan is very nervous over the present state of affairs and urges the adoption of early measures for the ejection of the Naidis from the Protectorate. Naidis are reported to have entered Rubenton and Nova.

19. A report has reached me to the effect that Djibuti has restarted arms trade. I am causing enquiries to be made as to the truth of the report.

France, I understand, like all the Allies is committed to restricting the sale of arms.

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,

His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
Cairo.

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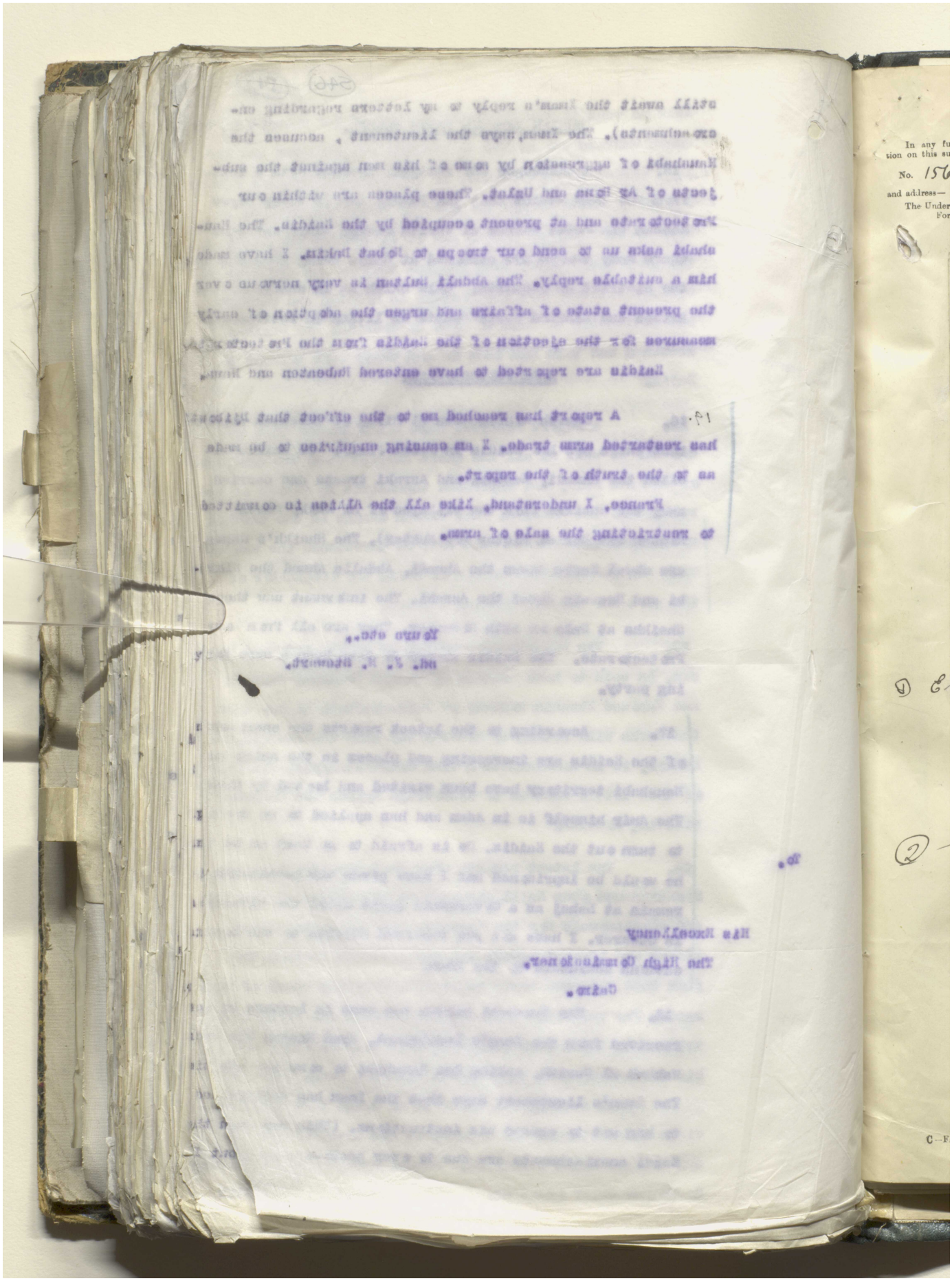

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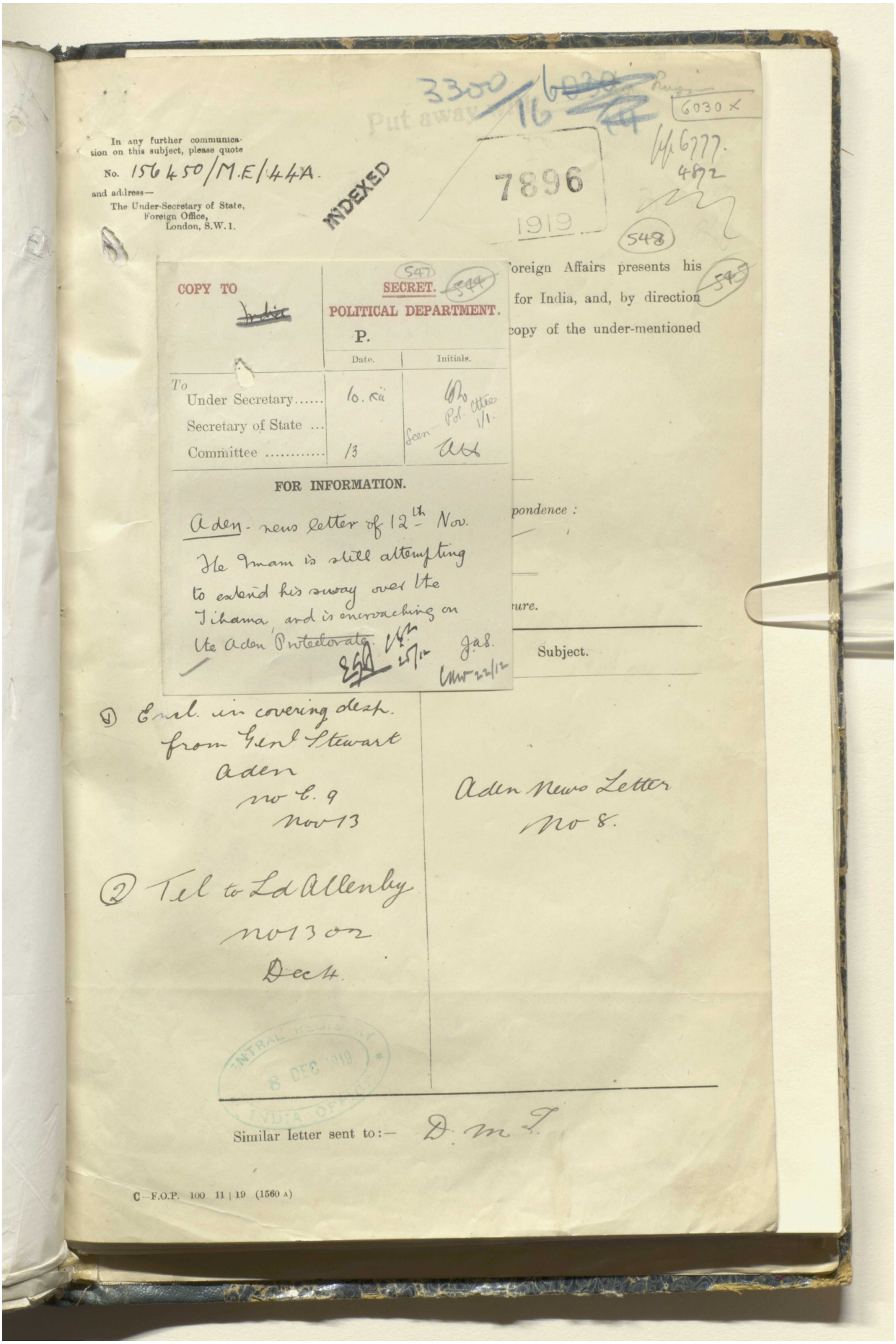

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P.

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Secretary of State ...		Pol. Office 1/1.
Committee	13	Sean

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden - news letter of 12th Nov.
He Imam is still attempting to extend his sway over the Tihama, and is encroaching on the Aden Protectorate. 14/12 25/12 Jas. 22/12

oreign Affairs presents his
for India, and, by direction
copy of the under-mentioned

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Subject.

① Encl. in covering desp. from Genl Stewart Aden no C. 9 Nov 13

Aden News Letter no 8.

② Tel to Ld Allenby no 13 on Dec 4.

CENTRAL REGISTRY 8 DEC 1919 INDIA OFFICE

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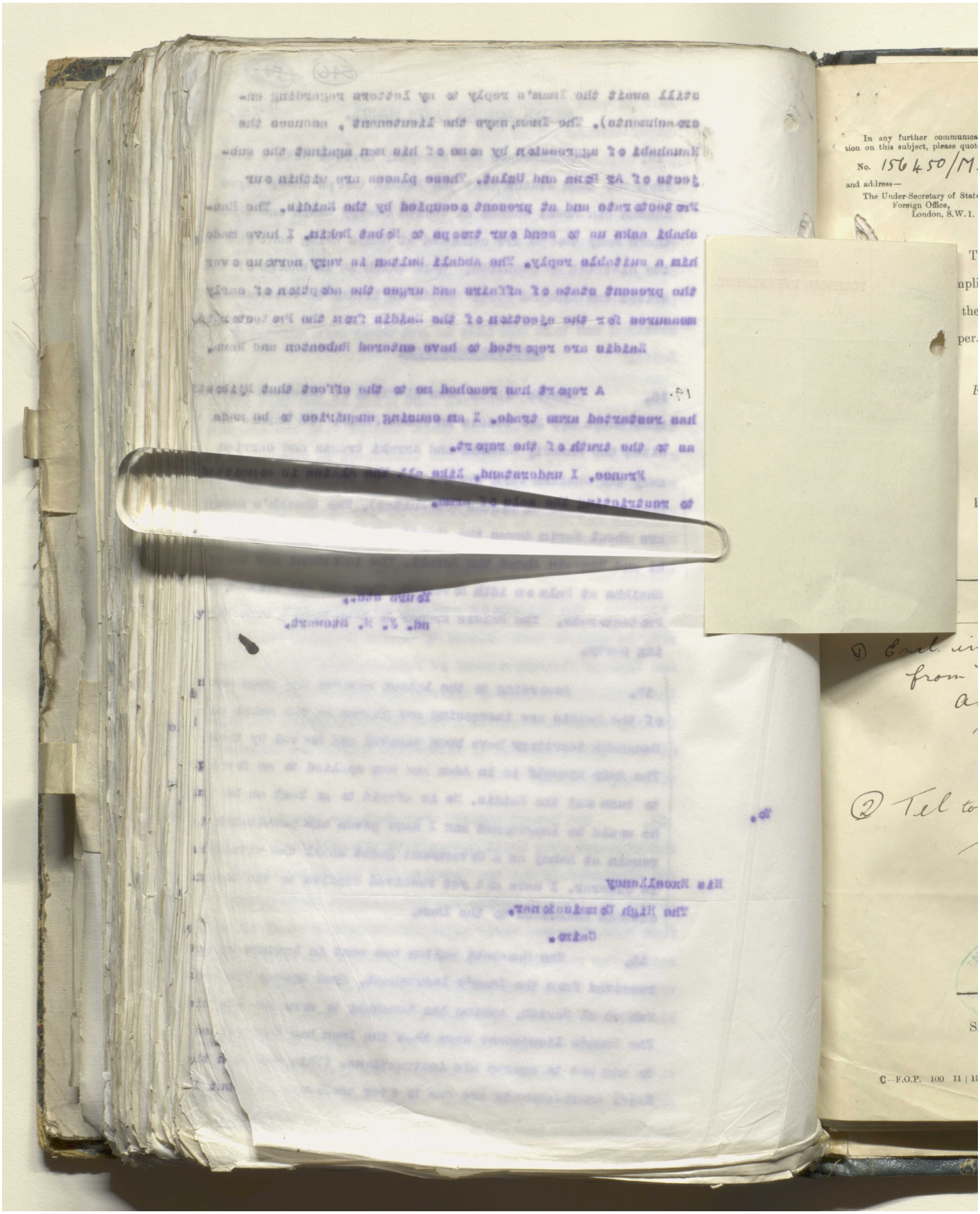

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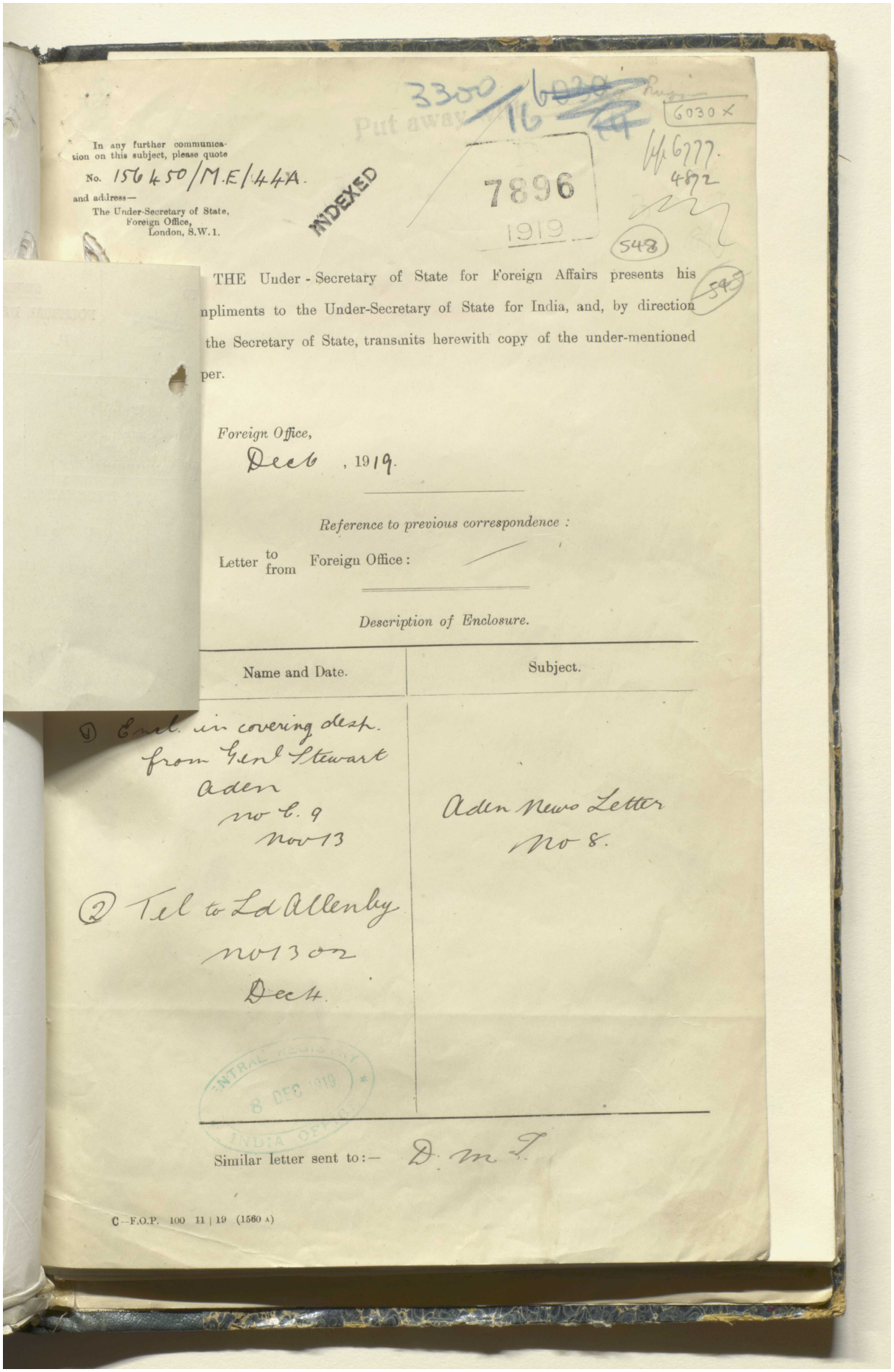

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. 156450/M.E/44A.
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

INDEXED

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Mp 6777.
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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Dec 6, 1919.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
(1) Encl. in covering desp. from Genl Stewart Aden no C. 9 Nov 13	Aden News Letter No 8.
(2) Tel to Ld Allenby no 13 on Dec 4.	

CENTRAL REGISTRY 8 DEC 1919 INDIA OFFICE

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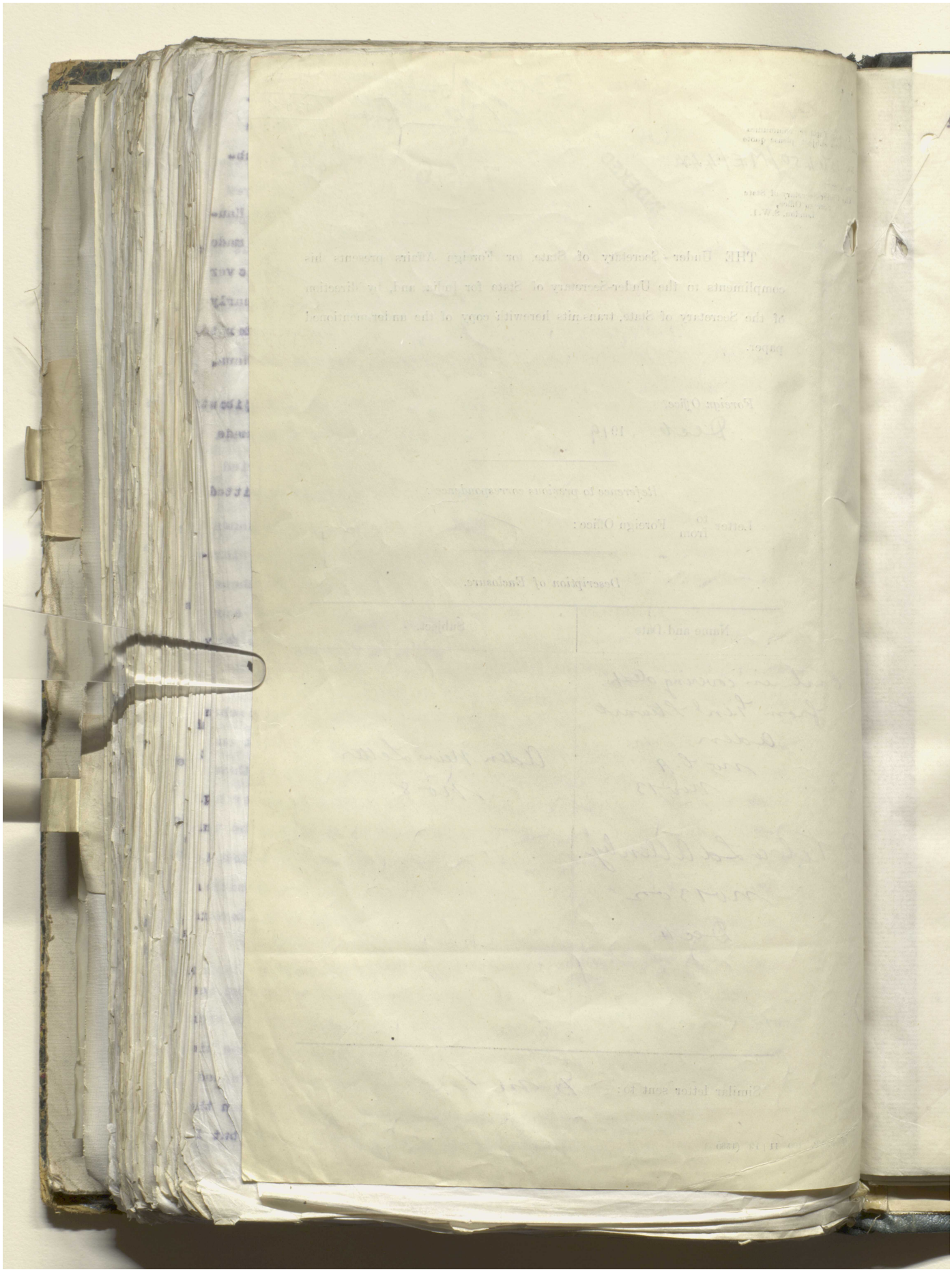

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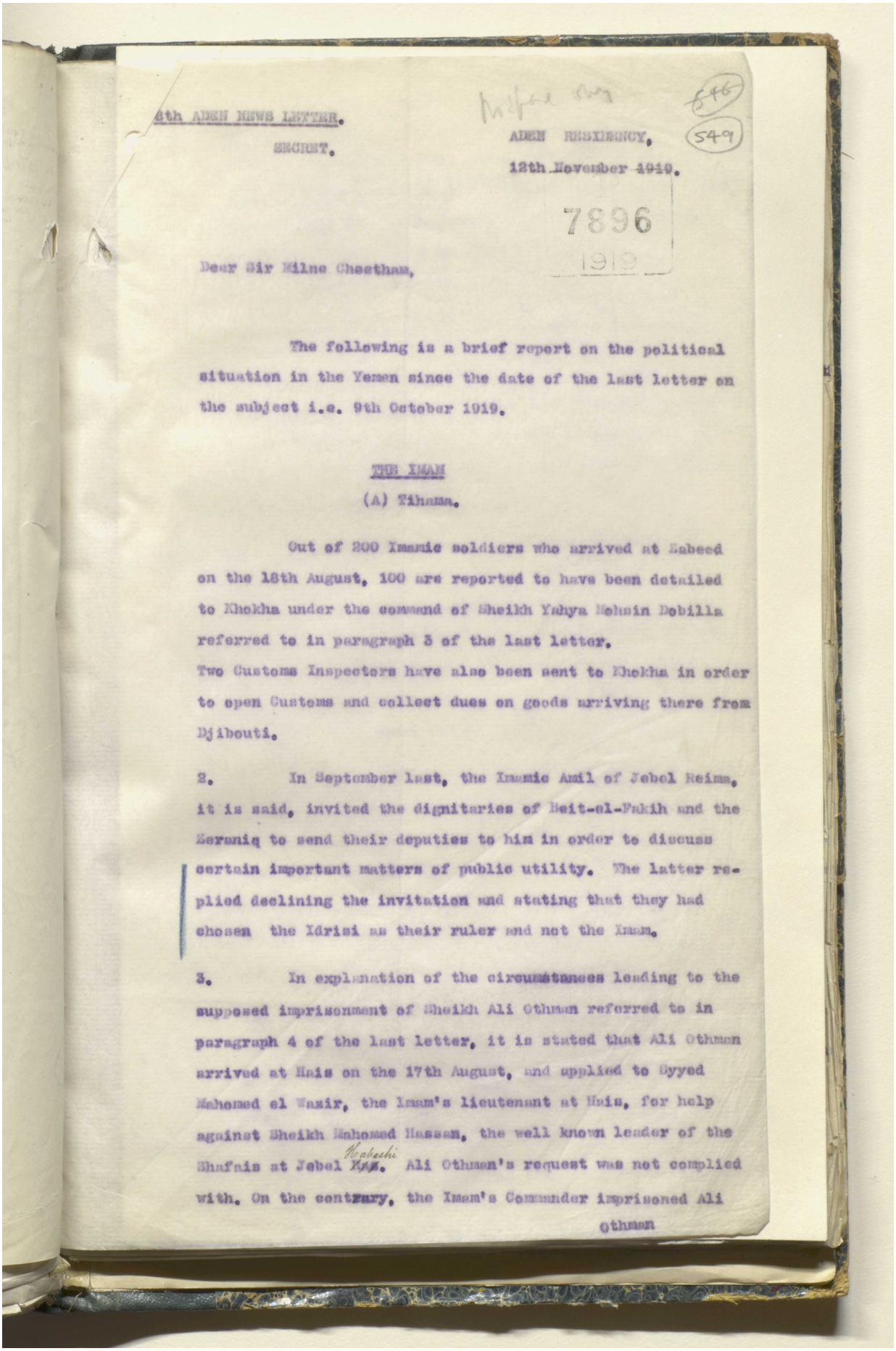

8th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,

12th November 1919.

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7896
1919

Dear Sir Milne Cheetham,

The following is a brief report on the political situation in the Yemen since the date of the last letter on the subject i.e. 9th October 1919.

THE IMAM

(A) Tihama.

Out of 200 Imamic soldiers who arrived at Zabeed on the 18th August, 100 are reported to have been detailed to Khokha under the command of Sheikh Yahya Mohsin Debilla referred to in paragraph 3 of the last letter.
Two Customs Inspectors have also been sent to Khokha in order to open Customs and collect dues on goods arriving there from Djibouti.

2. In September last, the Imamic Amil of Jebel Reima, it is said, invited the dignitaries of Beit-el-Fakih and the Zeraniq to send their deputies to him in order to discuss certain important matters of public utility. The latter replied declining the invitation and stating that they had chosen the Idrisi as their ruler and not the Imam.

3. In explanation of the circumstances leading to the supposed imprisonment of Sheikh Ali Othman referred to in paragraph 4 of the last letter, it is stated that Ali Othman arrived at Hais on the 17th August, and applied to Syyed Mahomed el Wazir, the Imam's lieutenant at Hais, for help against Sheikh Mahomed Hassan, the well known leader of the Shafais at Jebel Kabeshi. Ali Othman's request was not complied with. On the contrary, the Imam's Commander imprisoned Ali Othman

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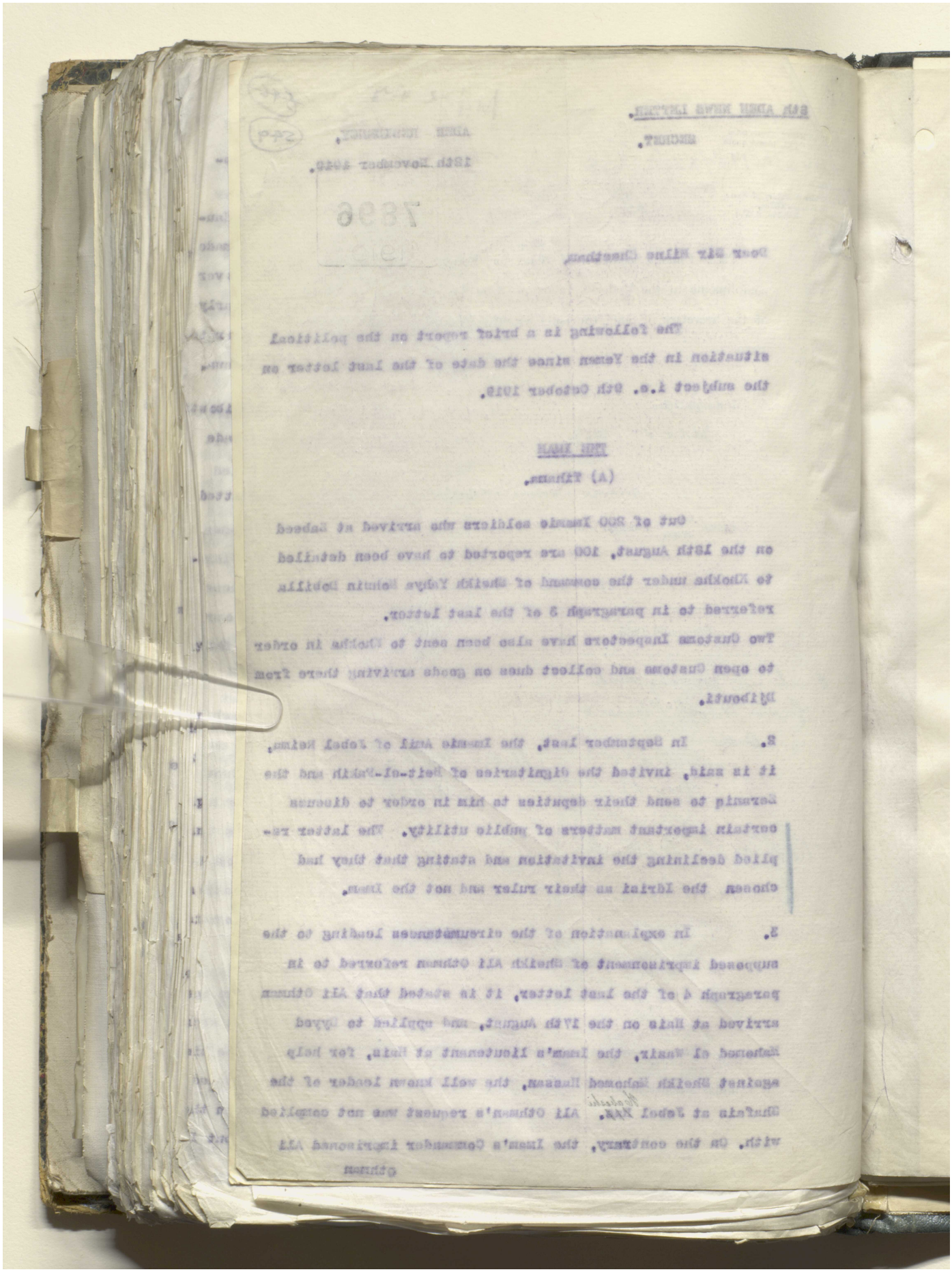

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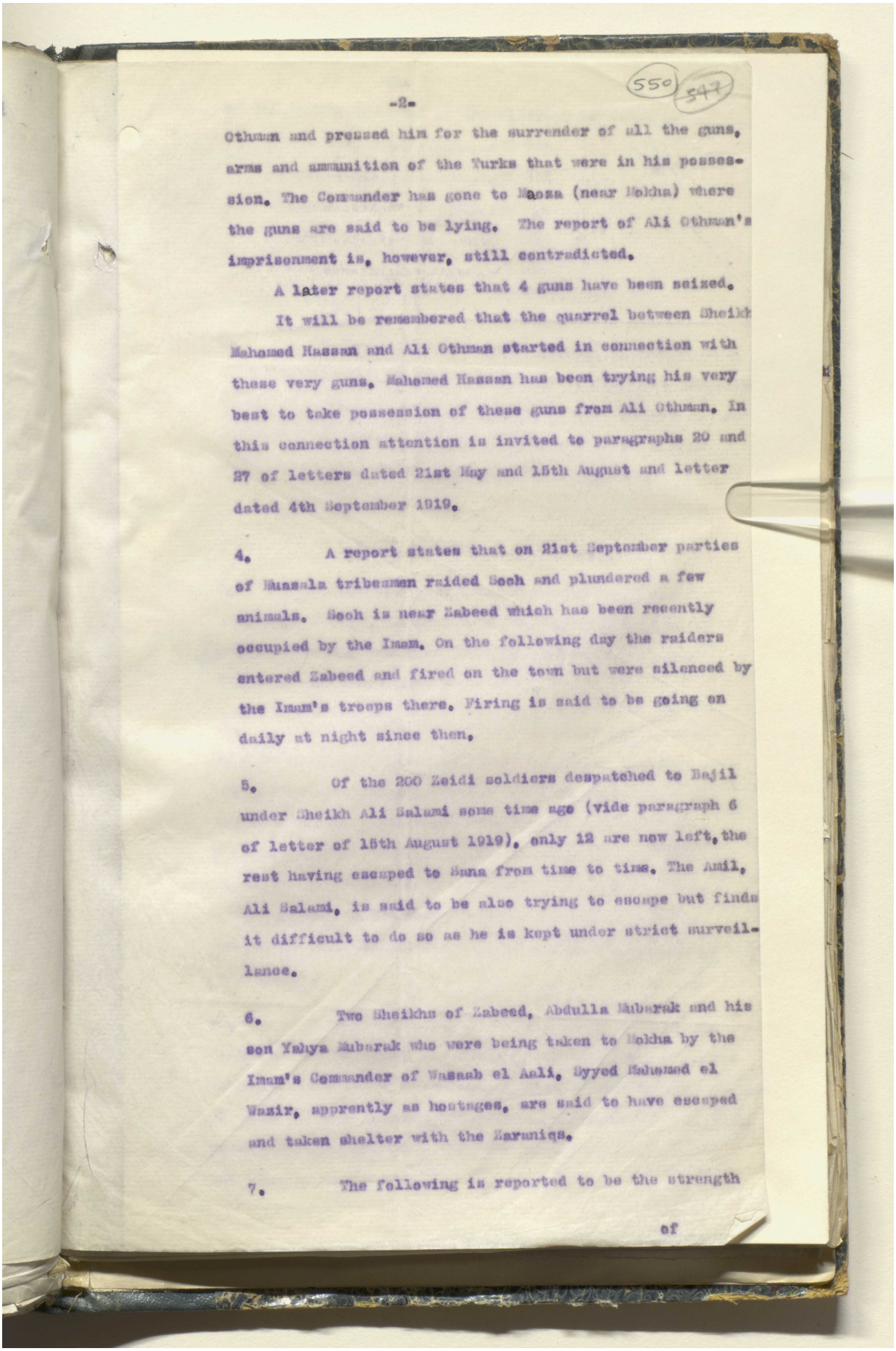

Othman and pressed him for the surrender of all the guns, arms and ammunition of the Turks that were in his possession. The Commander has gone to Mauza (near Mokha) where the guns are said to be lying. The report of Ali Othman's imprisonment is, however, still contradicted.

A later report states that 4 guns have been seized.

It will be remembered that the quarrel between Sheikh Mahomed Hassan and Ali Othman started in connection with these very guns. Mahomed Hassan has been trying his very best to take possession of these guns from Ali Othman. In this connection attention is invited to paragraphs 20 and 27 of letters dated 21st May and 15th August and letter dated 4th September 1919.

4. A report states that on 21st September parties of Hassala tribesmen raided Seeh and plundered a few animals. Seeh is near Zabeed which has been recently occupied by the Imam. On the following day the raiders entered Zabeed and fired on the town but were silenced by the Imam's troops there. Firing is said to be going on daily at night since then.

5. Of the 200 Zeidi soldiers despatched to Bajil under Sheikh Ali Salami some time ago (vide paragraph 6 of letter of 15th August 1919), only 12 are now left, the rest having escaped to Sana from time to time. The Amil, Ali Salami, is said to be also trying to escape but finds it difficult to do so as he is kept under strict surveillance.

6. Two Sheikhs of Zabeed, Abdulla Mubarak and his son Yahya Mubarak who were being taken to Mokha by the Imam's Commander of Wasaab el Aali, Syyed Mahomed el Wazir, apprently as hostages, are said to have escaped and taken shelter with the Zaraniqs.

7. The following is reported to be the strength

of

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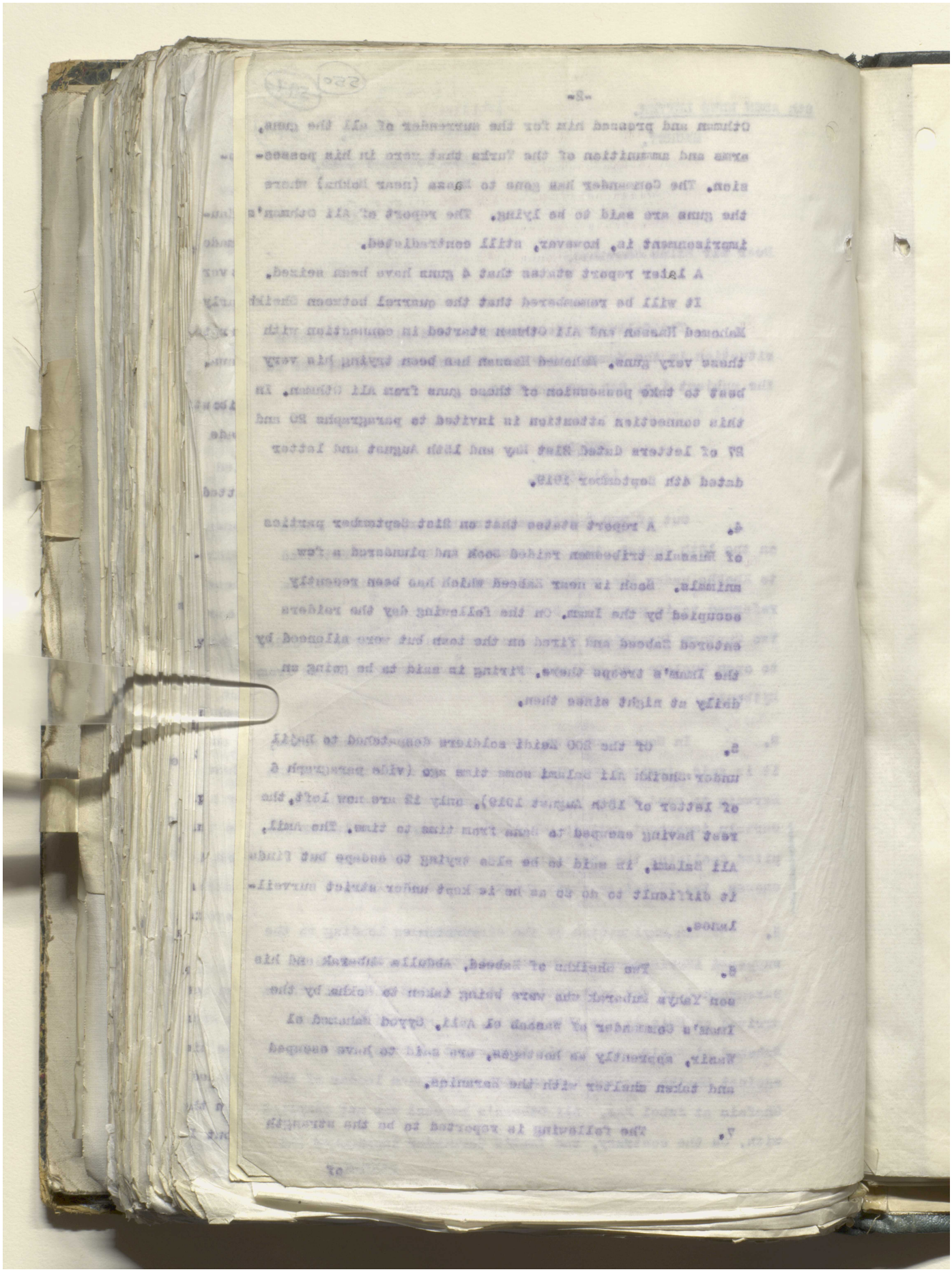

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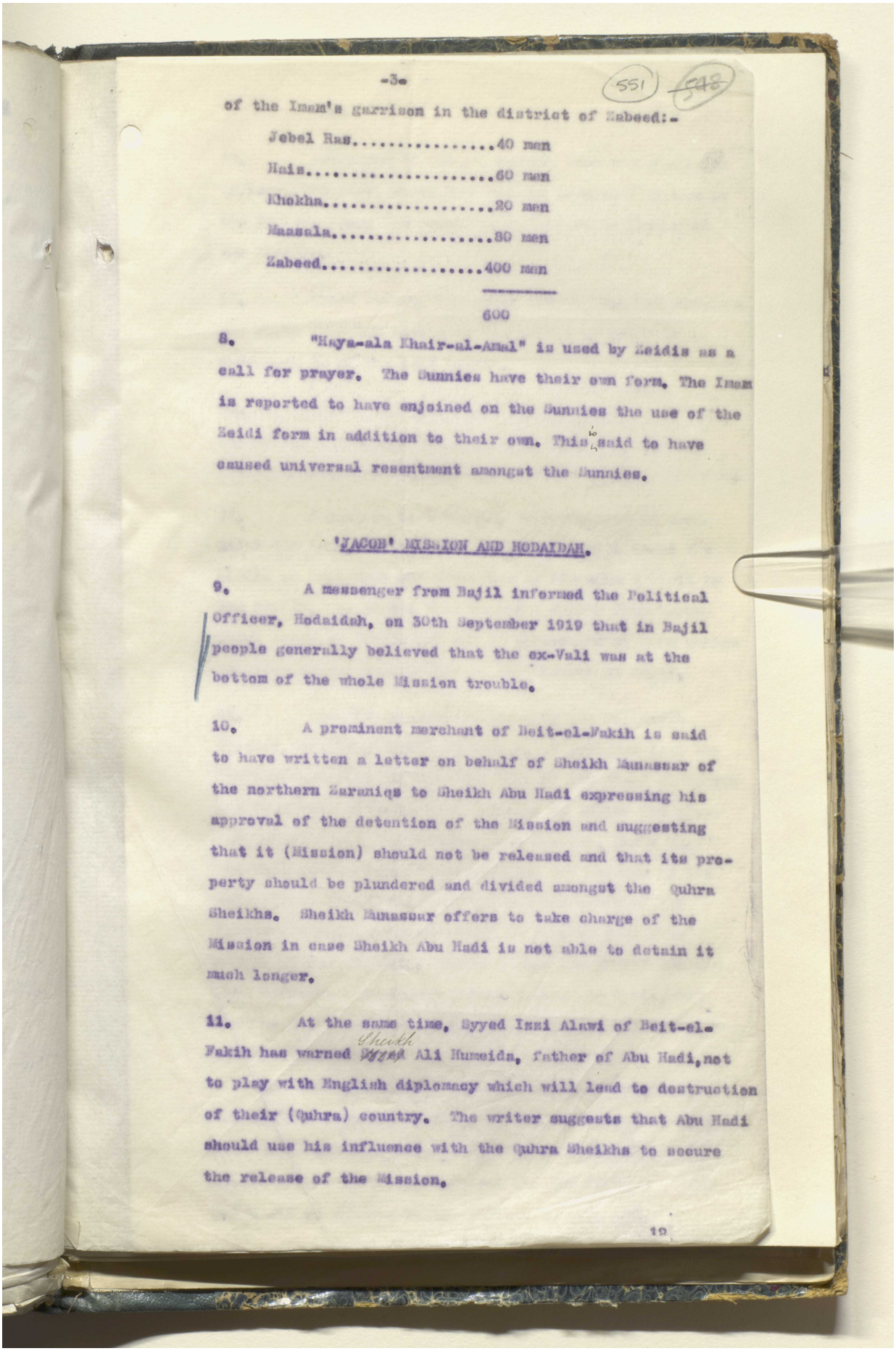

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of the Imam's garrison in the district of Zabeed:-

Jebel Ras	40 men
Hais	60 men
Khokha	20 men
Maasala	80 men
Zabeed	400 men
	600

8. "Haya-ala Khair-al-Amal" is used by Zeidis as a call for prayer. The Sunnies have their own form. The Imam is reported to have enjoined on the Sunnies the use of the Zeidi form in addition to their own. This is said to have caused universal resentment amongst the Sunnies.

'JACOB' MISSION AND HODAIDAH.

9. A messenger from Bajil informed the Political Officer, Hodaidah, on 30th September 1919 that in Bajil people generally believed that the ex-Vali was at the bottom of the whole Mission trouble.

10. A prominent merchant of Beit-el-Fakih is said to have written a letter on behalf of Sheikh Munassar of the northern Zaraniqs to Sheikh Abu Hadi expressing his approval of the detention of the Mission and suggesting that it (Mission) should not be released and that its property should be plundered and divided amongst the Quhra Sheikhs. Sheikh Munassar offers to take charge of the Mission in case Sheikh Abu Hadi is not able to detain it much longer.

11. At the same time, Syyed Izzi Alawi of Beit-el-Fakih has warned Sheikh Ali Humeida, father of Abu Hadi, not to play with English diplomacy which will lead to destruction of their (Quhra) country. The writer suggests that Abu Hadi should use his influence with the Quhra Sheikhs to secure the release of the Mission.

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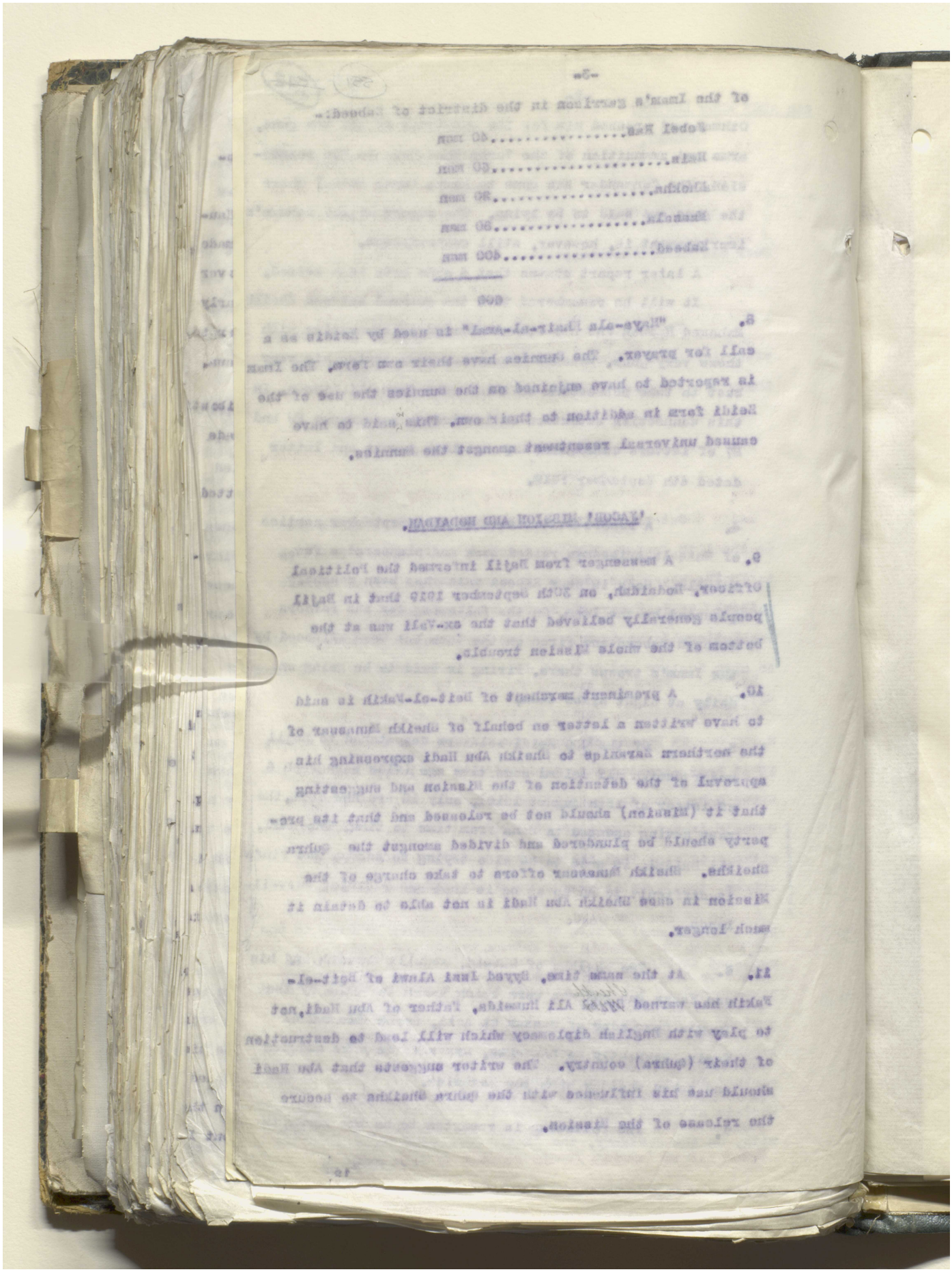

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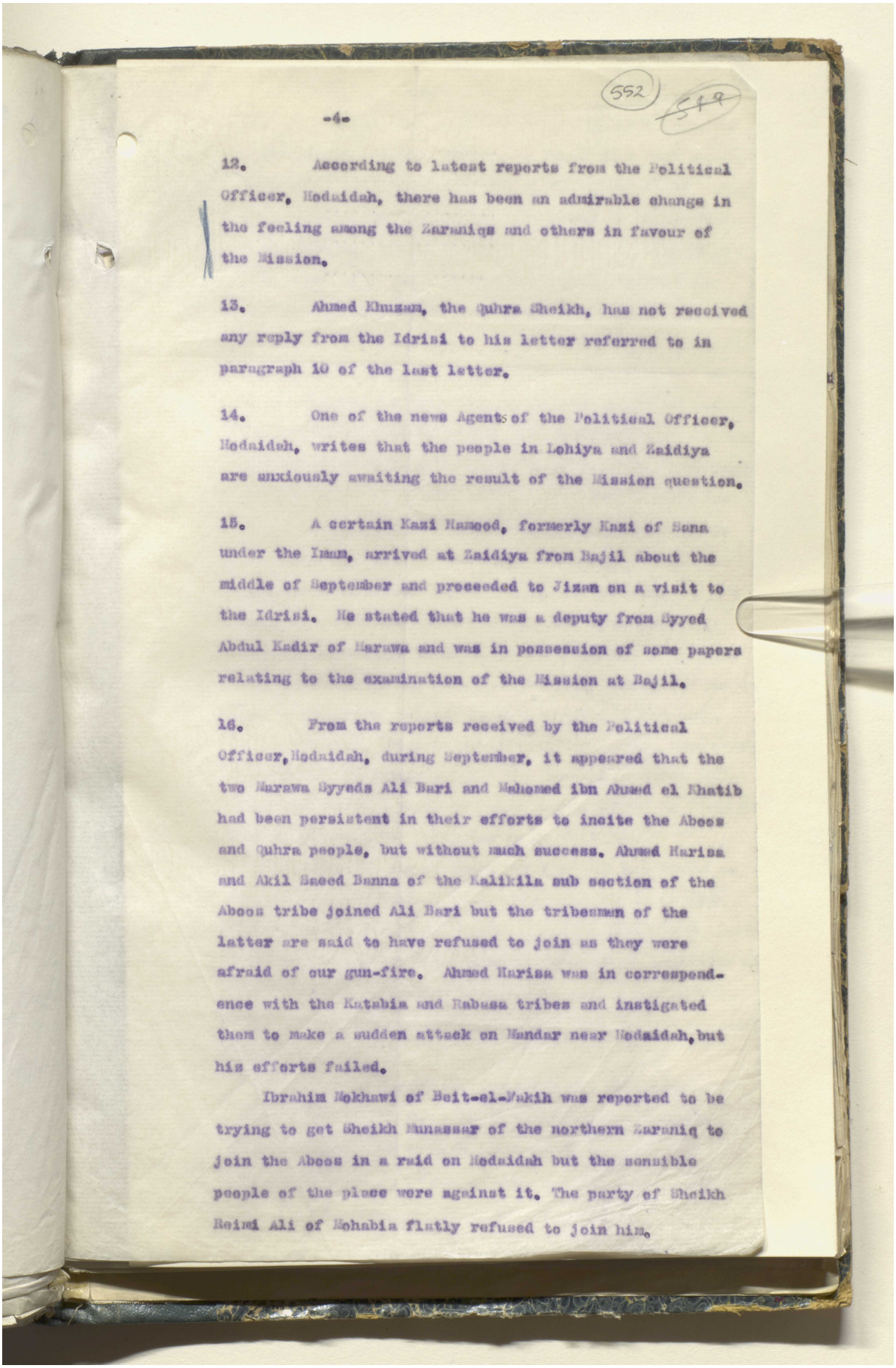

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12. According to latest reports from the Political Officer, Hodaidah, there has been an admirable change in the feeling among the Zaraniqs and others in favour of the Mission.

13. Ahmed Khuzam, the Quhra Sheikh, has not received any reply from the Idrisi to his letter referred to in paragraph 10 of the last letter.

14. One of the news Agents of the Political Officer, Hodaidah, writes that the people in Lohiya and Zaidiya are anxiously awaiting the result of the Mission question.

15. A certain Kazi Hamood, formerly Kazi of Sana under the Imam, arrived at Zaidiya from Bajil about the middle of September and proceeded to Jizan on a visit to the Idrisi. He stated that he was a deputy from Syyed Abdul Kadir of Marawa and was in possession of some papers relating to the examination of the Mission at Bajil.

16. From the reports received by the Political Officer, Hodaidah, during September, it appeared that the two Marawa Syyeds Ali Bari and Mahomed ibn Ahmed el Khatib had been persistent in their efforts to incite the Abeeb and Quhra people, but without much success. Ahmed Harisa and Akil Saeed Banna of the Kalikila sub section of the Abeeb tribe joined Ali Bari but the tribesmen of the latter are said to have refused to join as they were afraid of our gun-fire. Ahmed Harisa was in correspondence with the Katabia and Rabusa tribes and instigated them to make a sudden attack on Mandar near Hodaidah, but his efforts failed.

Ibrahim Mokhawi of Beit-el-Fakih was reported to be trying to get Sheikh Munassar of the northern Zaraniq to join the Abeeb in a raid on Hodaidah but the sensible people of the place were against it. The party of Sheikh Reimi Ali of Mahabia flatly refused to join him.

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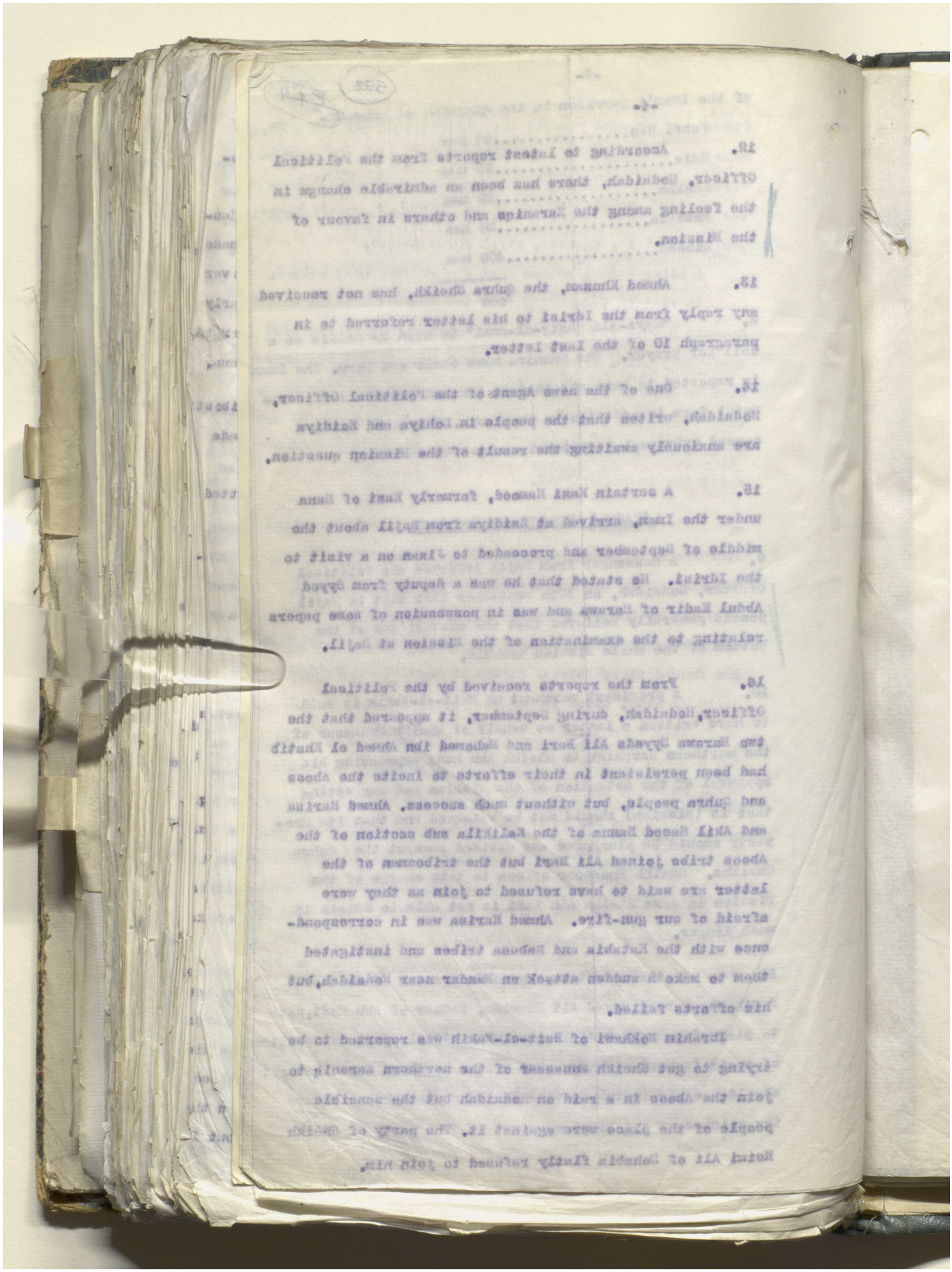

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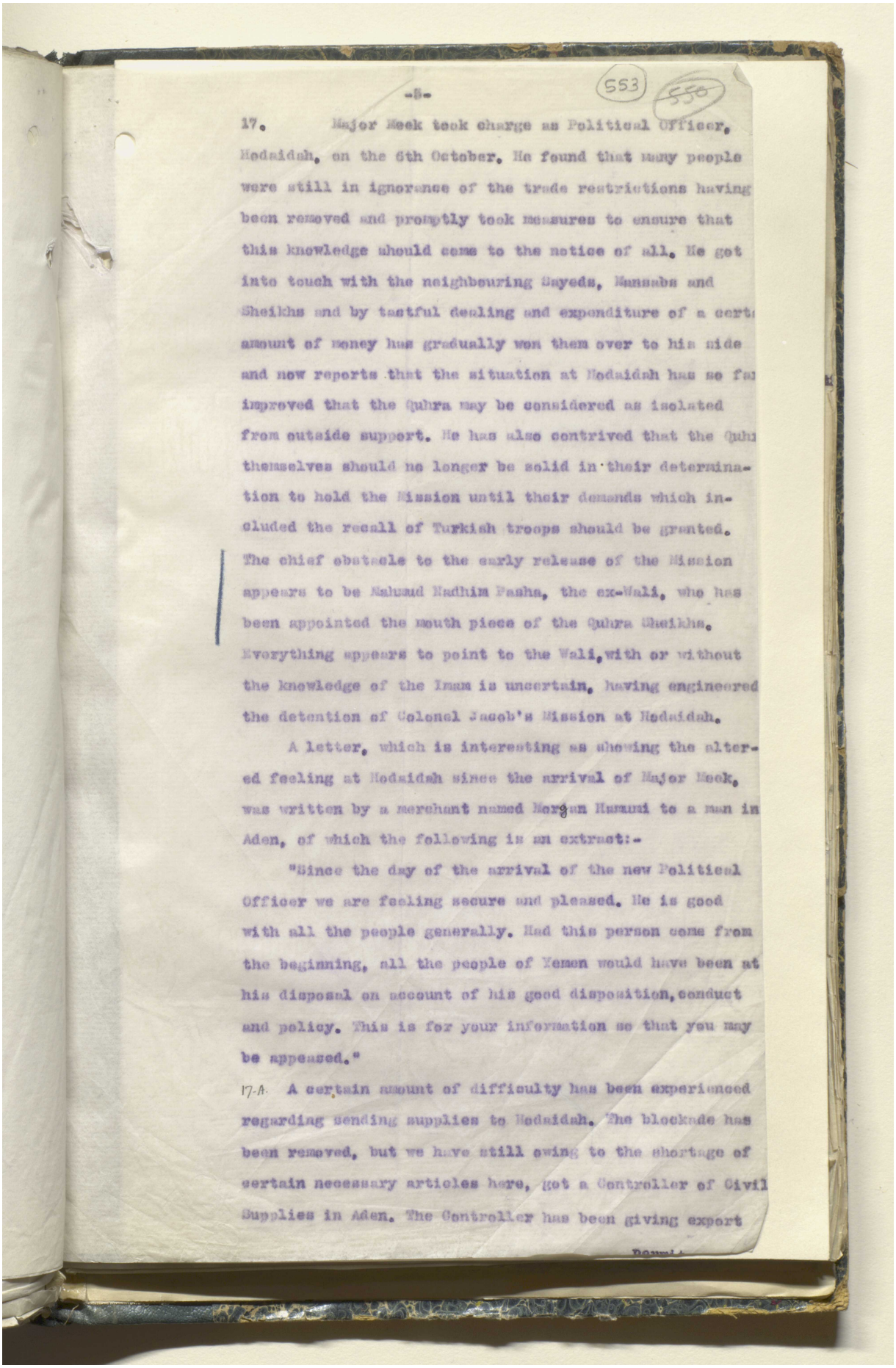

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17. Major Meek took charge as Political Officer, Hodaidah, on the 6th October. He found that many people were still in ignorance of the trade restrictions having been removed and promptly took measures to ensure that this knowledge should come to the notice of all. He got into touch with the neighbouring Sayeds, Mansabs and Sheikhs and by tactful dealing and expenditure of a certa amount of money has gradually won them over to his side and now reports that the situation at Hodaidah has so fa improved that the Quhra may be considered as isolated from outside support. He has also contrived that the Quhr themselves should no longer be solid in their determination to hold the Mission until their demands which included the recall of Turkish troops should be granted. The chief obstacle to the early release of the Mission appears to be Mahmud Nadhim Pasha, the ex-Wali, who has been appointed the mouth piece of the Quhra Sheikhs. Everything appears to point to the Wali, with or without the knowledge of the Imam is uncertain, having engineered the detention of Colonel Jacob's Mission at Hodaidah.

A letter, which is interesting as showing the altered feeling at Hodaidah since the arrival of Major Meek, was written by a merchant named Morgan Hamami to a man in Aden, of which the following is an extract:-

"Since the day of the arrival of the new Political Officer we are feeling secure and pleased. He is good with all the people generally. Had this person come from the beginning, all the people of Yemen would have been at his disposal on account of his good disposition, conduct and policy. This is for your information so that you may be appeased."

17-A. A certain amount of difficulty has been experienced regarding sending supplies to Hodaidah. The blockade has been removed, but we have still owing to the shortage of certain necessary articles here, got a Controller of Civil Supplies in Aden. The Controller has been giving expert

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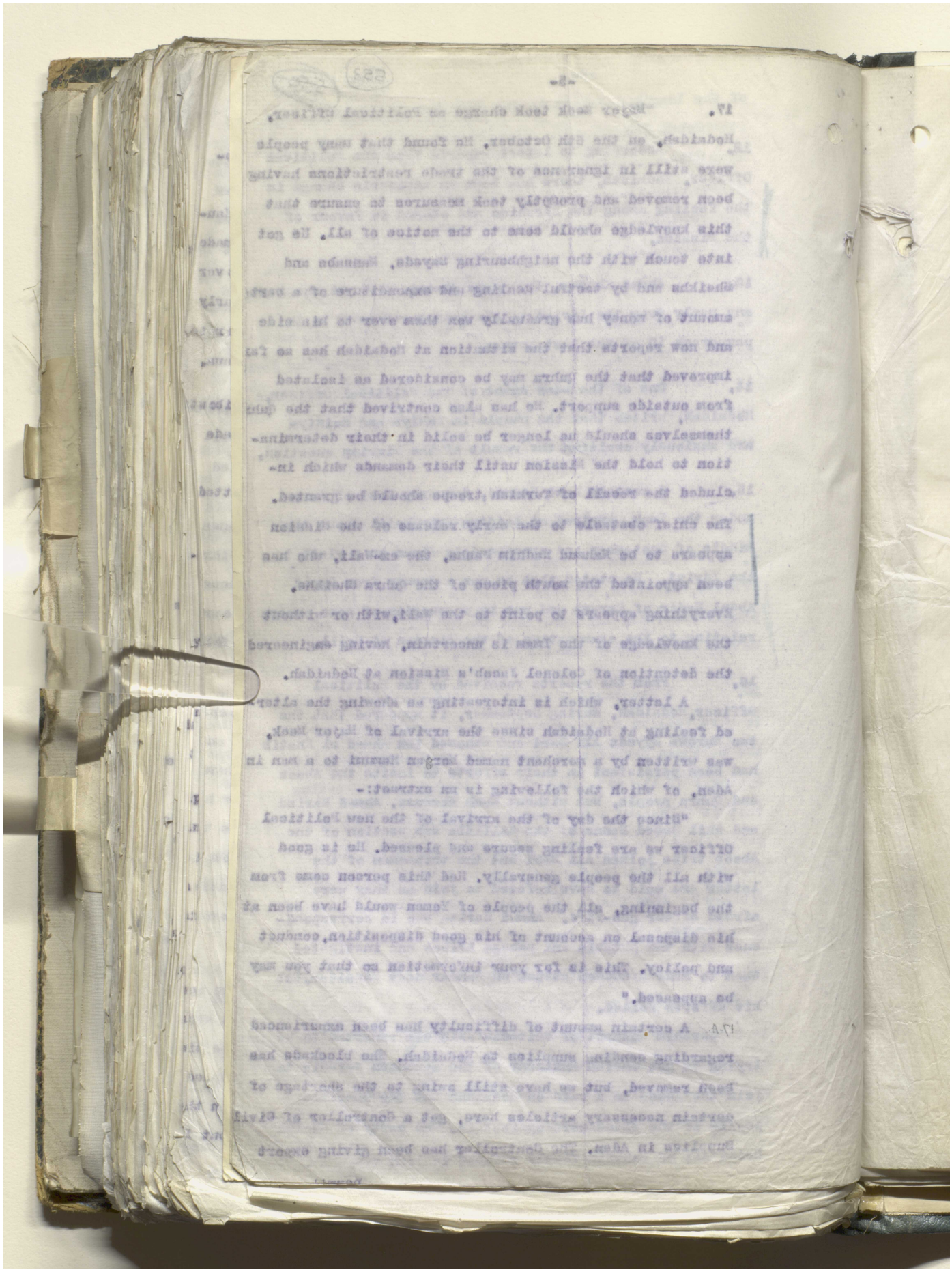

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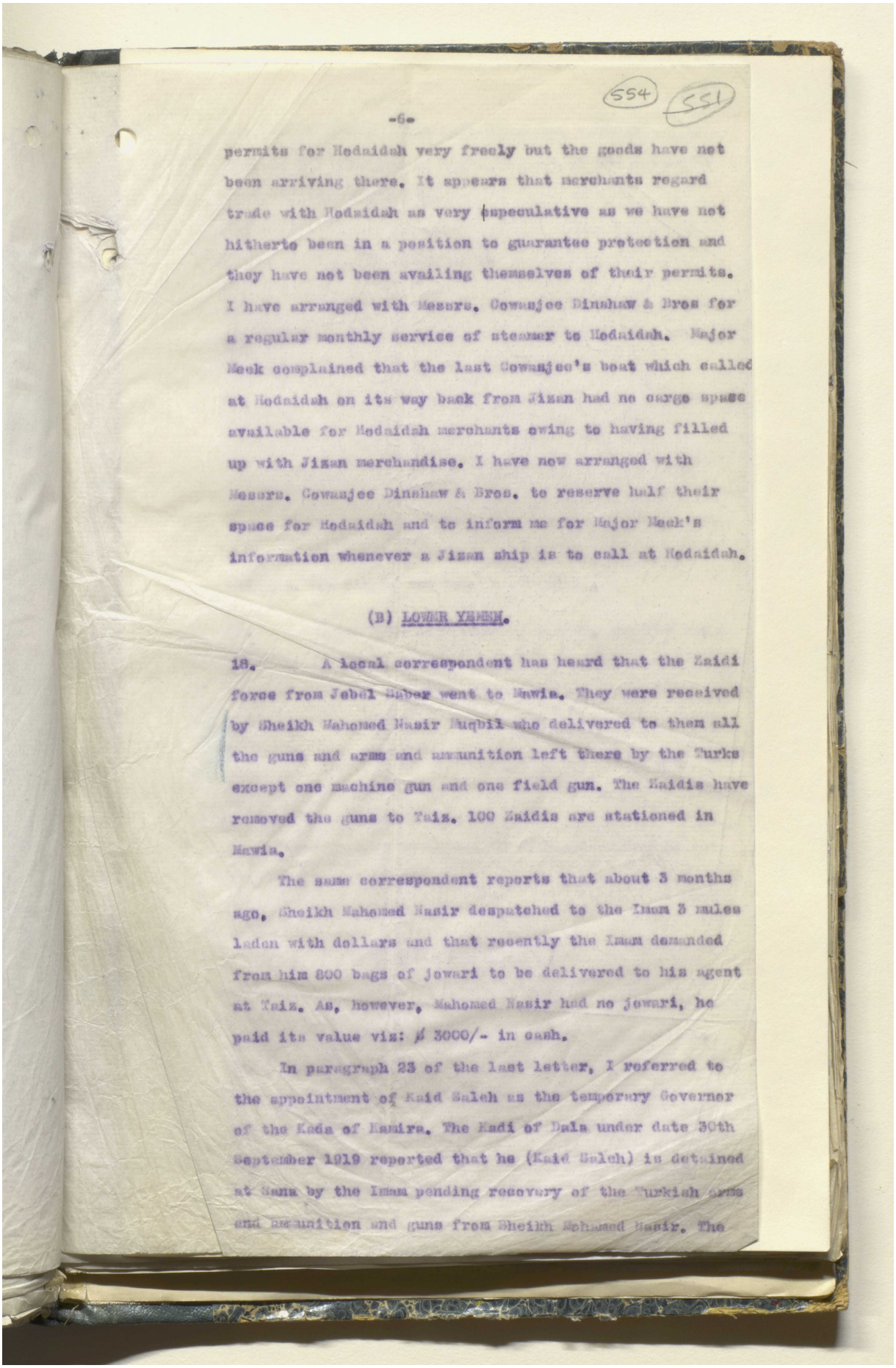

permits for Hodaidah very freely but the goods have not been arriving there. It appears that merchants regard trade with Hodaidah as very speculative as we have not hitherto been in a position to guarantee protection and they have not been availing themselves of their permits. I have arranged with Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros for a regular monthly service of steamer to Hodaidah. Major Meek complained that the last Cowasjee's boat which called at Hodaidah on its way back from Jizan had no cargo space available for Hodaidah merchants owing to having filled up with Jizan merchandise. I have now arranged with Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros. to reserve half their space for Hodaidah and to inform me for Major Meek's information whenever a Jizan ship is to call at Hodaidah.

(B) LOWER YEMEN.

18. A local correspondent has heard that the Zaidi force from Jebel Sabar went to Mawia. They were received by Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Muqbil who delivered to them all the guns and arms and ammunition left there by the Turks except one machine gun and one field gun. The Zaidis have removed the guns to Taiz. 100 Zaidis are stationed in Mawia.

The same correspondent reports that about 3 months ago, Sheikh Mahomed Nasir despatched to the Imam 3 mules laden with dollars and that recently the Imam demanded from him 800 bags of jowari to be delivered to his agent at Taiz. As, however, Mahomed Nasir had no jowari, he paid its value viz: ₰ 3000/- in cash.

In paragraph 23 of the last letter, I referred to the appointment of Kaid Saleh as the temporary Governor of the Kada of Hamira. The Kadi of Dala under date 30th September 1919 reported that he (Kaid Saleh) is detained at Sana by the Imam pending recovery of the Turkish arms and ammunition and guns from Sheikh Mohamed Nasir. The

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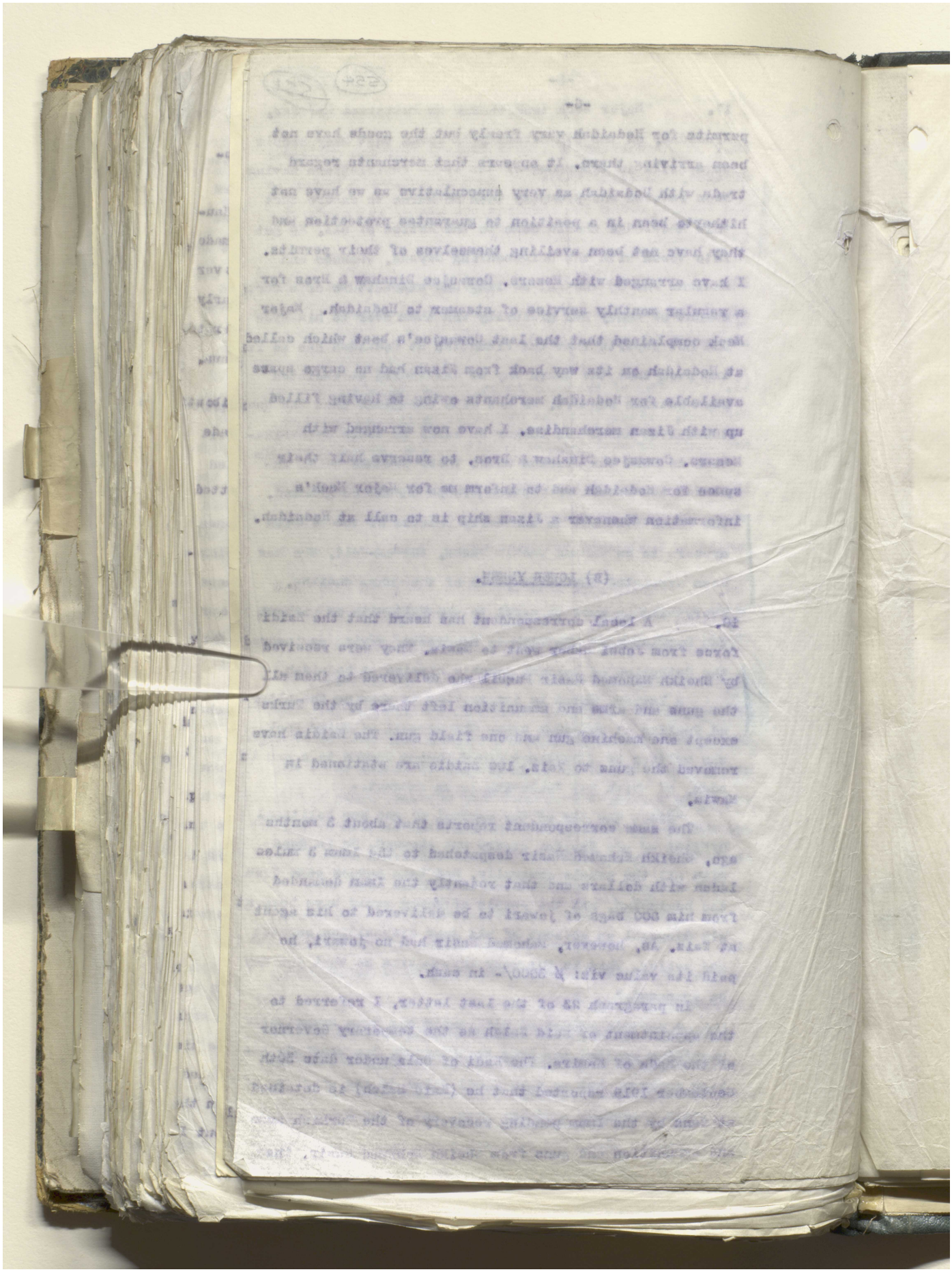

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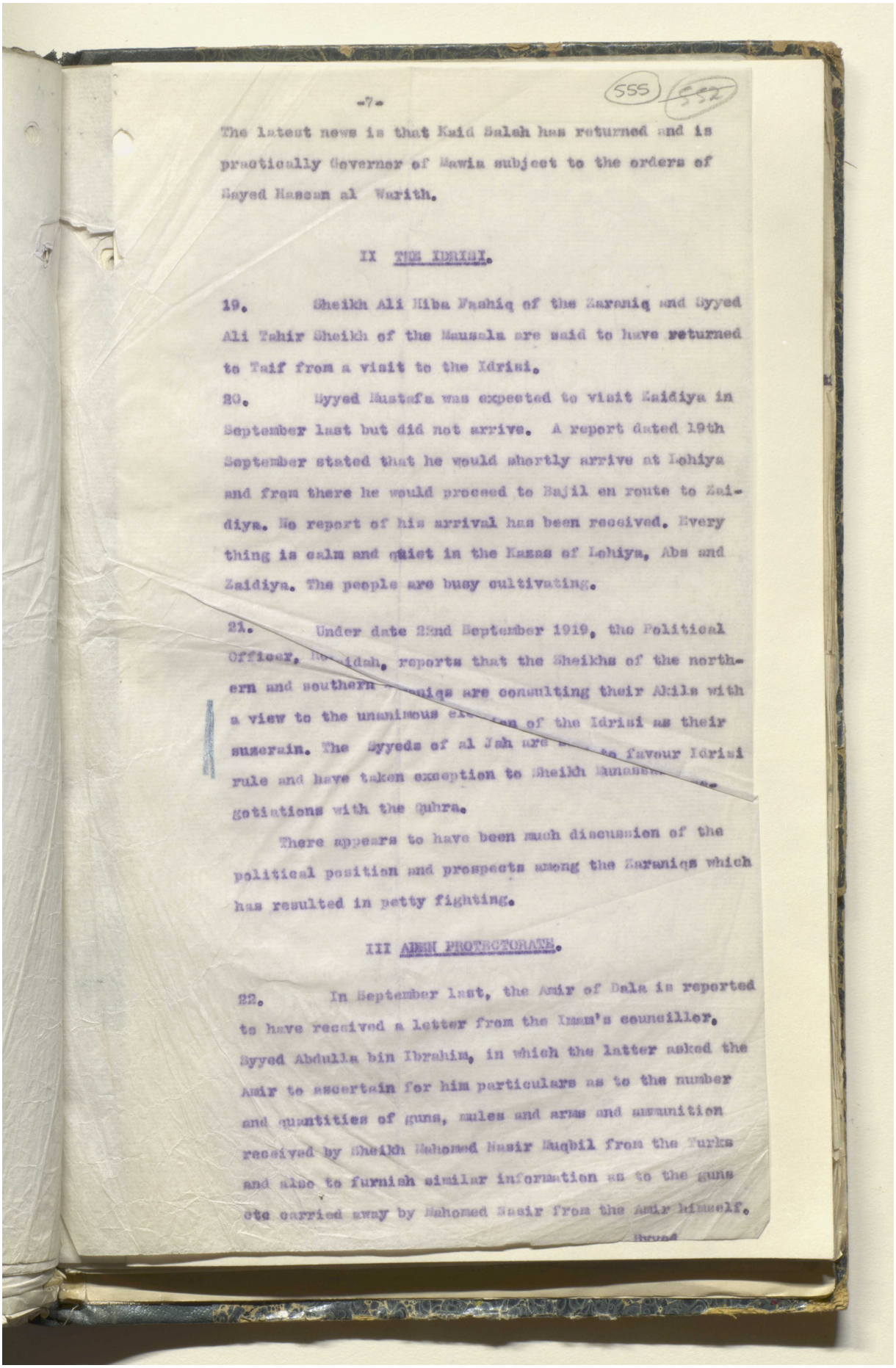

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The latest news is that Kaid Salah has returned and is practically Governor of Mawia subject to the orders of Sayed Hassan al Warith.

II THE IDRISI.

19. Sheikh Ali Hiba Washiq of the Zaraniq and Syyed Ali Tahir Sheikh of the Mausala are said to have returned to Taif from a visit to the Idrisi.

20. Syyed Mustafa was expected to visit Zaidiya in September last but did not arrive. A report dated 19th September stated that he would shortly arrive at Lohiya and from there he would proceed to Bajil en route to Zaidiya. No report of his arrival has been received. Every thing is calm and quiet in the Kazas of Lohiya, Abs and Zaidiya. The people are busy cultivating.

21. Under date 22nd September 1919, the Political Officer, Hodeidah, reports that the Sheikhs of the northern and southern Zaraniqs are consulting their Akils with a view to the unanimous ex[illegible]tion of the Idrisi as their suzerain. The Syyeds of al Jah are [illegible] favour Idrisi rule and have taken exception to Sheikh Hussain [illegible] negotiations with the Qubra.

There appears to have been much discussion of the political position and prospects among the Zaraniqs which has resulted in petty fighting.

III ADEN PROTECTORATE.

22. In September last, the Amir of Dala is reported to have received a letter from the Imam's counciller, Syyed Abdulla bin Ibrahim, in which the latter asked the Amir to ascertain for him particulars as to the number and quantities of guns, mules and arms and ammunition received by Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Muqbil from the Turks and also to furnish similar information as to the guns etc carried away by Mahomed Nasir from the Amir himself.

Syyed

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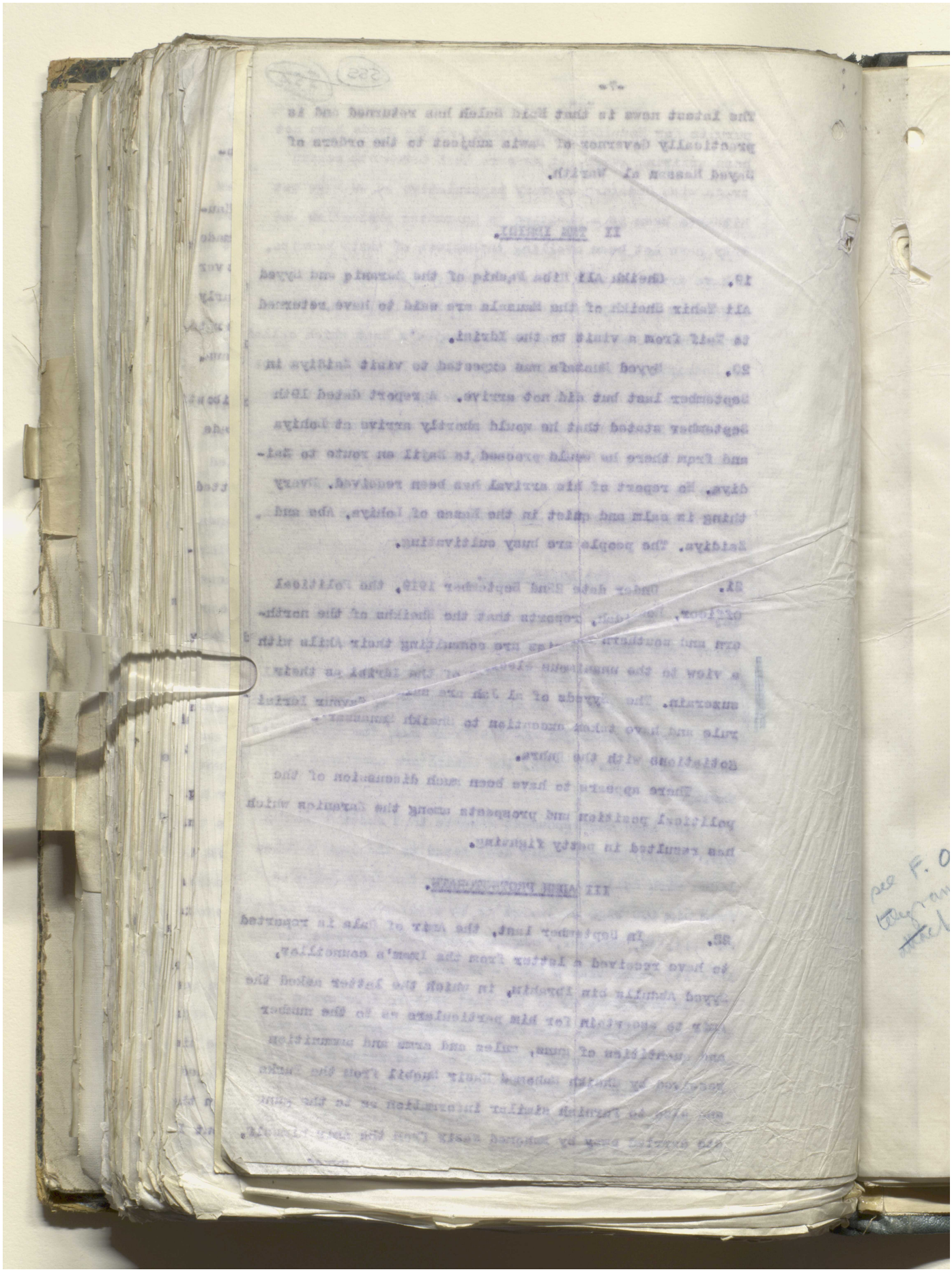

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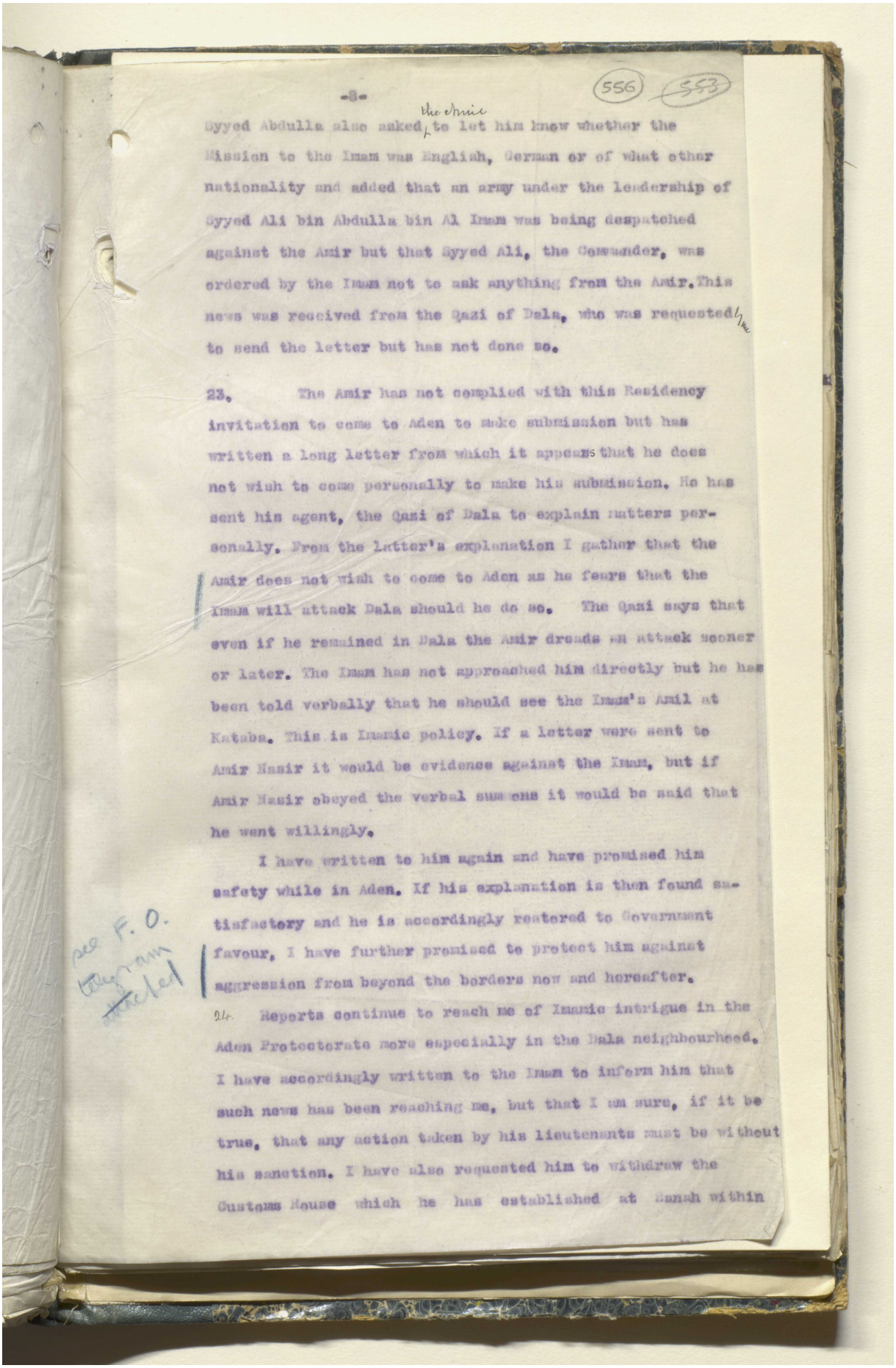

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Syyed Abdulla also asked the Amir to let him know whether the Mission to the Imam was English, German or of what other nationality and added that an army under the leadership of Syyed Ali bin Abdulla bin Al Imam was being despatched against the Amir but that Syyed Ali, the Commander, was ordered by the Imam not to ask anything from the Amir. This news was received from the Qazi of Dala, who was requested to send the letter but has not done so.

23. The Amir has not complied with this Residency invitation to come to Aden to make submission but has written a long letter from which it appears that he does not wish to come personally to make his submission. He has sent his agent, the Qazi of Dala to explain matters personally. From the latter's explanation I gather that the Amir does not wish to come to Aden as he fears that the Imam will attack Dala should he do so. The Qazi says that even if he remained in Dala the Amir dreads an attack sooner or later. The Imam has not approached him directly but he has been told verbally that he should see the Imam's Amil at Kataba. This is Imamic policy. If a letter were sent to Amir Nasir it would be evidence against the Imam, but if Amir Nasir obeyed the verbal summons it would be said that he went willingly.

I have written to him again and have promised him safety while in Aden. If his explanation is then found satisfactory and he is accordingly restored to Government favour, I have further promised to protect him against aggression from beyond the borders now and hereafter.

24. Reports continue to reach me of Imamic intrigue in the Aden Protectorate more especially in the Dala neighbourhood. I have accordingly written to the Imam to inform him that such news has been reaching me, but that I am sure, if it be true, that any action taken by his lieutenants must be without his sanction. I have also requested him to withdraw the Customs House which he has established at Banah within

see F.O. telegram attached

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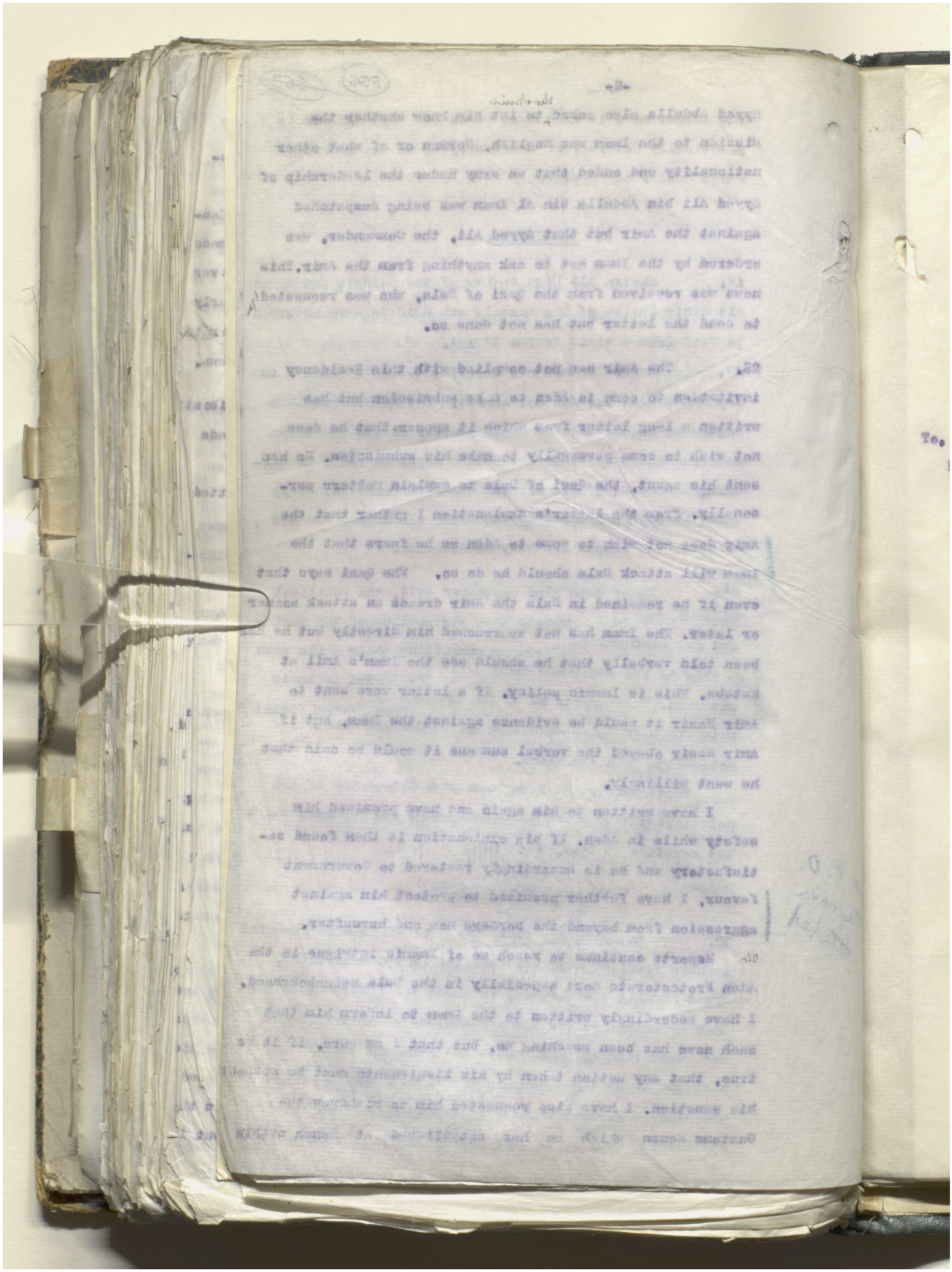

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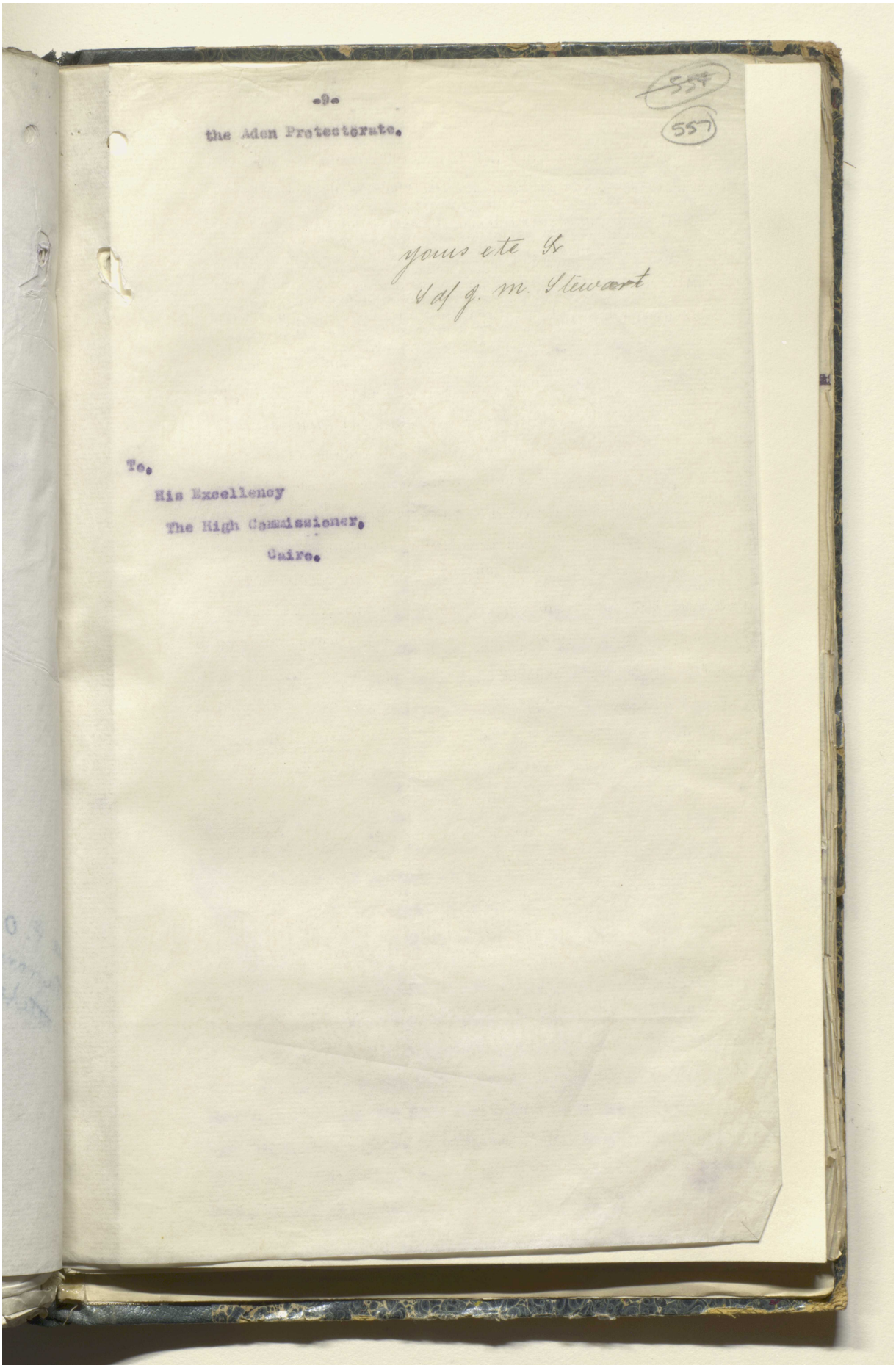

-2-

the Aden Protectorate.

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yours etc &
d/d g. m. Stewart

To,
His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
Cairo.

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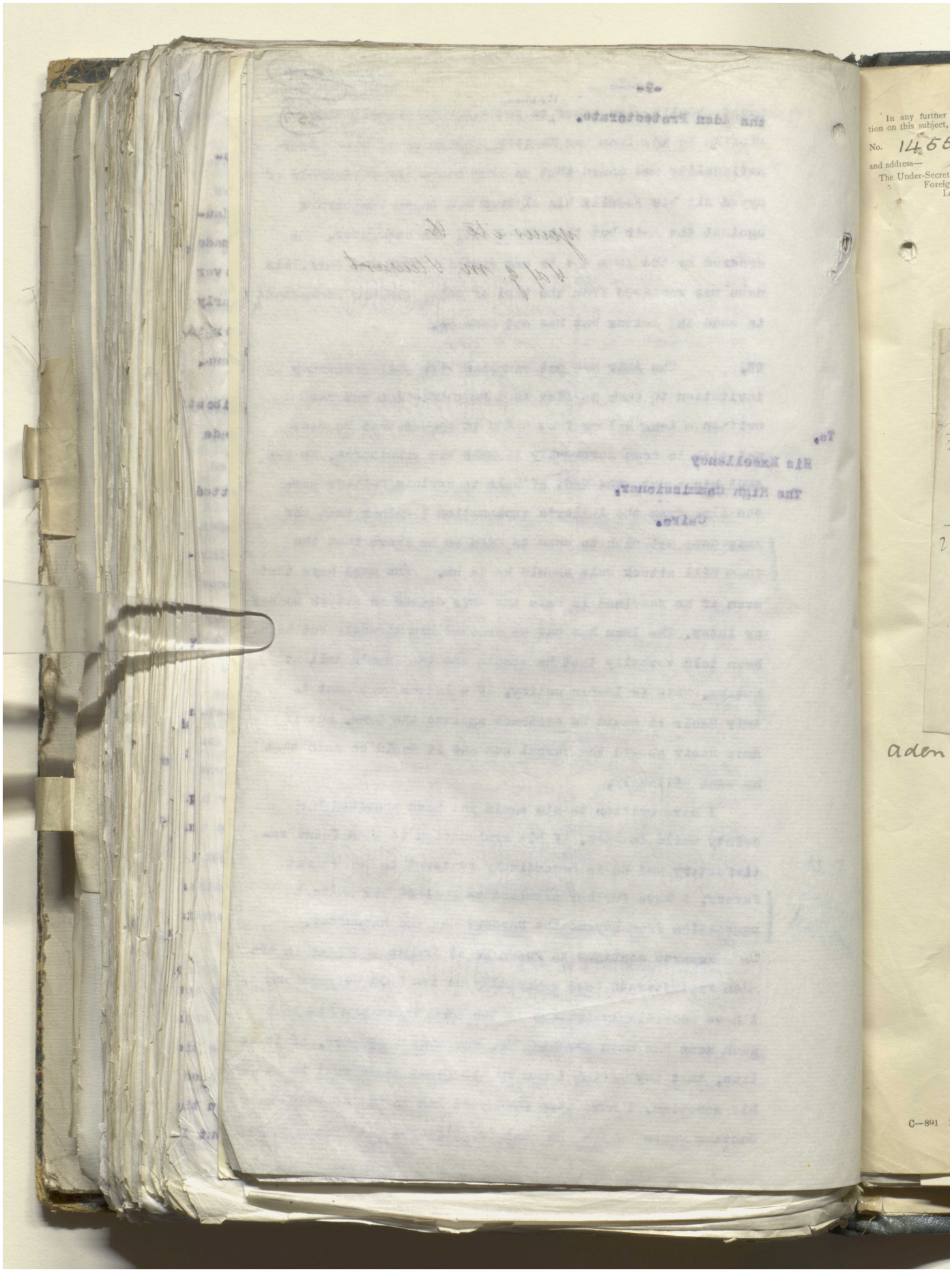

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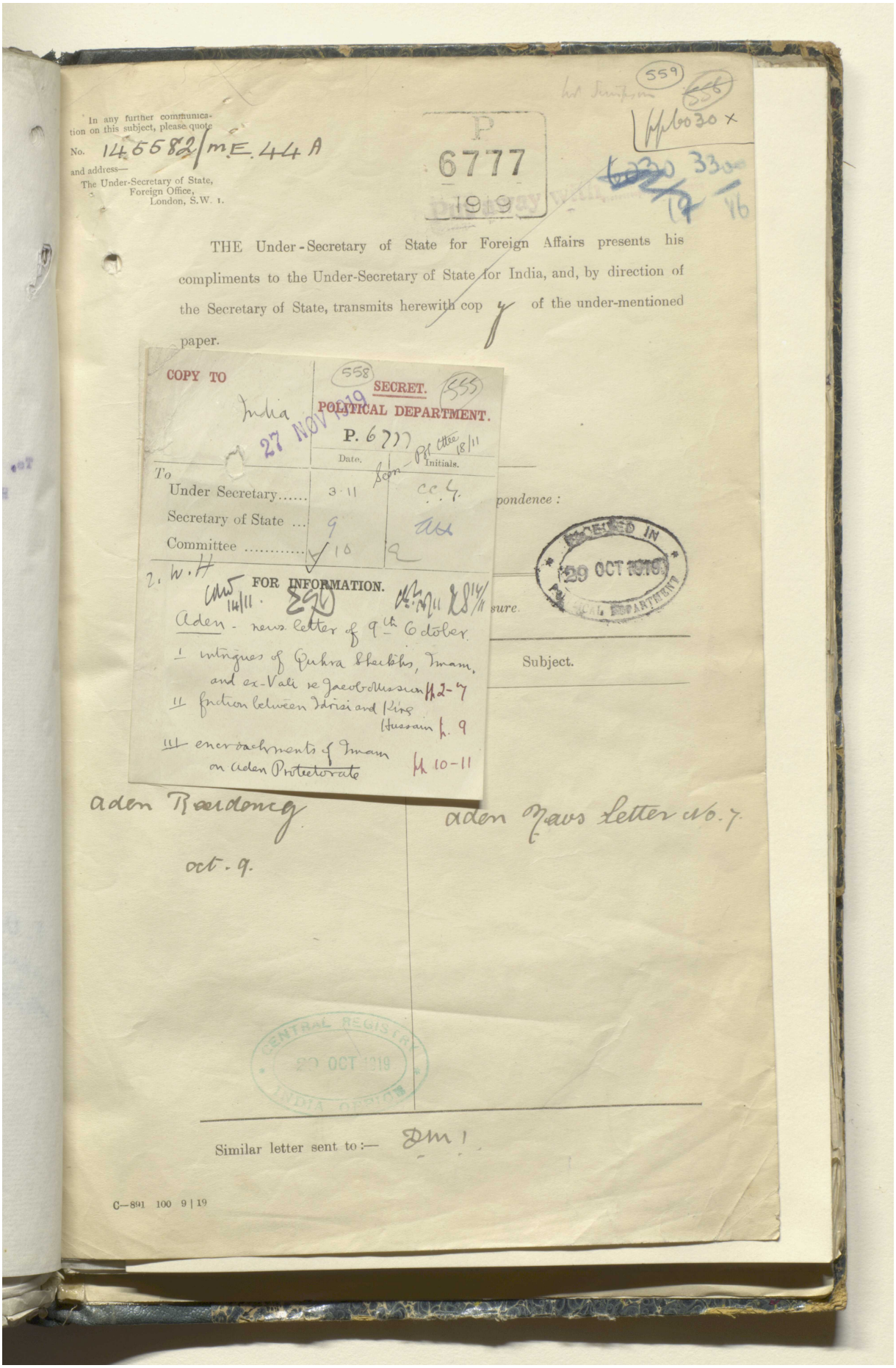

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No. 146582/mE.44A
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

P 6777 1919

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

COPY TO India

SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

P. 6777

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	3·11	
Secretary of State ...	9	
Committee	10	

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden - news letter of 9th October.

I intrigues of Qubra Sheikhs, Imam, and ex-Vali re Jacob Mission 2-7

II friction between Idrisi and King Hussain 9

III encroachments of Imam on Aden Protectorate 10-11

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aden Residency oct. 9.

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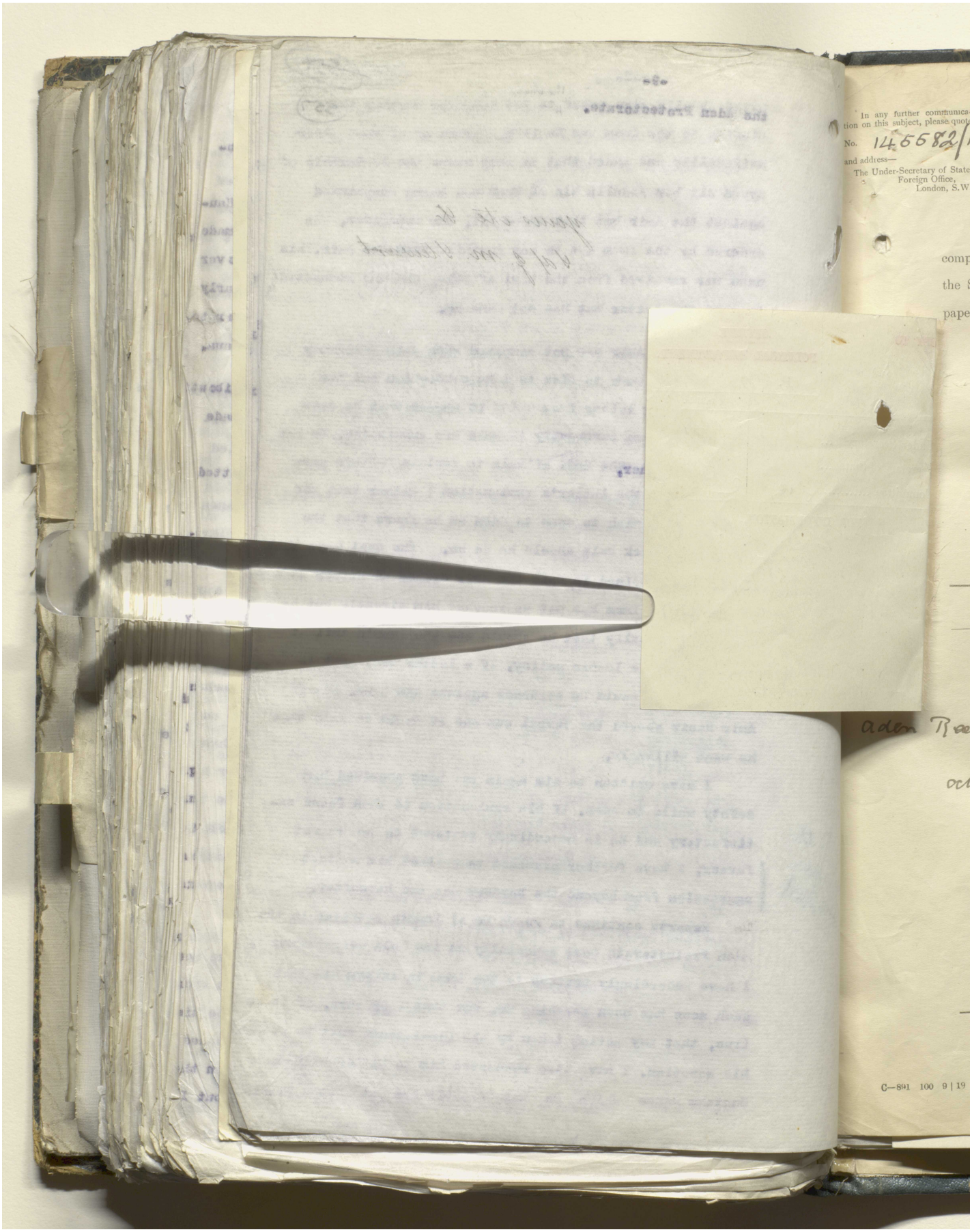

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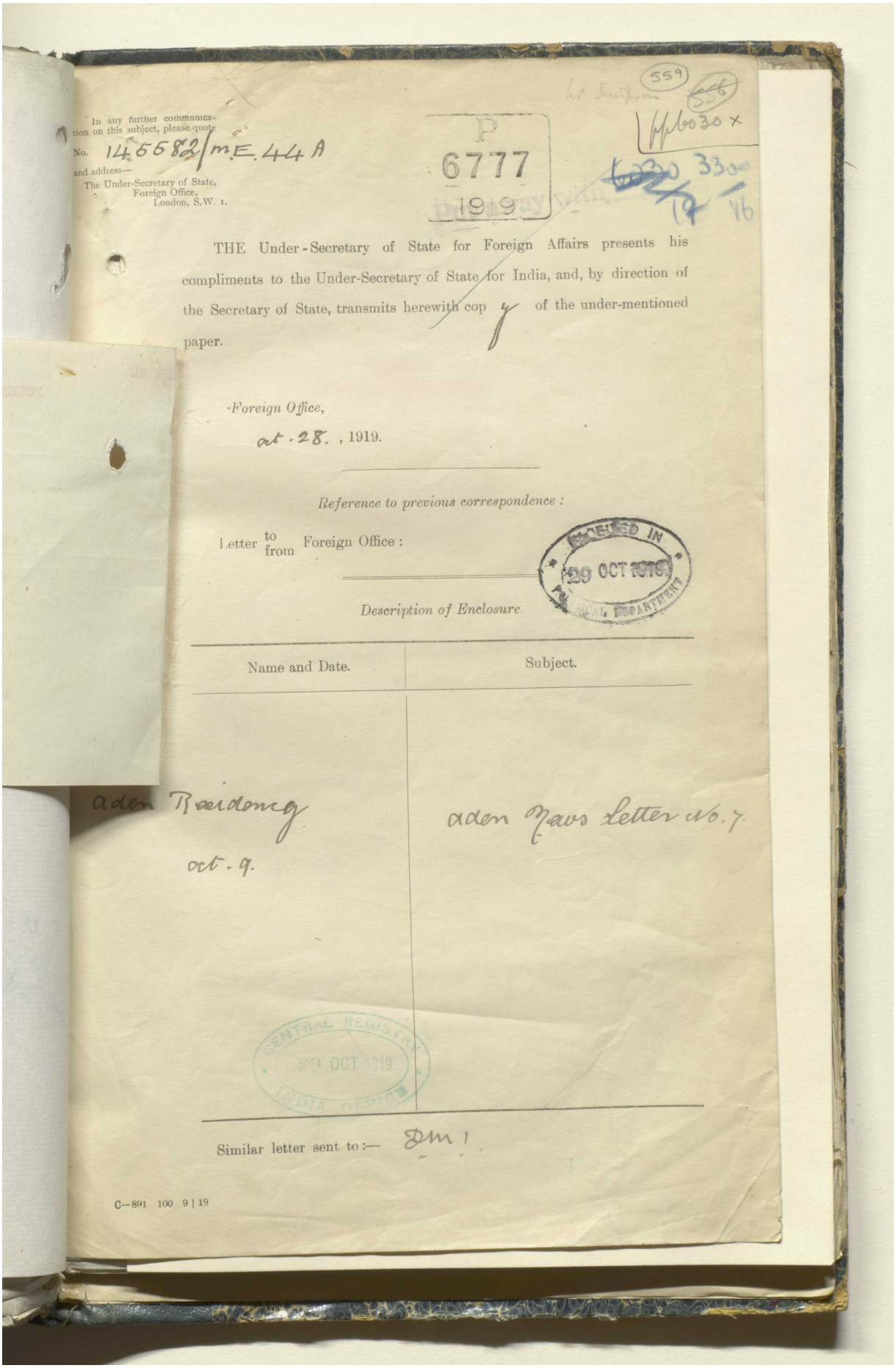

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P 6777 1919

559

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Oct. 28, 1919.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to / from Foreign Office:

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Description of Enclosure.

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Aden Residency Oct. 9.	Aden News Letter No. 7.

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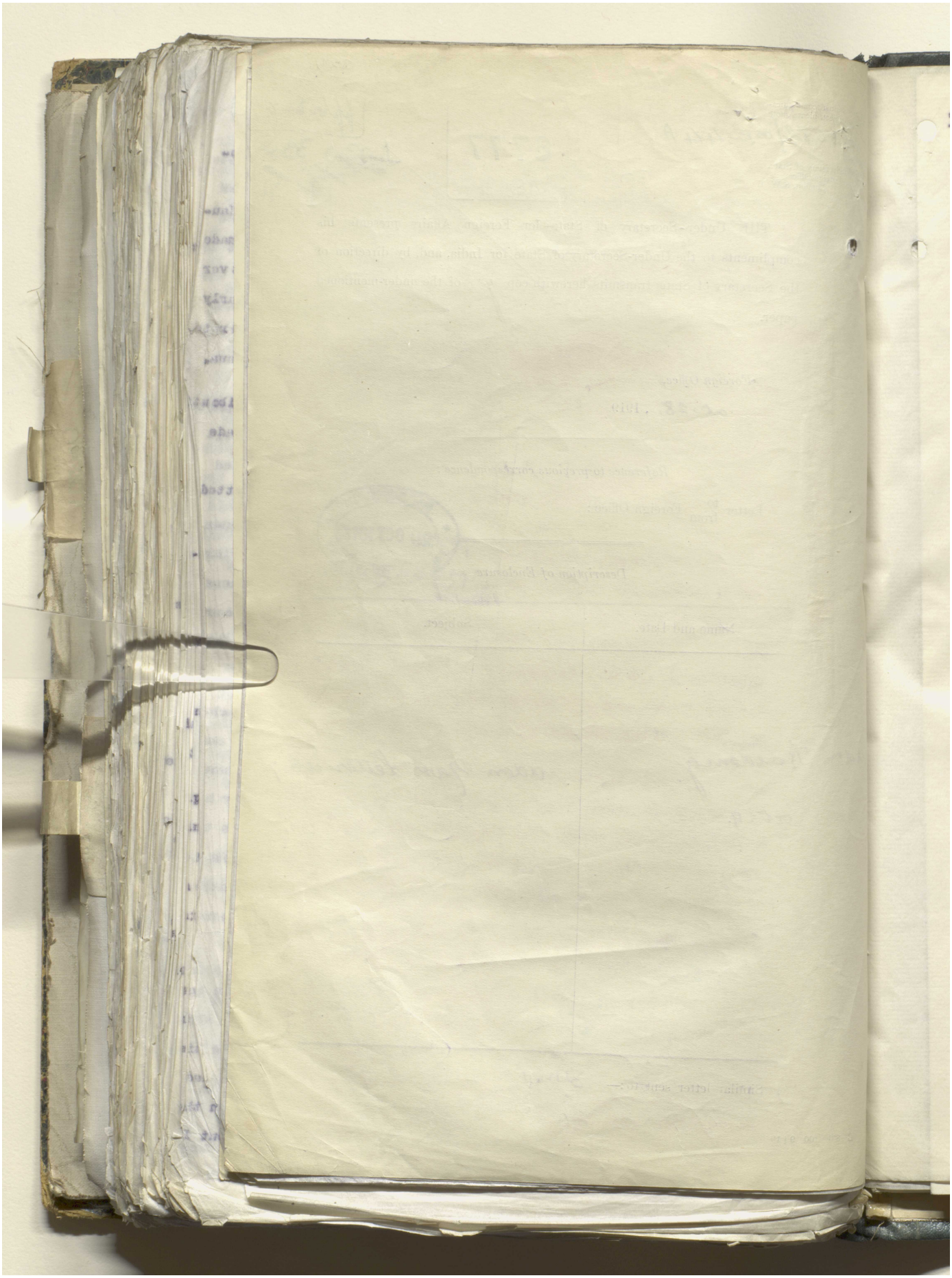

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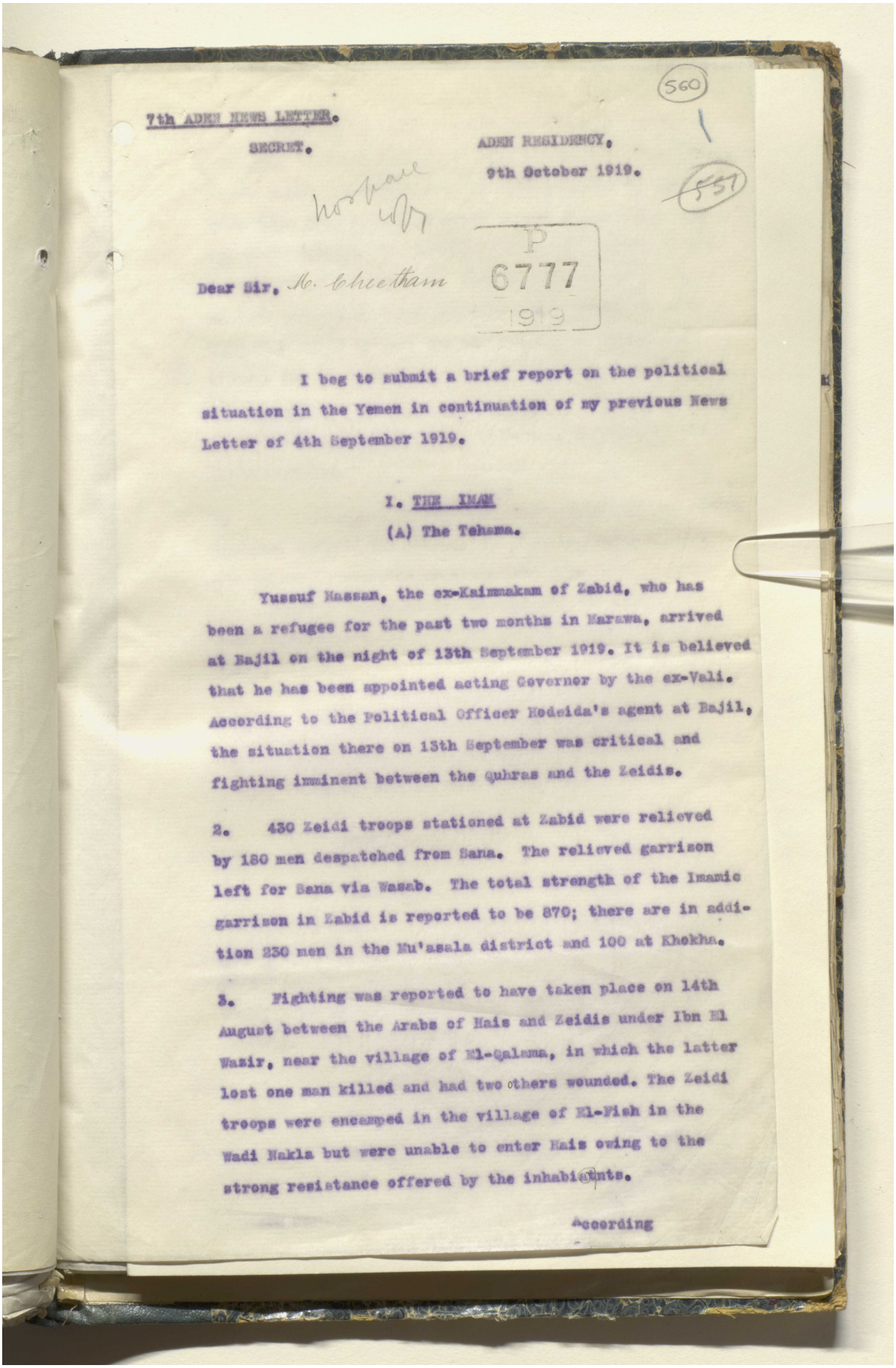

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7th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
9th October 1919.

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P
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1919

Dear Sir, M. Cheetham

I beg to submit a brief report on the political situation in the Yemen in continuation of my previous News Letter of 4th September 1919.

I. THE IMAM

(A) The Tehama.

Yussuf Hassan, the ex-Kaimmakam of Zabid, who has been a refugee for the past two months in Marawa, arrived at Bajil on the night of 13th September 1919. It is believed that he has been appointed acting Governor by the ex-Vali. According to the Political Officer Hodeida's agent at Bajil, the situation there on 13th September was critical and fighting imminent between the Quhras and the Zeidis.

2. 430 Zeidi troops stationed at Zabid were relieved by 180 men despatched from Sana. The relieved garrison left for Sana via Wasab. The total strength of the Imamic garrison in Zabid is reported to be 870; there are in addition 230 men in the Mu'asala district and 100 at Khokha.

3. Fighting was reported to have taken place on 14th August between the Arabs of Hais and Zeidis under Ibn El Wazir, near the village of El-Qalama, in which the latter lost one man killed and had two others wounded. The Zeidi troops were encamped in the village of El-Fish in the Wadi Nakla but were unable to enter Hais owing to the strong resistance offered by the inhabitants.

According

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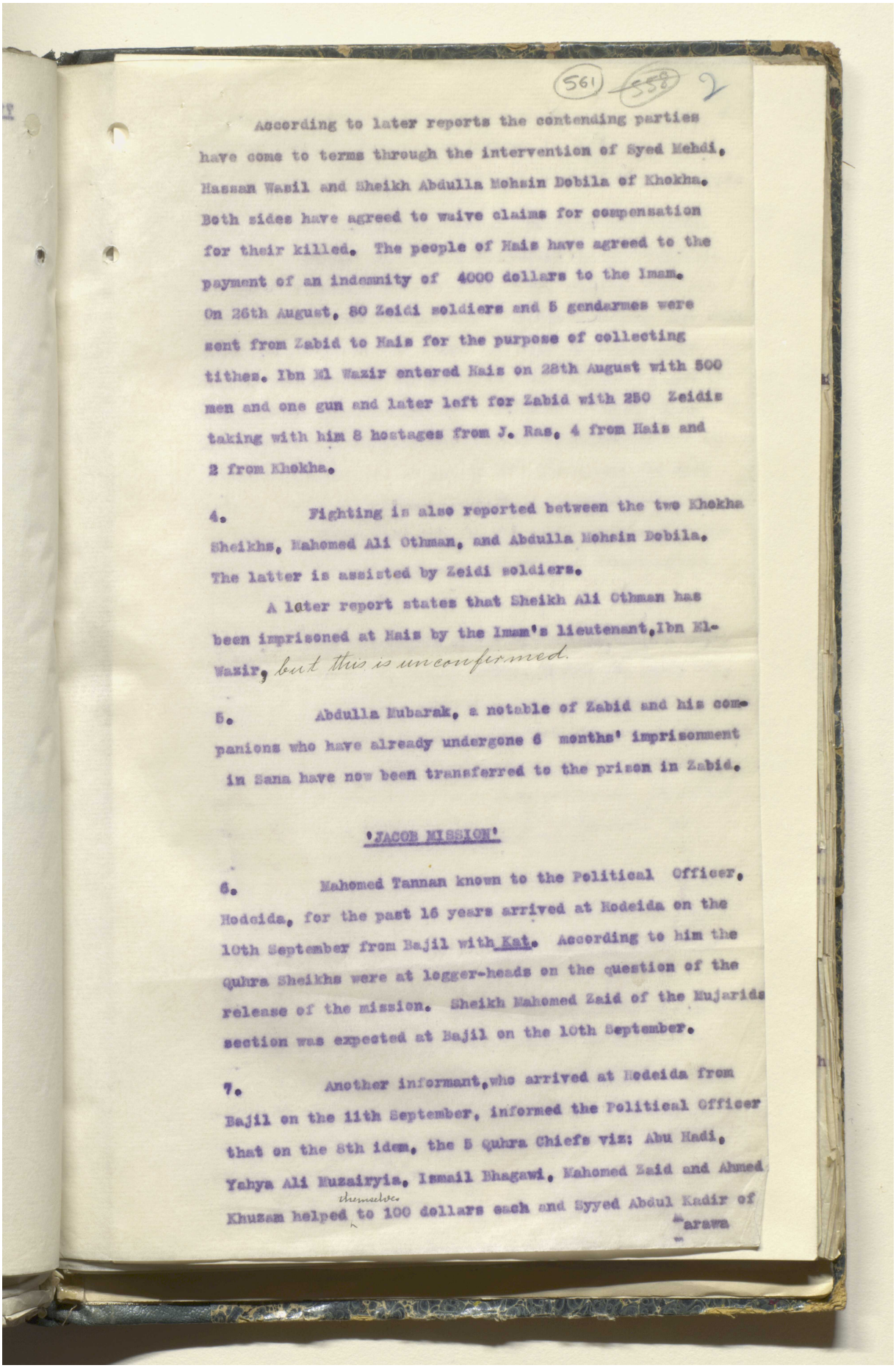

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According to later reports the contending parties have come to terms through the intervention of Syed Mehdi, Hassan Wasil and Sheikh Abdulla Mohsin Dobila of Khokha. Both sides have agreed to waive claims for compensation for their killed. The people of Hais have agreed to the payment of an indemnity of 4000 dollars to the Imam. On 26th August, 80 Zeidi soldiers and 5 gendarmes were sent from Zabid to Hais for the purpose of collecting tithes. Ibn El Wazir entered Hais on 28th August with 500 men and one gun and later left for Zabid with 250 Zeidis taking with him 8 hostages from J. Ras, 4 from Hais and 2 from Khokha.

4. Fighting is also reported between the two Khokha Sheikhs, Mahomed Ali Othman, and Abdulla Mohsin Dobila. The latter is assisted by Zeidi soldiers.

A later report states that Sheikh Ali Othman has been imprisoned at Hais by the Imam's lieutenant, Ibn El-Wazir, but this is unconfirmed.

5. Abdulla Mubarak, a notable of Zabid and his companions who have already undergone 6 months' imprisonment in Sana have now been transferred to the prison in Zabid.

'JACOB MISSION'

6. Mahomed Tannan known to the Political Officer, Hodeida, for the past 16 years arrived at Hodeida on the 10th September from Bajil with Kat. According to him the Quhra Sheikhs were at logger-heads on the question of the release of the mission. Sheikh Mahomed Zaid of the Mujarida section was expected at Bajil on the 10th September.

7. Another informant, who arrived at Hodeida from Bajil on the 11th September, informed the Political Officer that on the 8th idem, the 5 Quhra Chiefs viz: Abu Hadi, Yahya Ali Muzairyia, Ismail Bhagawi, Mahomed Zaid and Ahmed Khuzam helped themselves to 100 dollars each and Syyed Abdul Kadir of Marawa

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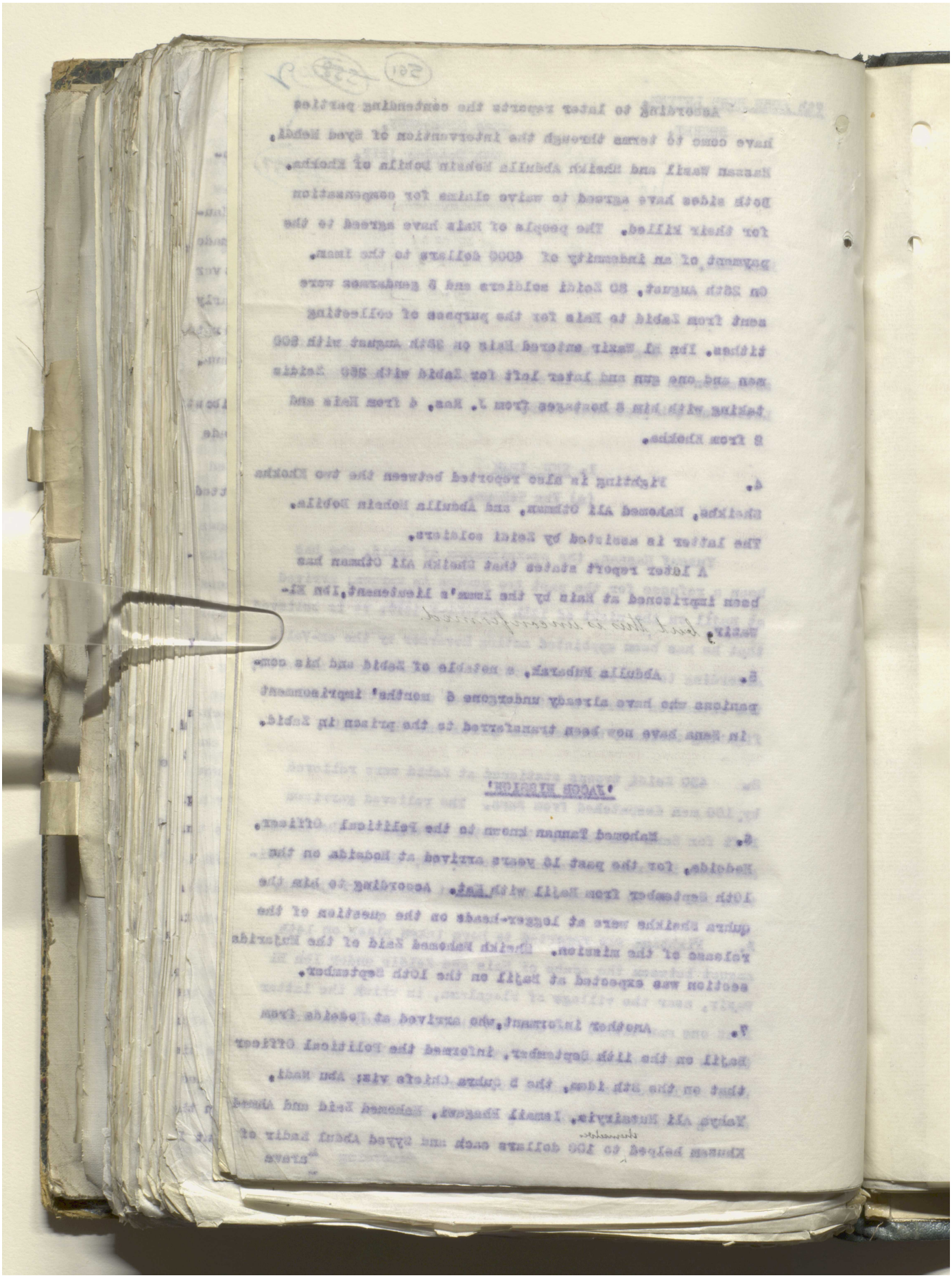

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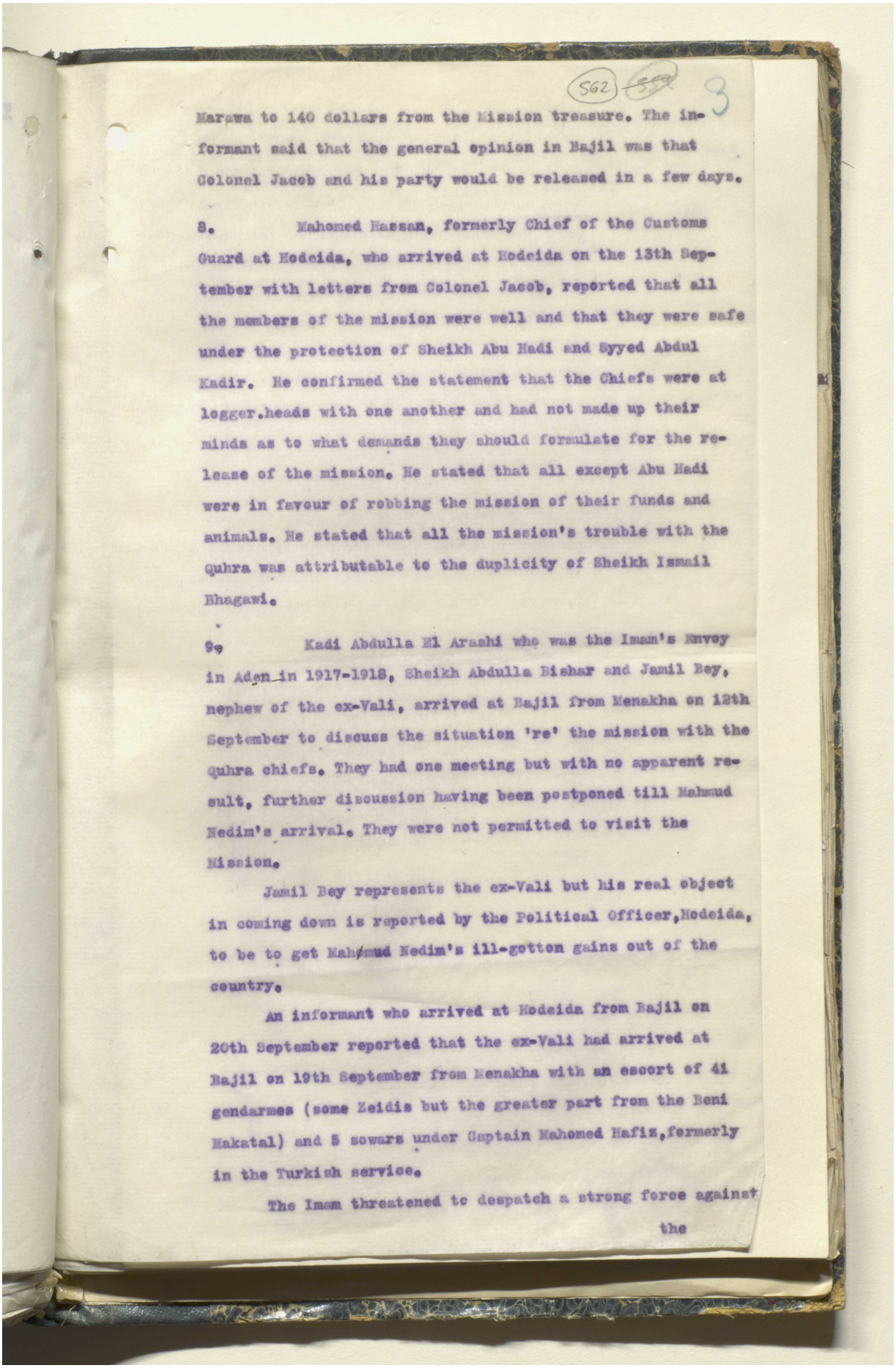

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Marawa to 140 dollars from the Mission treasure. The informant said that the general opinion in Bajil was that Colonel Jacob and his party would be released in a few days.

8. Mahomed Hassan, formerly Chief of the Customs Guard at Hodeida, who arrived at Hodeida on the 13th September with letters from Colonel Jacob, reported that all the members of the mission were well and that they were safe under the protection of Sheikh Abu Hadi and Syyed Abdul Kadir. He confirmed the statement that the Chiefs were at logger.heads with one another and had not made up their minds as to what demands they should formulate for the release of the mission. He stated that all except Abu Hadi were in favour of robbing the mission of their funds and animals. He stated that all the mission's trouble with the Quhra was attributable to the duplicity of Sheikh Ismail Bhagawi.

9. Kadi Abdulla El Arashi who was the Imam's Envoy in Aden in 1917-1918, Sheikh Abdulla Bishar and Jamil Bey, nephew of the ex-Vali, arrived at Bajil from Menakha on 12th September to discuss the situation 're' the mission with the Quhra chiefs. They had one meeting but with no apparent result, further discussion having been postponed till Mahmud Nedim's arrival. They were not permitted to visit the Mission.

Jamil Bey represents the ex-Vali but his real object in coming down is reported by the Political Officer, Hodeida, to be to get Mahmud Nedim's ill-gotten gains out of the country.

An informant who arrived at Hodeida from Bajil on 20th September reported that the ex-Vali had arrived at Bajil on 19th September from Menakha with an escort of 41 gendarmes (some Zeidis but the greater part from the Beni Makatal) and 5 sowars under Captain Mahomed Hafiz, formerly in the Turkish service.

The Imam threatened to despatch a strong force against the

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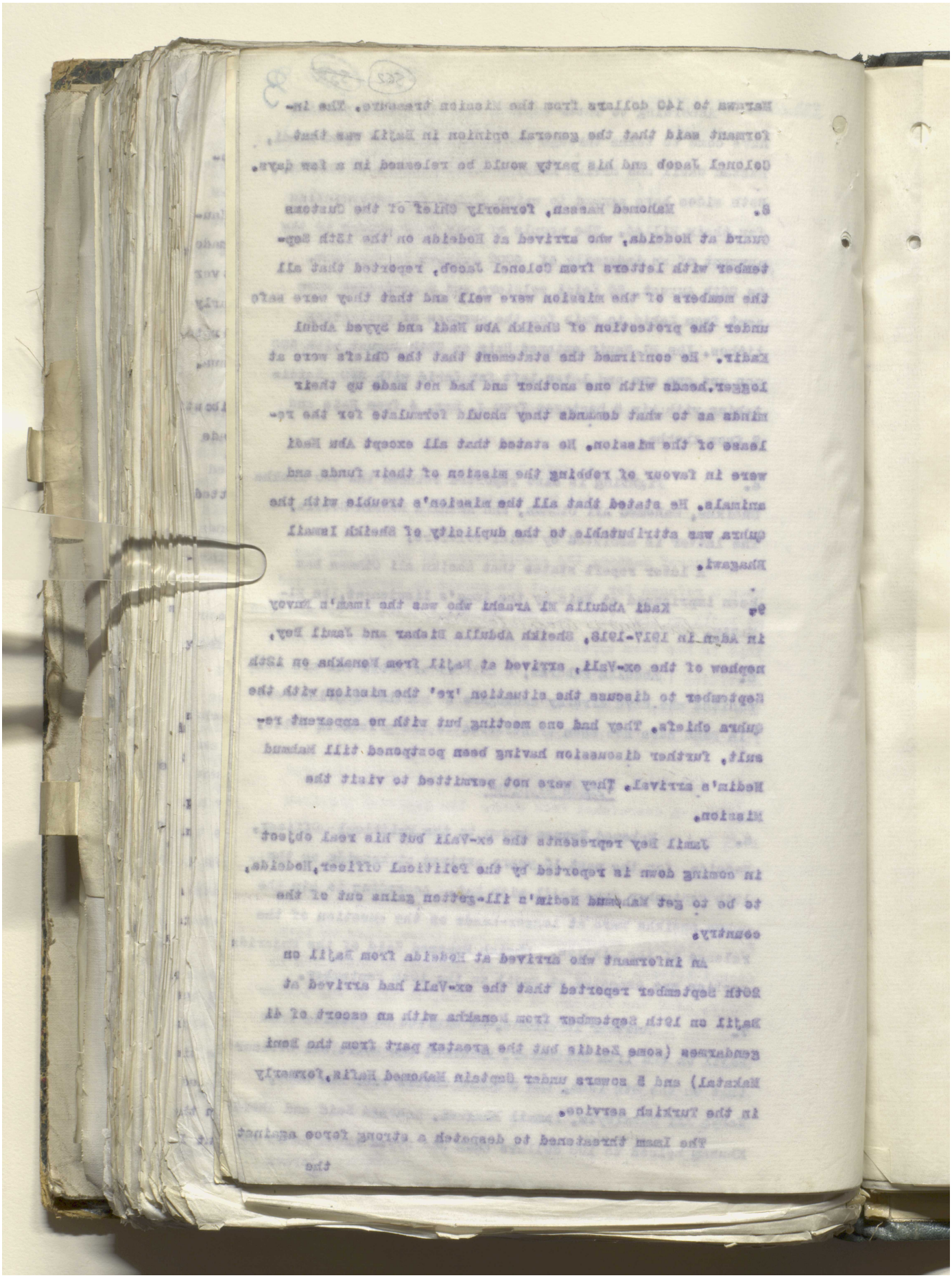

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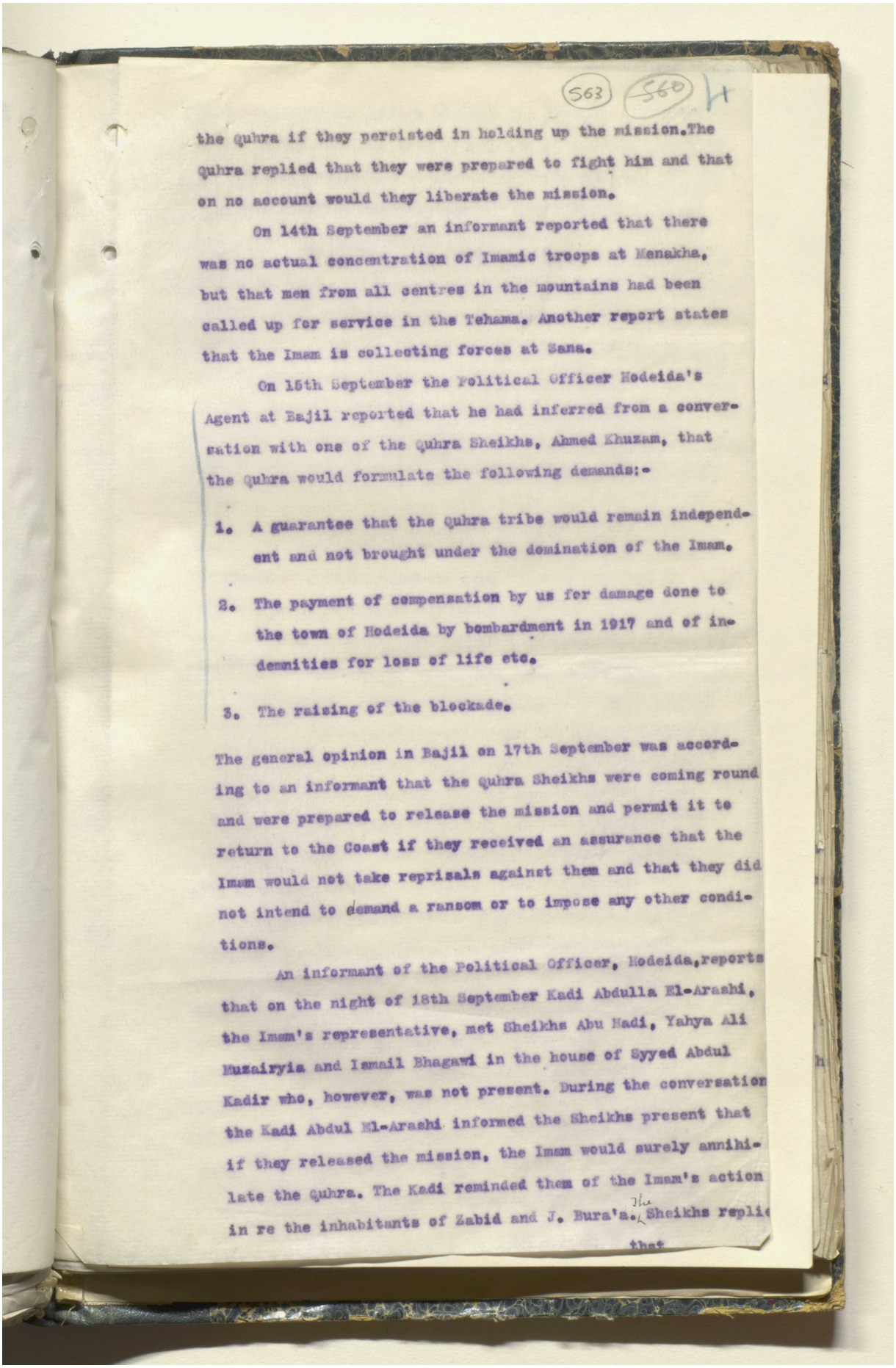

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the Quhra if they persisted in holding up the mission. The Quhra replied that they were prepared to fight him and that on no account would they liberate the mission.

On 14th September an informant reported that there was no actual concentration of Imamic troops at Menakha, but that men from all centres in the mountains had been called up for service in the Tehama. Another report states that the Imam is collecting forces at Sana.

On 15th September the Political Officer Hodeida's Agent at Bajil reported that he had inferred from a conversation with one of the Quhra Sheikhs, Ahmed Khuzam, that the Quhra would formulate the following demands:-

1. A guarantee that the Quhra tribe would remain independent and not brought under the domination of the Imam.

2. The payment of compensation by us for damage done to the town of Hodeida by bombardment in 1917 and of indemnities for loss of life etc.

3. The raising of the blockade.

The general opinion in Bajil on 17th September was according to an informant that the Quhra Sheikhs were coming round and were prepared to release the mission and permit it to return to the Coast if they received an assurance that the Imam would not take reprisals against them and that they did not intend to demand a ransom or to impose any other conditions.

An informant of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reports that on the night of 18th September Kadi Abdulla El-Arashi, the Imam's representative, met Sheikhs Abu Hadi, Yahya Ali Muzairyia and Ismail Bhagawi in the house of Syyed Abdul Kadir who, however, was not present. During the conversation the Kadi Abdul El-Arashi informed the Sheikhs present that if they released the mission, the Imam would surely annihilate the Quhra. The Kadi reminded them of the Imam's action in re the inhabitants of Zabid and J. Bura'a. The Sheikhs replied that

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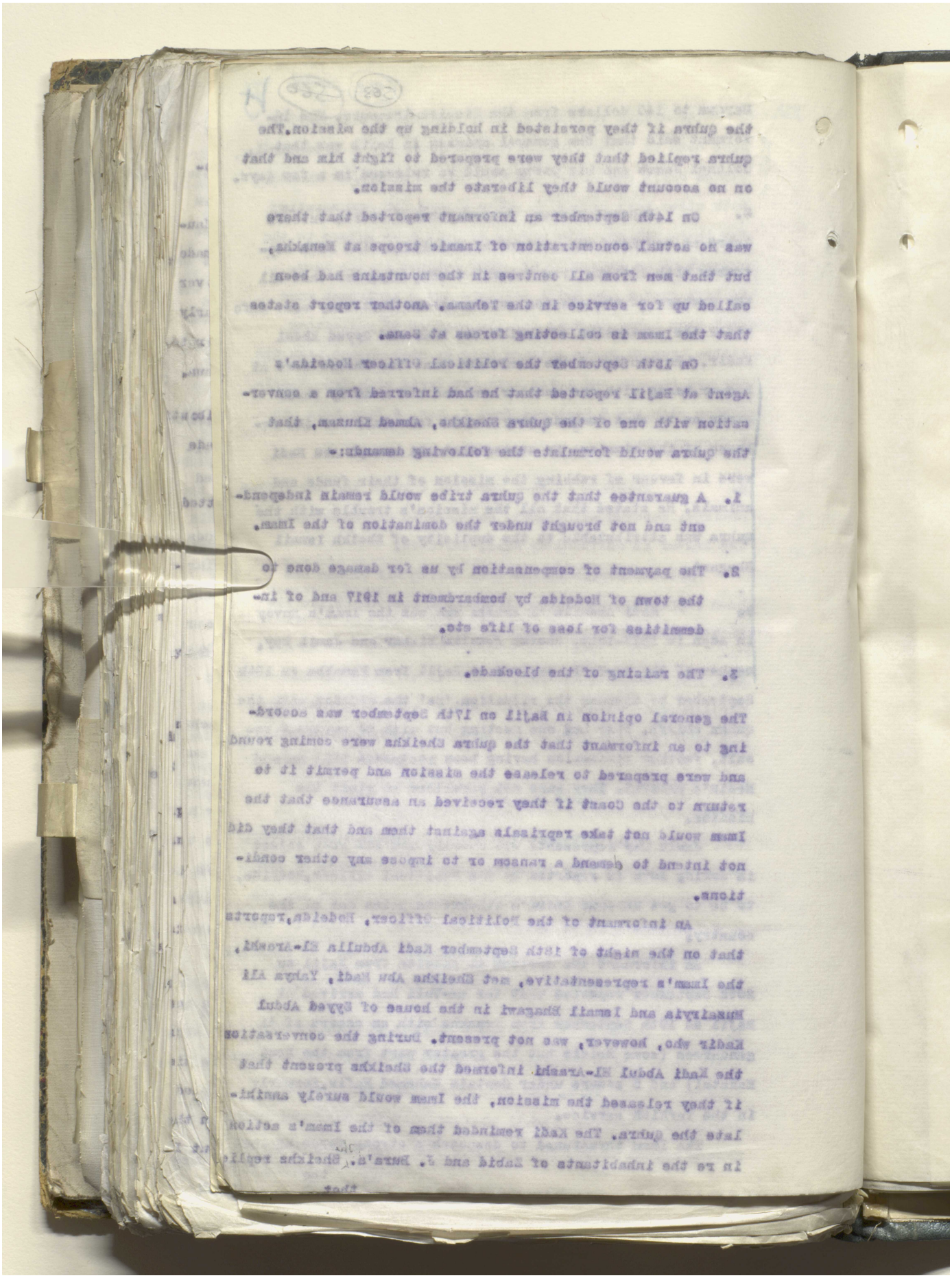

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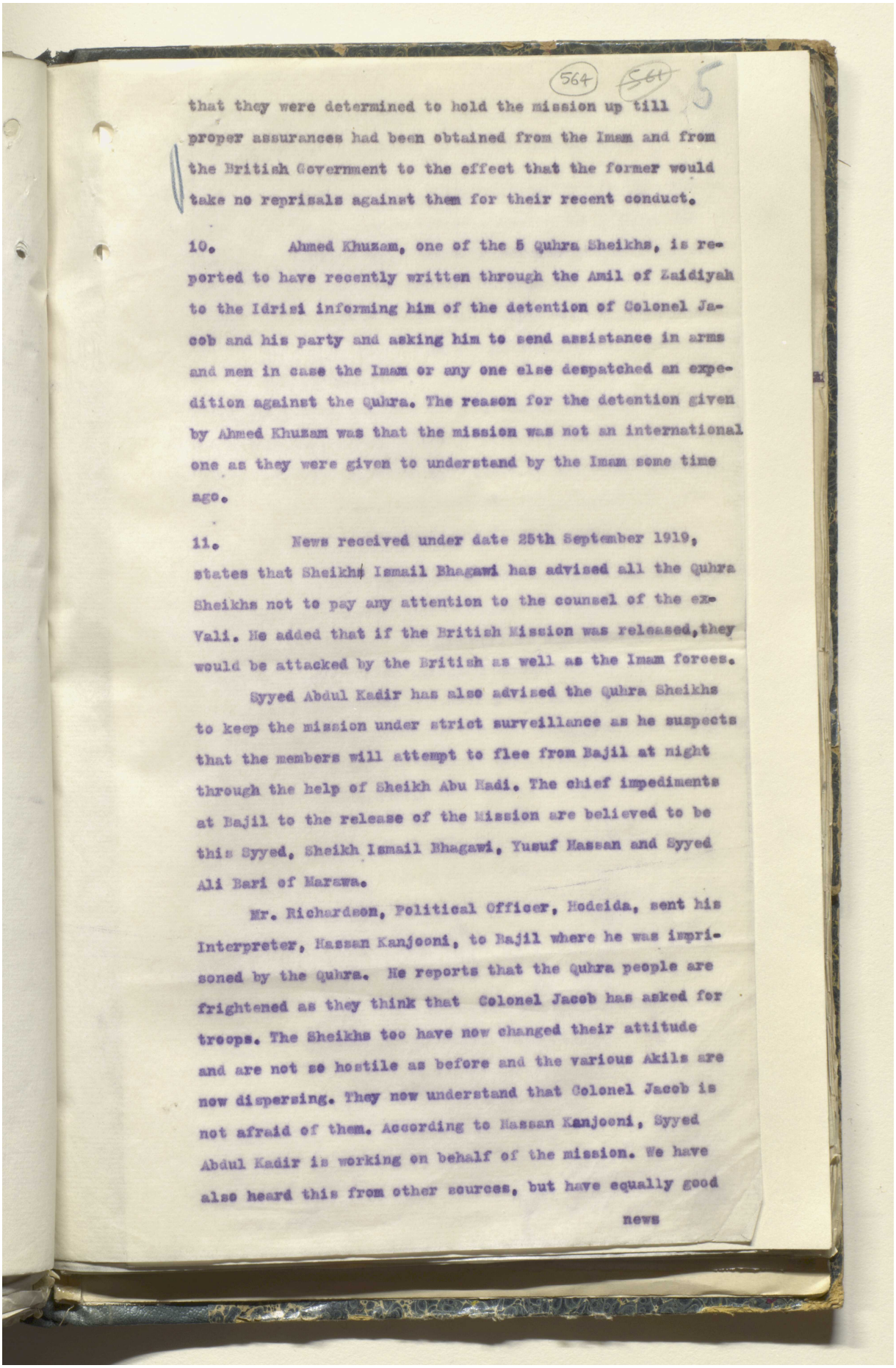

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that they were determined to hold the mission up till proper assurances had been obtained from the Imam and from the British Government to the effect that the former would take no reprisals against them for their recent conduct.

10. Ahmed Khuzam, one of the 5 Quhra Sheikhs, is reported to have recently written through the Amil of Zaidiyah to the Idrisi informing him of the detention of Colonel Jacob and his party and asking him to send assistance in arms and men in case the Imam or any one else despatched an expedition against the Quhra. The reason for the detention given by Ahmed Khuzam was that the mission was not an international one as they were given to understand by the Imam some time ago.

11. News received under date 25th September 1919, states that Sheikh Ismail Bhagawi has advised all the Quhra Sheikhs not to pay any attention to the counsel of the ex-Vali. He added that if the British Mission was released, they would be attacked by the British as well as the Imam forces.

Syyed Abdul Kadir has also advised the Quhra Sheikhs to keep the mission under strict surveillance as he suspects that the members will attempt to flee from Bajil at night through the help of Sheikh Abu Kadi. The chief impediments at Bajil to the release of the Mission are believed to be this Syyed, Sheikh Ismail Bhagawi, Yusuf Hassan and Syyed Ali Bari of Marawa.

Mr. Richardson, Political Officer, Hodeida, sent his Interpreter, Hassan Kanjooni, to Bajil where he was imprisoned by the Quhra. He reports that the Quhra people are frightened as they think that Colonel Jacob has asked for troops. The Sheikhs too have now changed their attitude and are not so hostile as before and the various Akils are now dispersing. They now understand that Colonel Jacob is not afraid of them. According to Hassan Kanjooni, Syyed Abdul Kadir is working on behalf of the mission. We have also heard this from other sources, but have equally good

news

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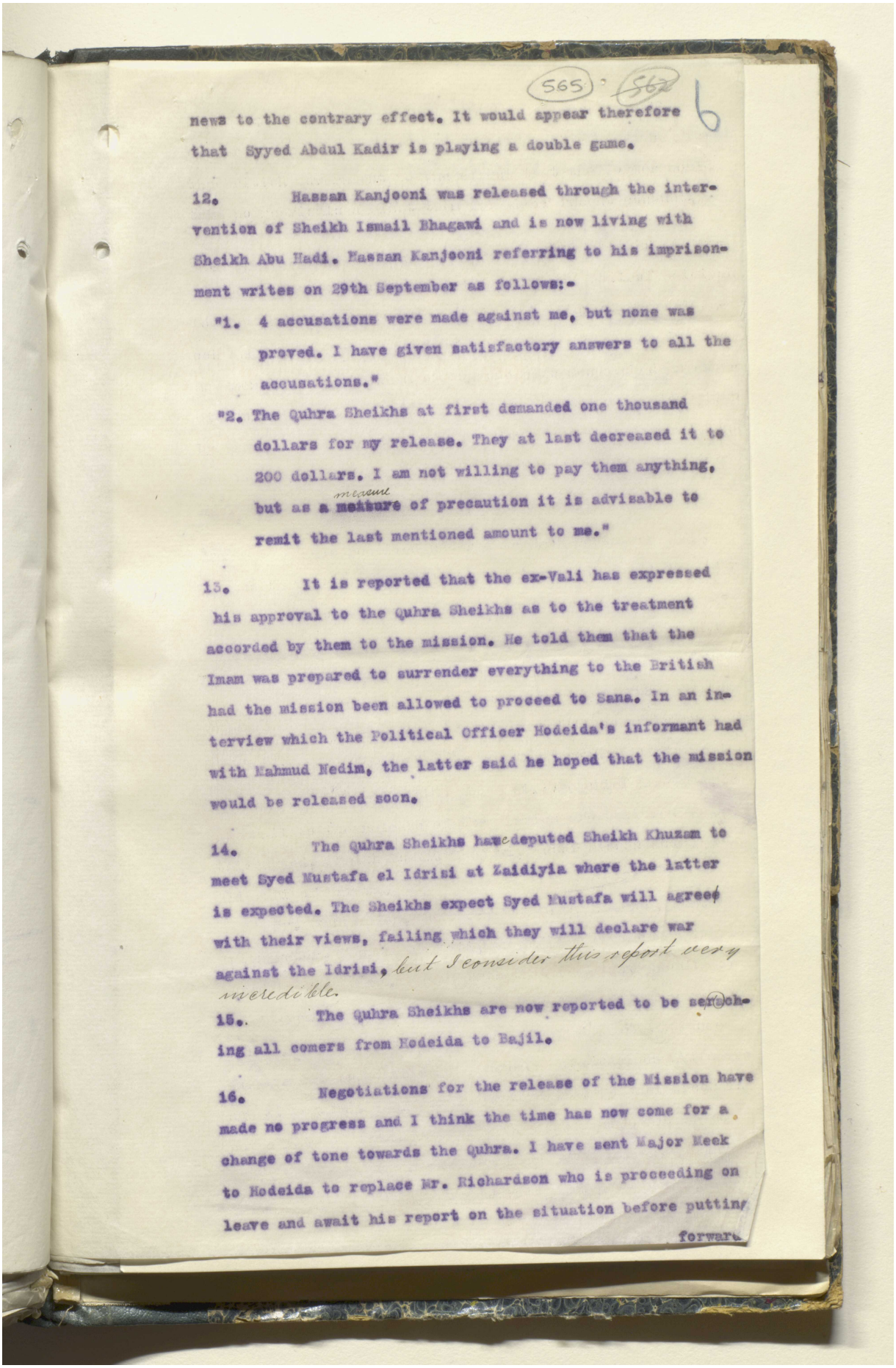

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news to the contrary effect. It would appear therefore that Syyed Abdul Kadir is playing a double game.

12. Hassan Kanjooni was released through the intervention of Sheikh Ismail Bhagawi and is now living with Sheikh Abu Hadi. Hassan Kanjooni referring to his imprisonment writes on 29th September as follows:-

"1. 4 accusations were made against me, but none was proved. I have given satisfactory answers to all the accusations."

"2. The Quhra Sheikhs at first demanded one thousand dollars for my release. They at last decreased it to 200 dollars. I am not willing to pay them anything, but as a measure of precaution it is advisable to remit the last mentioned amount to me."

13. It is reported that the ex-Vali has expressed his approval to the Quhra Sheikhs as to the treatment accorded by them to the mission. He told them that the Imam was prepared to surrender everything to the British had the mission been allowed to proceed to Sana. In an interview which the Political Officer Hodeida's informant had with Mahmud Nedim, the latter said he hoped that the mission would be released soon.

14. The Quhra Sheikhs have deputed Sheikh Khuzam to meet Syed Mustafa el Idrisi at Zaidiyia where the latter is expected. The Sheikhs expect Syed Mustafa will agree with their views, failing which they will declare war against the Idrisi, but I consider this report very incredible.

15. The Quhra Sheikhs are now reported to be searching all comers from Hodeida to Bajil.

16. Negotiations for the release of the Mission have made no progress and I think the time has now come for a change of tone towards the Quhra. I have sent Major Meek to Hodeida to replace Mr. Richardson who is proceeding on leave and await his report on the situation before putting forward

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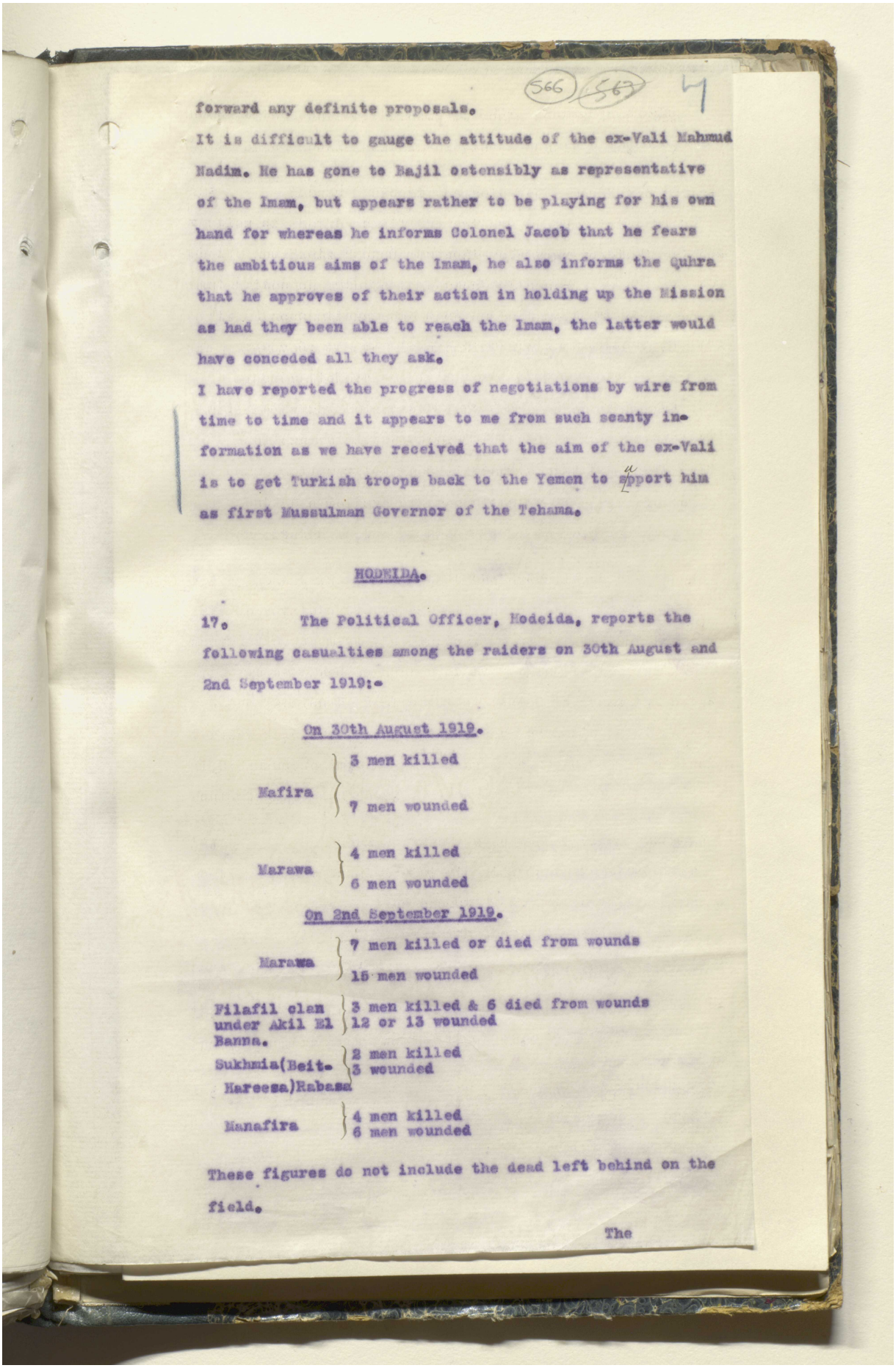

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forward any definite proposals.

It is difficult to gauge the attitude of the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadim. He has gone to Bajil ostensibly as representative of the Imam, but appears rather to be playing for his own hand for whereas he informs Colonel Jacob that he fears the ambitious aims of the Imam, he also informs the Quhra that he approves of their action in holding up the Mission as had they been able to reach the Imam, the latter would have conceded all they ask.

I have reported the progress of negotiations by wire from time to time and it appears to me from such scanty information as we have received that the aim of the ex-Vali is to get Turkish troops back to the Yemen to support him as first Mussulman Governor of the Tehama.

HODEIDA.

17. The Political Officer, Hodeida, reports the following casualties among the raiders on 30th August and 2nd September 1919:-

On 30th August 1919.

Mafira	3 men killed 7 men wounded
Marawa	4 men killed 6 men wounded

On 2nd September 1919.

Marawa	7 men killed or died from wounds 15 men wounded
Filafil clan under Akil El Banna.	3 men killed & 6 died from wounds 12 or 13 wounded
Sukhmia(Beit-Hareesa)Rabasa	2 men killed 3 wounded
Manafira	4 men killed 6 men wounded

These figures do not include the dead left behind on the field.

The

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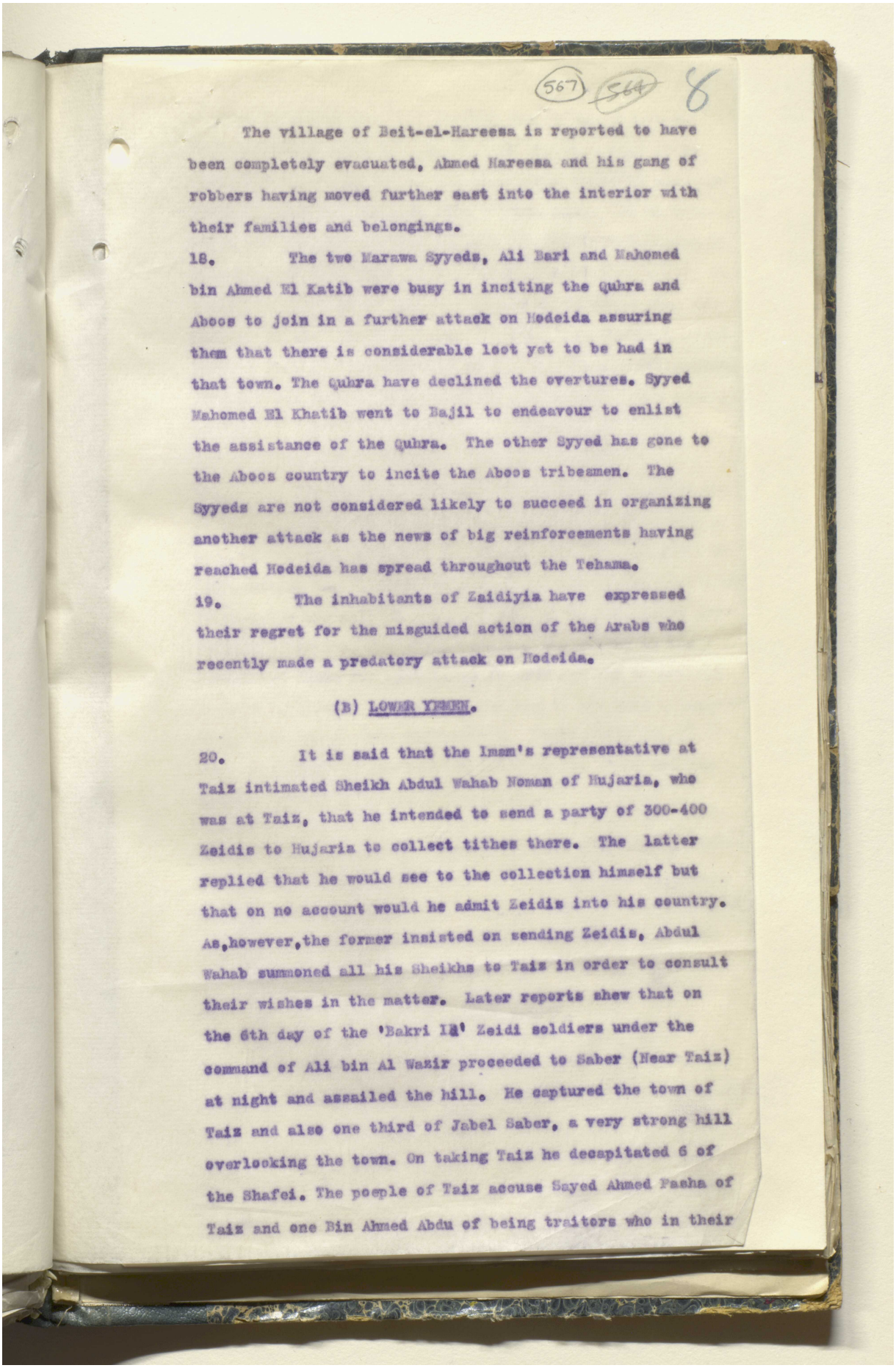

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The village of Beit-el-Hareesa is reported to have been completely evacuated, Ahmed Hareesa and his gang of robbers having moved further east into the interior with their families and belongings.

18. The two Marawa Syyeds, Ali Bari and Mahomed bin Ahmed El Katib were busy in inciting the Quhra and Aboos to join in a further attack on Hodeida assuring them that there is considerable loot yet to be had in that town. The Quhra have declined the overtures. Syyed Mahomed El Khatib went to Bajil to endeavour to enlist the assistance of the Quhra. The other Syyed has gone to the Aboos country to incite the Aboos tribesmen. The Syyeds are not considered likely to succeed in organizing another attack as the news of big reinforcements having reached Hodeida has spread throughout the Tehama.

19. The inhabitants of Zaidiyia have expressed their regret for the misguided action of the Arabs who recently made a predatory attack on Hodeida.

(B) LOWER YEMEN.

20. It is said that the Imam's representative at Taiz intimated Sheikh Abdul Wahab Noman of Hujaria, who was at Taiz, that he intended to send a party of 300-400 Zeidis to Hujaria to collect tithes there. The latter replied that he would see to the collection himself but that on no account would he admit Zeidis into his country. As,however,the former insisted on sending Zeidis, Abdul Wahab summoned all his Sheikhs to Taiz in order to consult their wishes in the matter. Later reports shew that on the 6th day of the 'Bakri Id' Zeidi soldiers under the command of Ali bin Al Wazir proceeded to Saber (Near Taiz) at night and assailed the hill. He captured the town of Taiz and also one third of Jabel Saber, a very strong hill overlooking the town. On taking Taiz he decapitated 6 of the Shafei. The people of Taiz accuse Sayed Ahmed Pasha of Taiz and one Bin Ahmed Abdu of being traitors who in their

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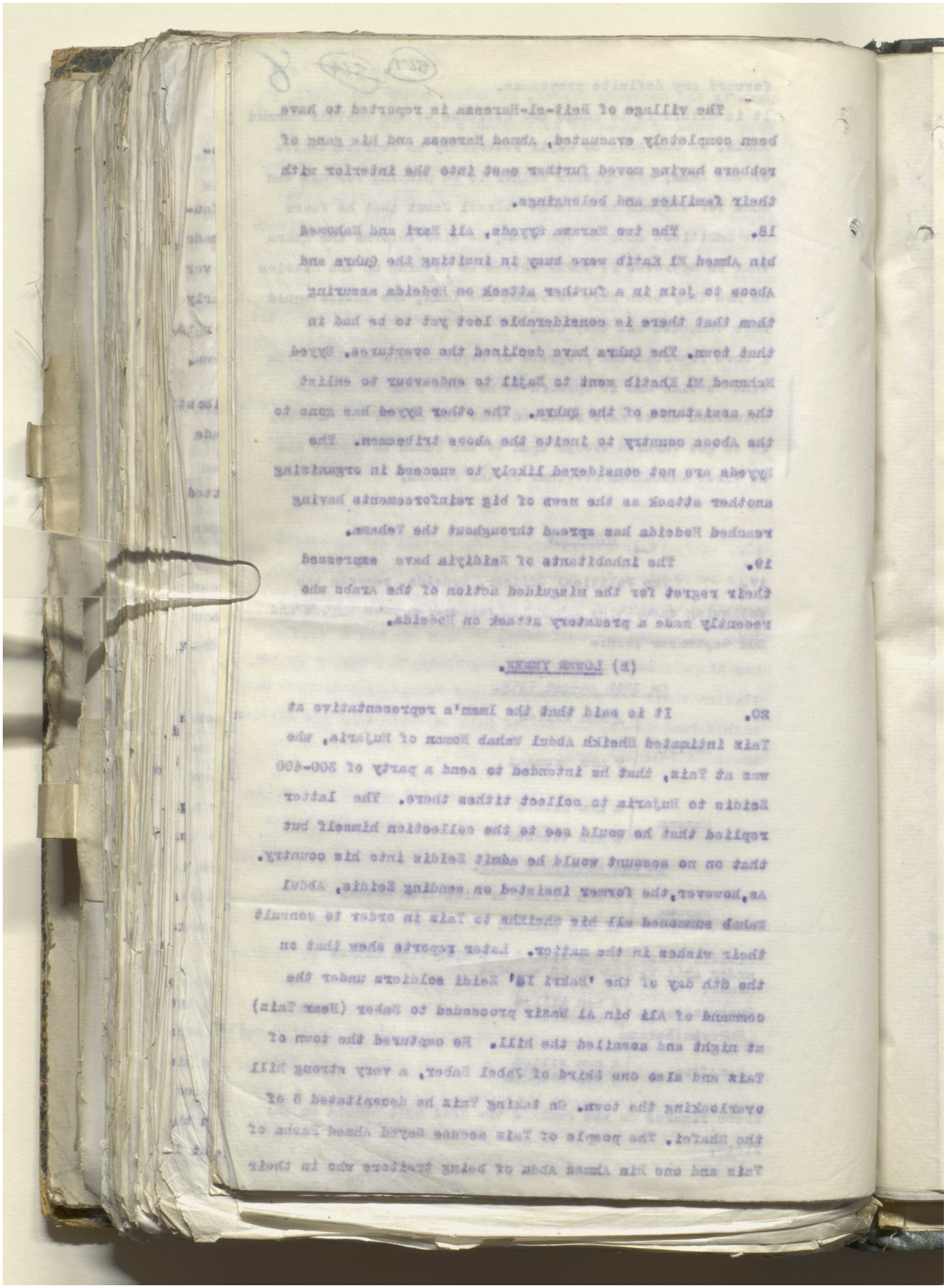

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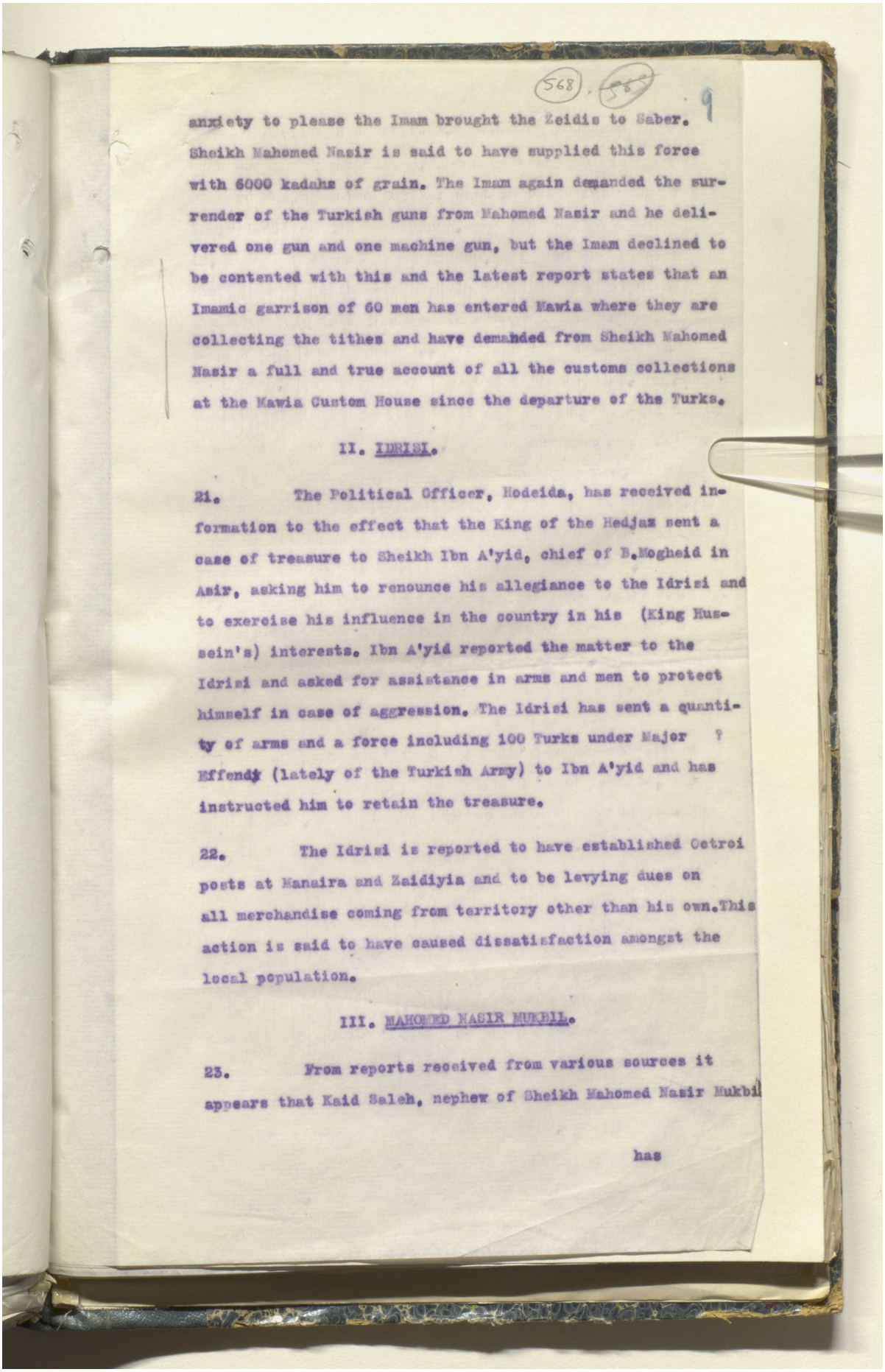

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anxiety to please the Imam brought the Zeidis to Saber. Sheikh Mahomed Nasir is said to have supplied this force with 6000 kadahs of grain. The Imam again demanded the surrender of the Turkish guns from Mahomed Nasir and he delivered one gun and one machine gun, but the Imam declined to be contented with this and the latest report states that an Imamic garrison of 60 men has entered Mawia where they are collecting the tithes and have demanded from Sheikh Mahomed Nasir a full and true account of all the customs collections at the Mawia Custom House since the departure of the Turks.

II. IDRISI.

21. The Political Officer, Hodeida, has received information to the effect that the King of the Hedjaz sent a case of treasure to Sheikh Ibn A'yid, chief of B.Mogheid in Asir, asking him to renounce his allegiance to the Idrisi and to exercise his influence in the country in his (King Hussein's) interests. Ibn A'yid reported the matter to the Idrisi and asked for assistance in arms and men to protect himself in case of aggression. The Idrisi has sent a quantity of arms and a force including 100 Turks under Major ? Effendi (lately of the Turkish Army) to Ibn A'yid and has instructed him to retain the treasure.

22. The Idrisi is reported to have established Octroi posts at Manaira and Zaidiyia and to be levying dues on all merchandise coming from territory other than his own. This action is said to have caused dissatisfaction amongst the local population.

III. MAHOMED NASIR MUKBIL.

23. From reports received from various sources it appears that Kaid Saleh, nephew of Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil

has

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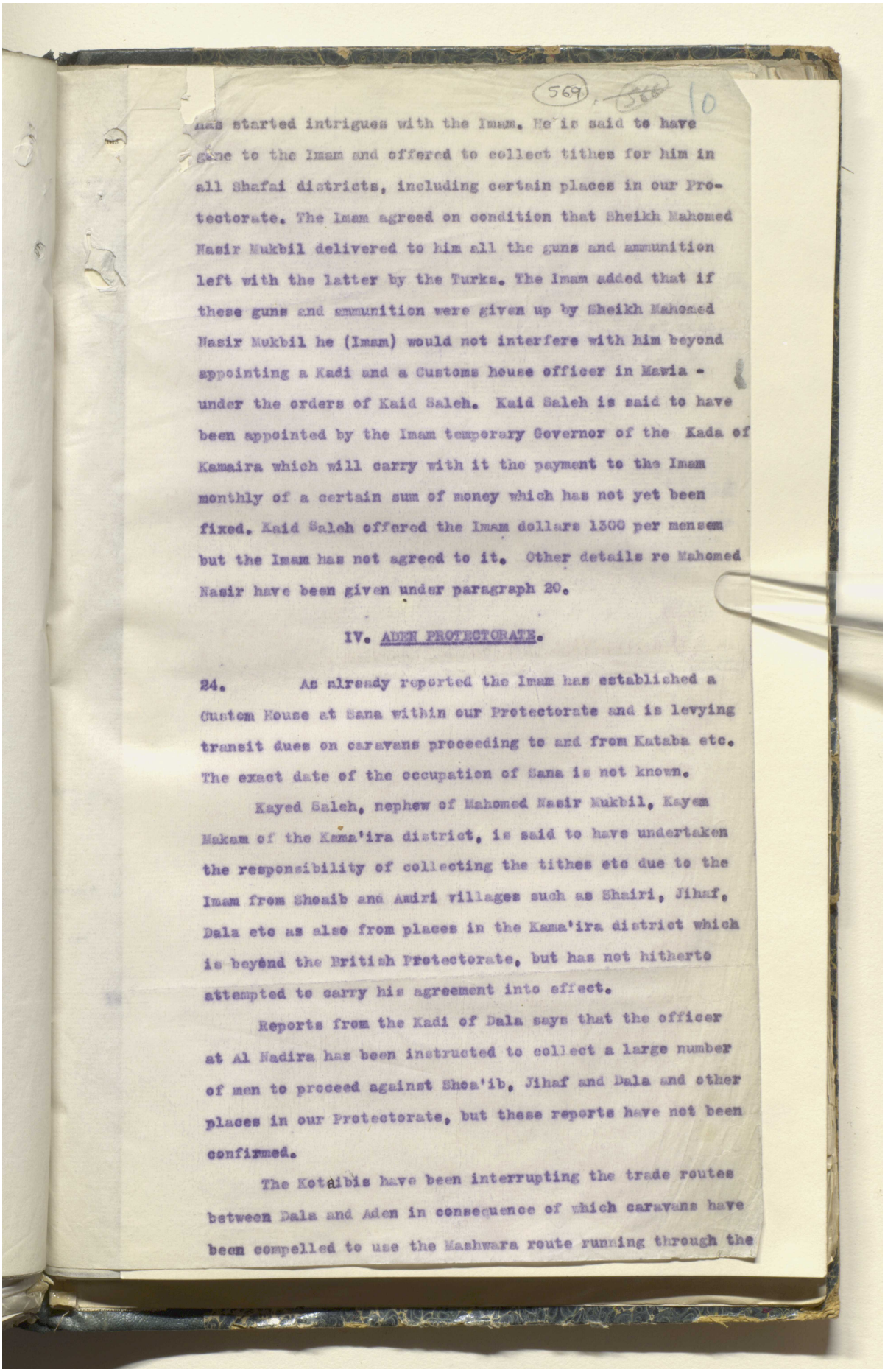

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has started intrigues with the Imam. He is said to have gone to the Imam and offered to collect tithes for him in all Shafai districts, including certain places in our Protectorate. The Imam agreed on condition that Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil delivered to him all the guns and ammunition left with the latter by the Turks. The Imam added that if these guns and ammunition were given up by Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil he (Imam) would not interfere with him beyond appointing a Kadi and a Customs house officer in Mawia - under the orders of Kaid Saleh. Kaid Saleh is said to have been appointed by the Imam temporary Governor of the Kada of Kamaira which will carry with it the payment to the Imam monthly of a certain sum of money which has not yet been fixed. Kaid Saleh offered the Imam dollars 1300 per mensem but the Imam has not agreed to it. Other details re Mahomed Nasir have been given under paragraph 20.

IV. ADEN PROTECTORATE.

24. As already reported the Imam has established a Custom House at Sana within our Protectorate and is levying transit dues on caravans proceeding to and from Kataba etc. The exact date of the occupation of Sana is not known.

Kayed Saleh, nephew of Mahomed Nasir Mukbil, Kayem Makam of the Kama'ira district, is said to have undertaken the responsibility of collecting the tithes etc due to the Imam from Shoaib and Amiri villages such as Shairi, Jihaf, Dala etc as also from places in the Kama'ira district which is beyond the British Protectorate, but has not hitherto attempted to carry his agreement into effect.

Reports from the Kadi of Dala says that the officer at Al Nadira has been instructed to collect a large number of men to proceed against Shoa'ib, Jihaf and Dala and other places in our Protectorate, but these reports have not been confirmed.

The Kotaibis have been interrupting the trade routes between Dala and Aden in consequence of which caravans have been compelled to use the Mashwara route running through the

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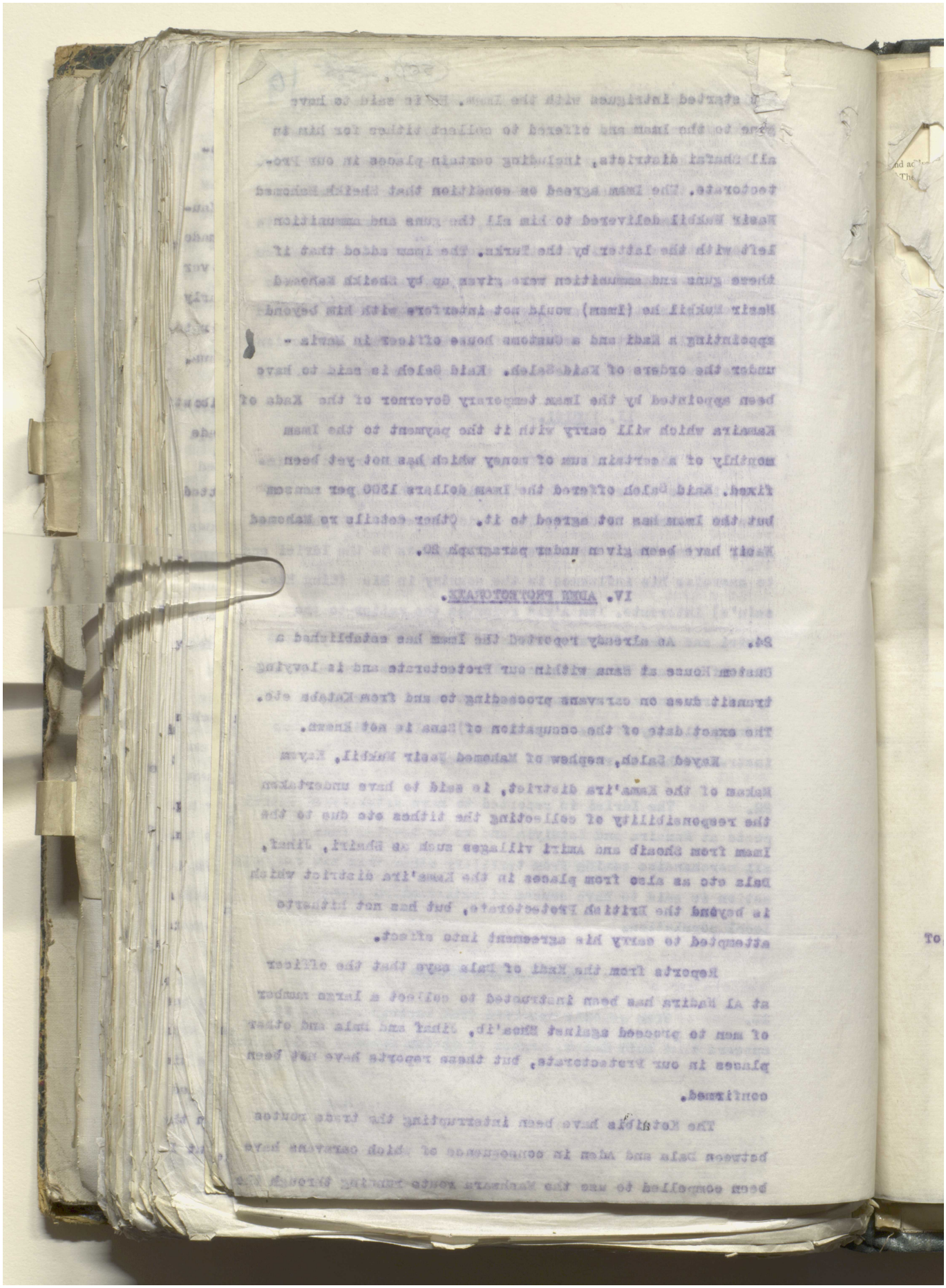

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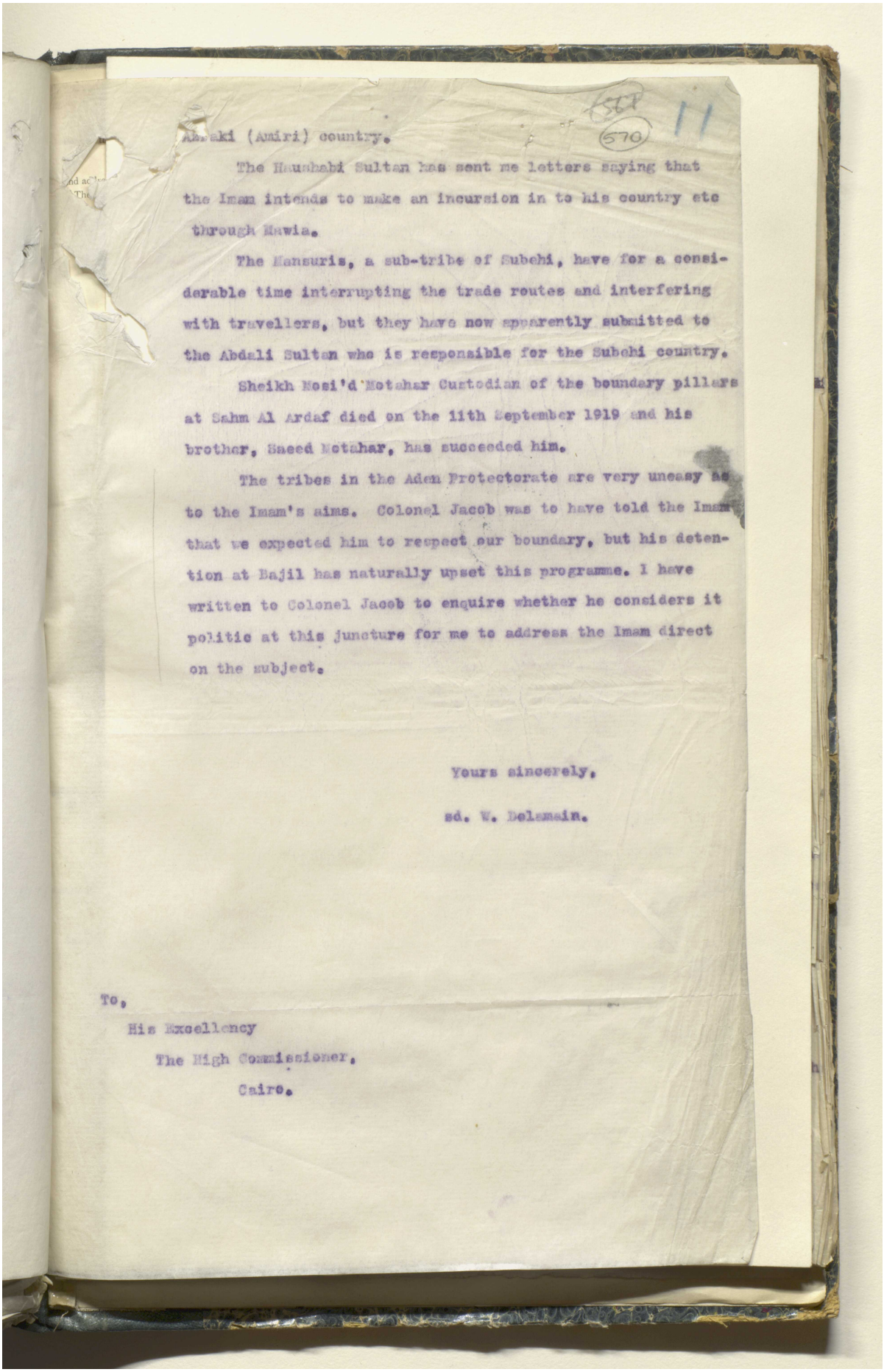

Abdaki (Amiri) country.

The Haushabi Sultan has sent me letters saying that the Imam intends to make an incursion in to his country etc through Hawia.

The Mansuris, a sub-tribe of Subehi, have for a considerable time interrupting the trade routes and interfering with travellers, but they have now apparently submitted to the Abdali Sultan who is responsible for the Subehi country.

Sheikh Nosi'd Motahar Custodian of the boundary pillars at Sahm Al Ardaf died on the 11th September 1919 and his brother, Saeed Motahar, has succeeded him.

The tribes in the Aden Protectorate are very uneasy as to the Imam's aims. Colonel Jacob was to have told the Imam that we expected him to respect our boundary, but his detention at Bajil has naturally upset this programme. I have written to Colonel Jacob to enquire whether he considers it politic at this juncture for me to address the Imam direct on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

sd. W. Belsmain.

To,

His Excellency

The High Commissioner,

Cairo.

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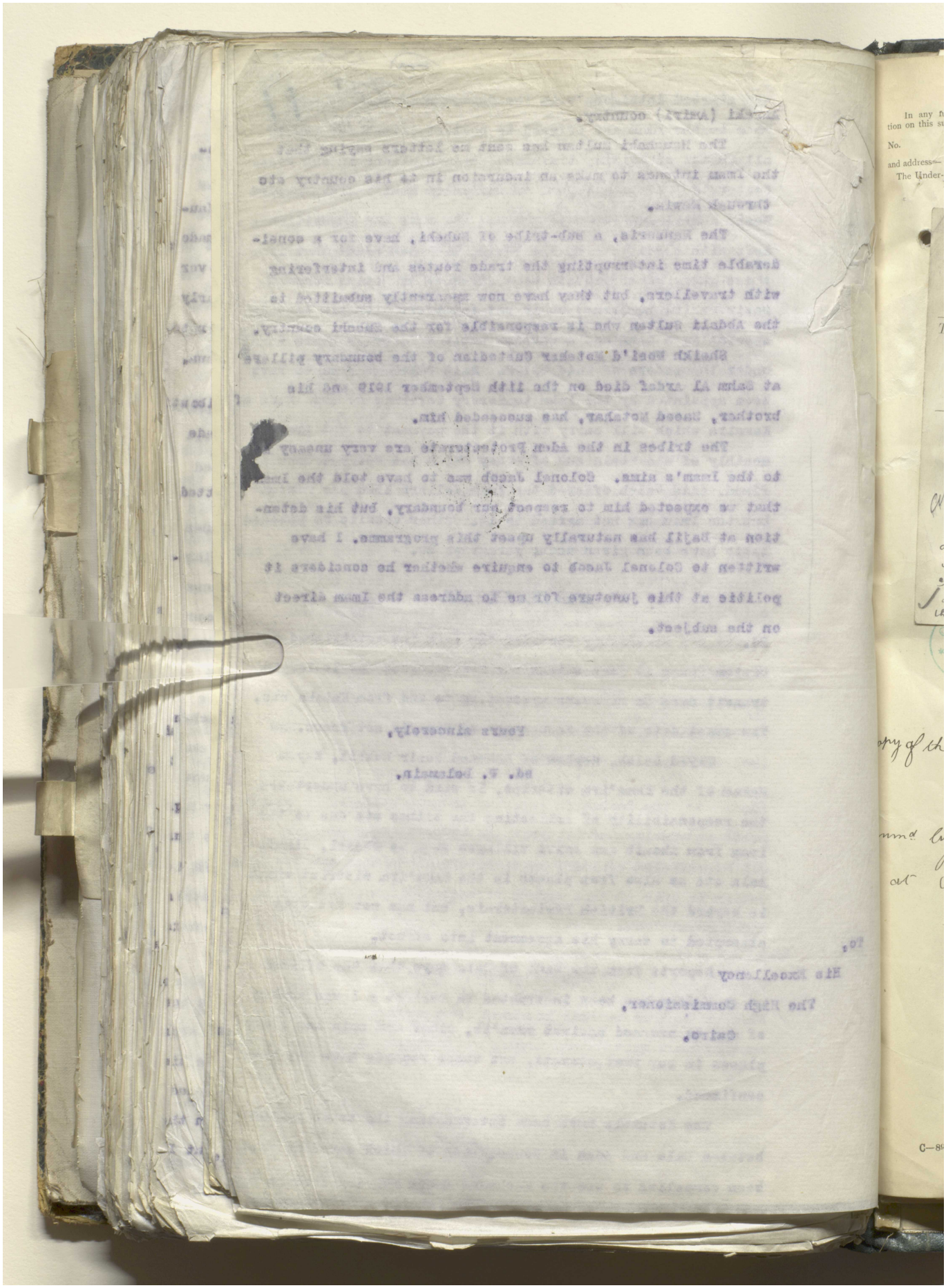

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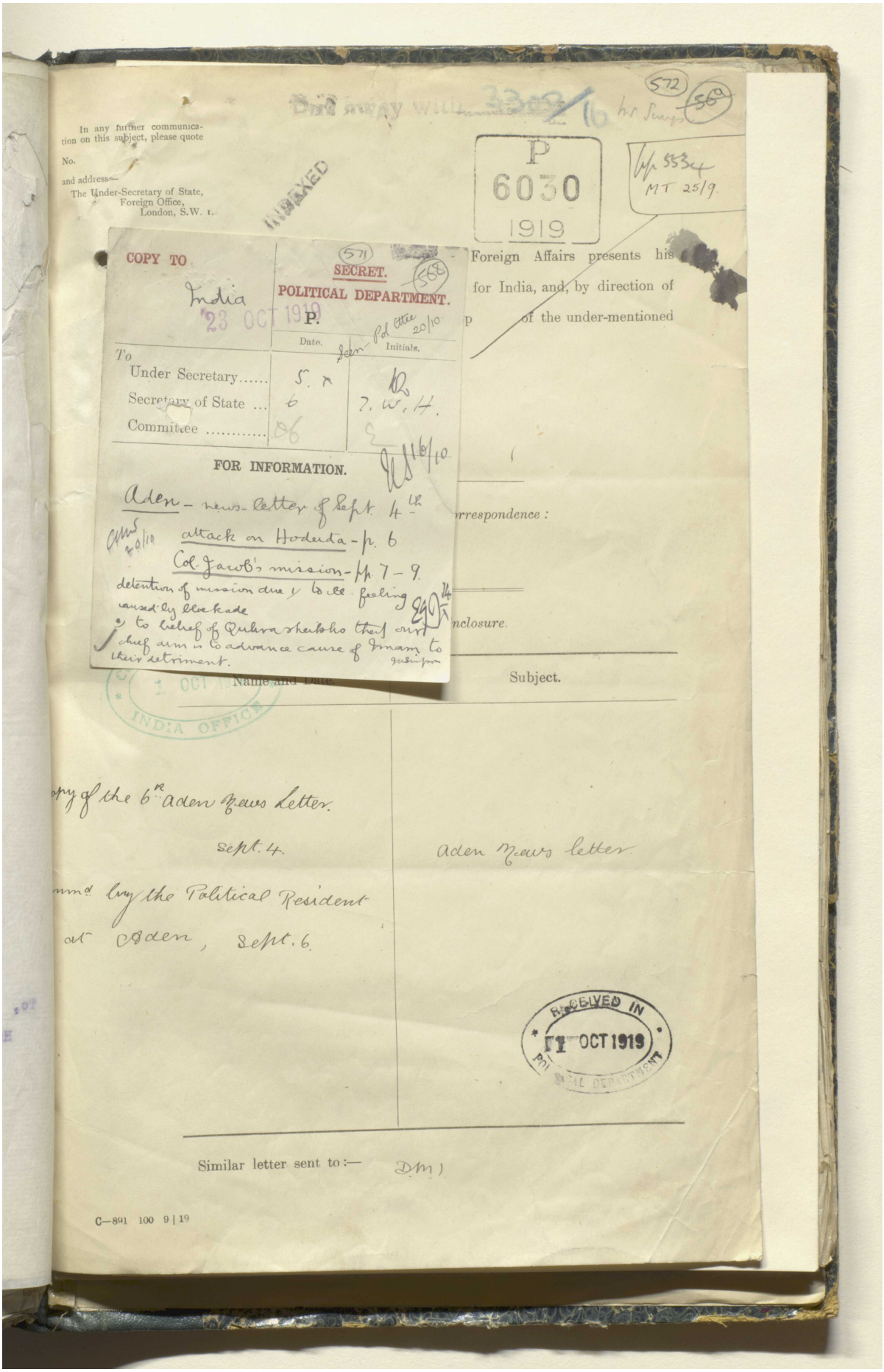

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P 6030 1919

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of the under-mentioned

COPY TO India 23 OCT 1919

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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	5. x	
Secretary of State ...	6	7. W. H.
Committee	06	

FOR INFORMATION.

Aden - news-letter of Sept 4th
attack on Hodeida - p. 6
Col. Jacob's mission - pp 7 - 9.
detention of mission due to ill feeling caused by blockade
to belief of Qubra sheikhs that our chief aim is to advance cause of Imam to their detriment.

Name and Date.

Subject.

INDIA OFFICE

Copy of the 6th Aden News Letter.
Sept. 4.
Aden News Letter
Issued by the Political Resident
at Aden, Sept. 6.

RECEIVED IN 11 OCT 1919 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

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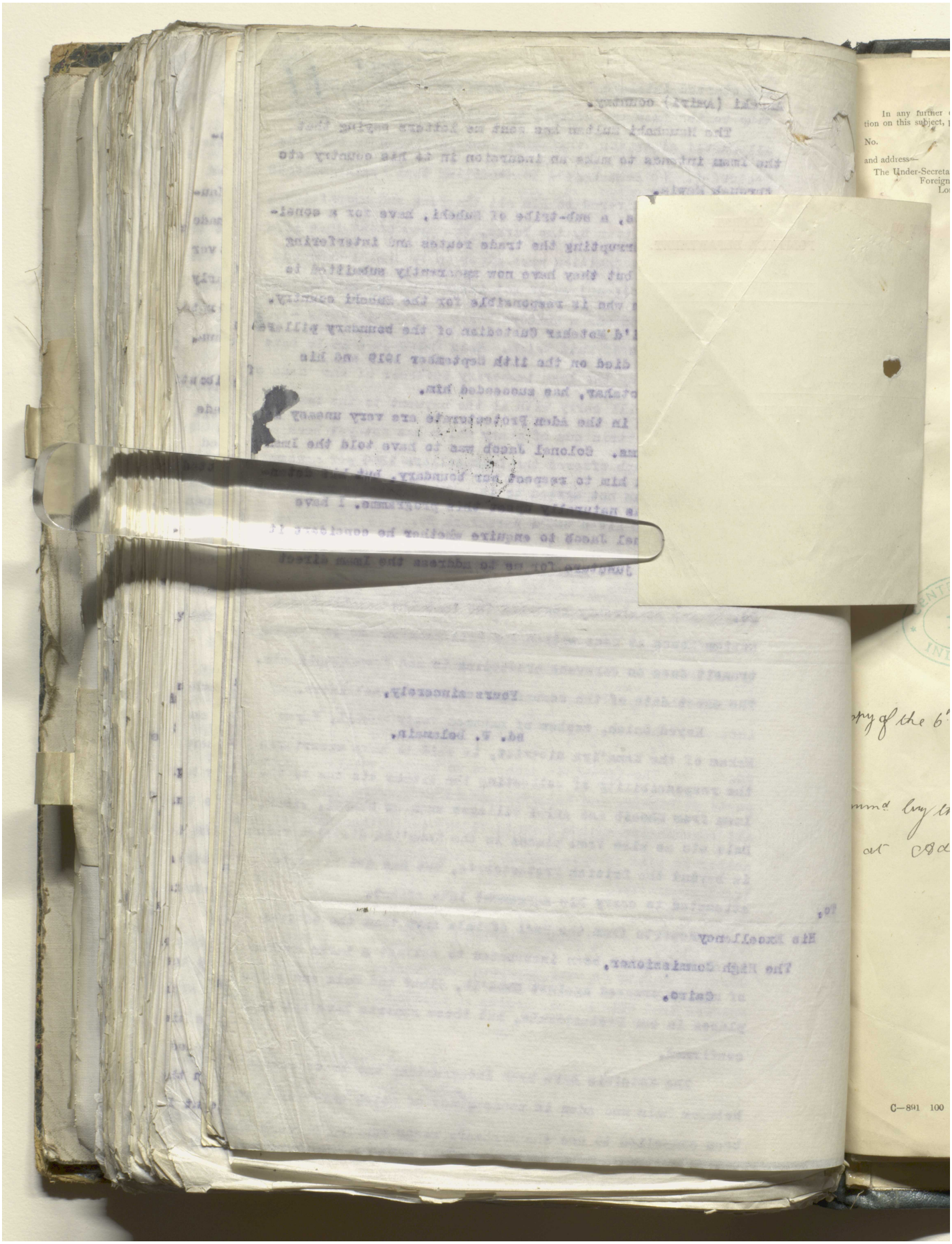

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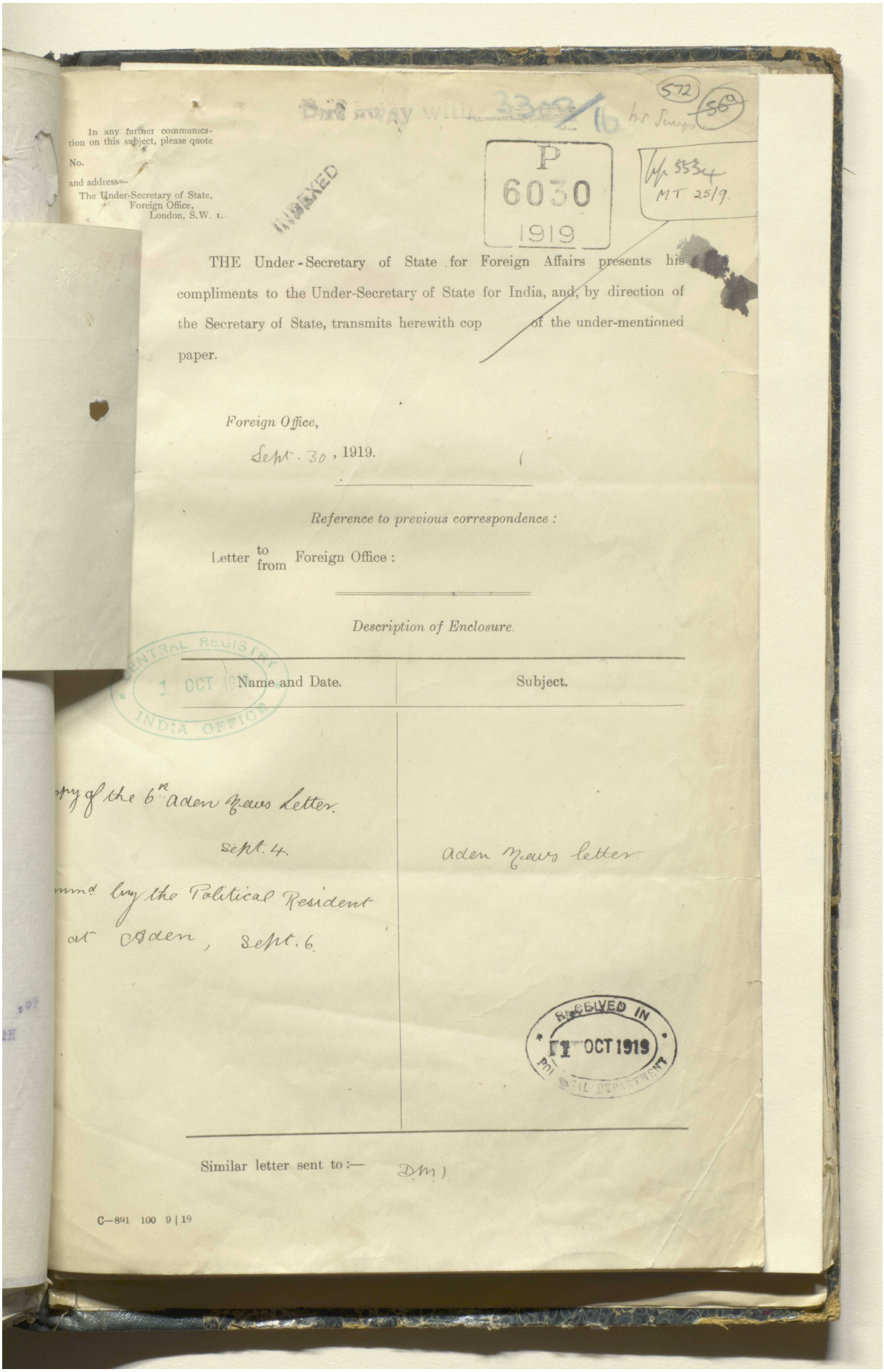

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P 6030 1919

Mr 5534 MT 25/9

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Sept. 30, 1919.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

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Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of the 6th Aden News Letter. Sept. 4. Issued by the Political Resident at Aden, Sept. 6.	Aden News letter.

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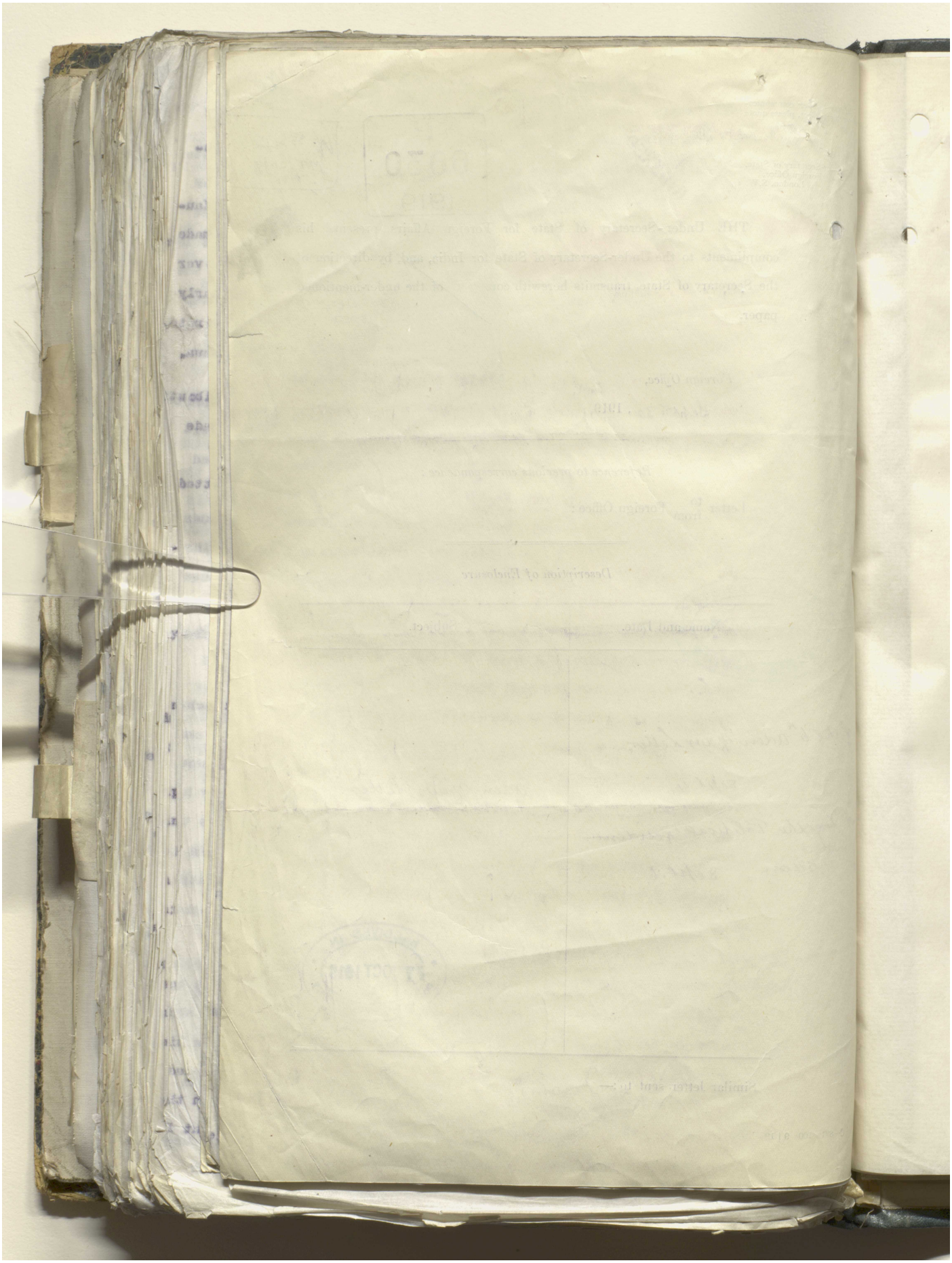

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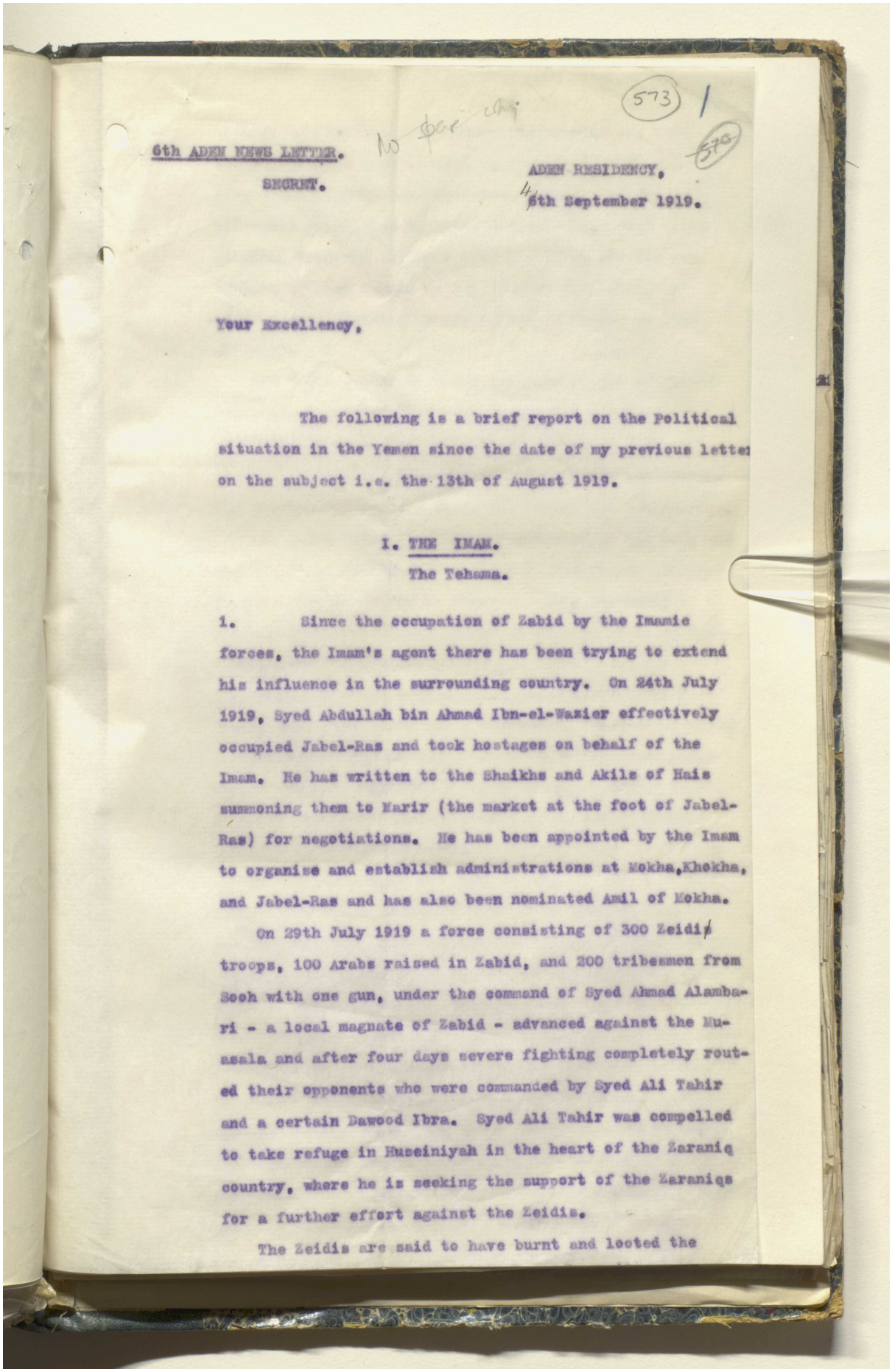

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6th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
6th September 1919.

Your Excellency,

The following is a brief report on the Political situation in the Yemen since the date of my previous letter on the subject i.e. the 13th of August 1919.

I. THE IMAM.

The Tehama.

1. Since the occupation of Zabid by the Imamic forces, the Imam's agent there has been trying to extend his influence in the surrounding country. On 24th July 1919, Syed Abdullah bin Ahmad Ibn-el-Wazier effectively occupied Jabel-Ras and took hostages on behalf of the Imam. He has written to the Shaikhs and Akils of Hais summoning them to Marir (the market at the foot of Jabel-Ras) for negotiations. He has been appointed by the Imam to organise and establish administrations at Mokha, Khokha, and Jabel-Ras and has also been nominated Amil of Mokha.

On 29th July 1919 a force consisting of 300 Zeidi troops, 100 Arabs raised in Zabid, and 200 tribesmen from Sooh with one gun, under the command of Syed Ahmad Alambari - a local magnate of Zabid - advanced against the Musasala and after four days severe fighting completely routed their opponents who were commanded by Syed Ali Tahir and a certain Dawood Ibra. Syed Ali Tahir was compelled to take refuge in Huseiniyah in the heart of the Zaraniq country, where he is seeking the support of the Zaraniqs for a further effort against the Zeidis.

The Zeidis are said to have burnt and looted the

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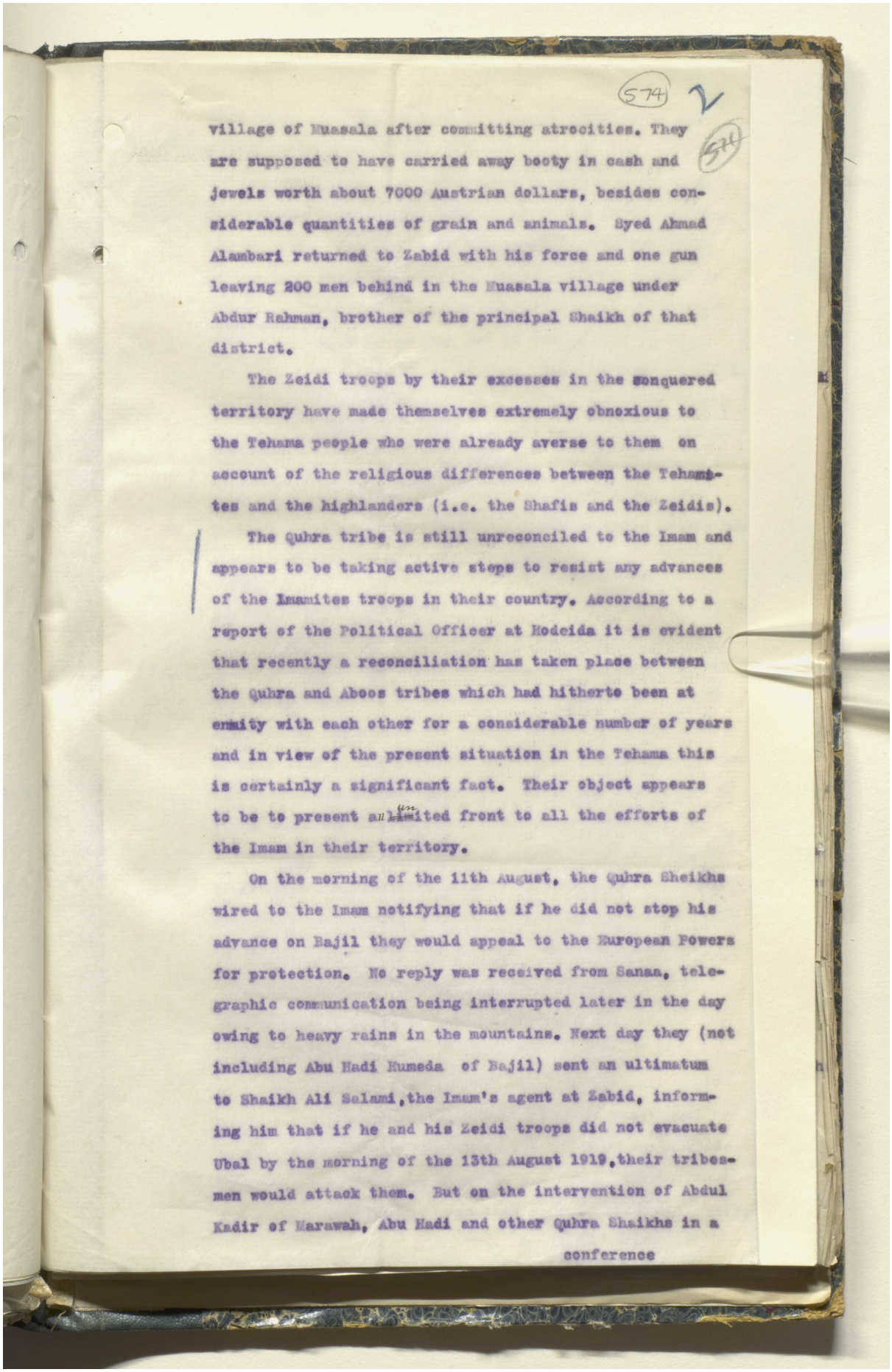

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village of Muasala after committing atrocities. They are supposed to have carried away booty in cash and jewels worth about 7000 Austrian dollars, besides considerable quantities of grain and animals. Syed Ahmad Alambari returned to Zabid with his force and one gun leaving 200 men behind in the Muasala village under Abdur Rahman, brother of the principal Shaikh of that district.

The Zeidi troops by their excesses in the conquered territory have made themselves extremely obnoxious to the Tehama people who were already averse to them on account of the religious differences between the Tehamites and the highlanders (i.e. the Shafis and the Zeidis).

The Quhra tribe is still unreconciled to the Imam and appears to be taking active steps to resist any advances of the Imamites troops in their country. According to a report of the Political Officer at Hodeida it is evident that recently a reconciliation has taken place between the Quhra and Aboos tribes which had hitherto been at enmity with each other for a considerable number of years and in view of the present situation in the Tehama this is certainly a significant fact. Their object appears to be to present an united front to all the efforts of the Imam in their territory.

On the morning of the 11th August, the Quhra Sheikhs wired to the Imam notifying that if he did not stop his advance on Bajil they would appeal to the European Powers for protection. No reply was received from Sanaa, telegraphic communication being interrupted later in the day owing to heavy rains in the mountains. Next day they (not including Abu Hadi Humeda of Bajil) sent an ultimatum to Shaikh Ali Salami, the Imam's agent at Zabid, informing him that if he and his Zeidi troops did not evacuate Ubal by the morning of the 13th August 1919, their tribesmen would attack them. But on the intervention of Abdul Kadir of Marawah, Abu Hadi and other Quhra Shaikhs in a conference

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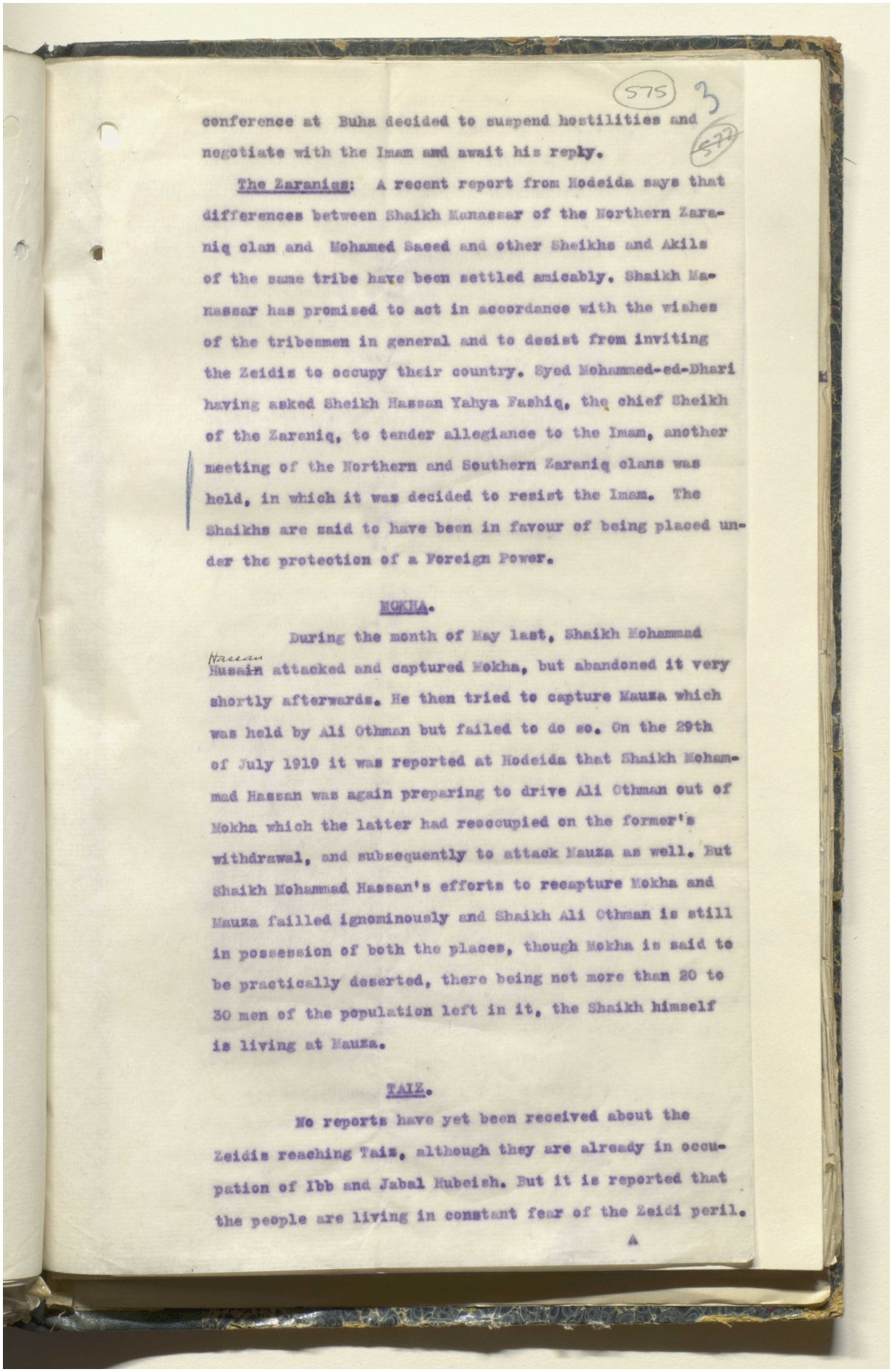

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conference at Buha decided to suspend hostilities and negotiate with the Imam and await his reply.

The Zaranigs: A recent report from Hodeida says that differences between Shaikh Manassar of the Northern Zaraniq clan and Mohamed Saeed and other Sheikhs and Akils of the same tribe have been settled amicably. Shaikh Manassar has promised to act in accordance with the wishes of the tribesmen in general and to desist from inviting the Zeidis to occupy their country. Syed Mohammed-ed-Dhari having asked Sheikh Hassan Yahya Fashiq, the chief Sheikh of the Zaraniq, to tender allegiance to the Imam, another meeting of the Northern and Southern Zaraniq clans was held, in which it was decided to resist the Imam. The Shaikhs are said to have been in favour of being placed under the protection of a Foreign Power.

MOKHA.

During the month of May last, Shaikh Mohammad Hassan ~~Husain~~ attacked and captured Mokha, but abandoned it very shortly afterwards. He then tried to capture Mauza which was held by Ali Othman but failed to do so. On the 29th of July 1919 it was reported at Hodeida that Shaikh Mohammad Hassan was again preparing to drive Ali Othman out of Mokha which the latter had reoccupied on the former's withdrawal, and subsequently to attack Mauza as well. But Shaikh Mohammad Hassan's efforts to recapture Mokha and Mauza failed ignominously and Shaikh Ali Othman is still in possession of both the places, though Mokha is said to be practically deserted, there being not more than 20 to 30 men of the population left in it, the Shaikh himself is living at Mauza.

TAIZ.

No reports have yet been received about the Zeidis reaching Taiz, although they are already in occupation of Ibb and Jabal Hubeish. But it is reported that the people are living in constant fear of the Zeidi peril.

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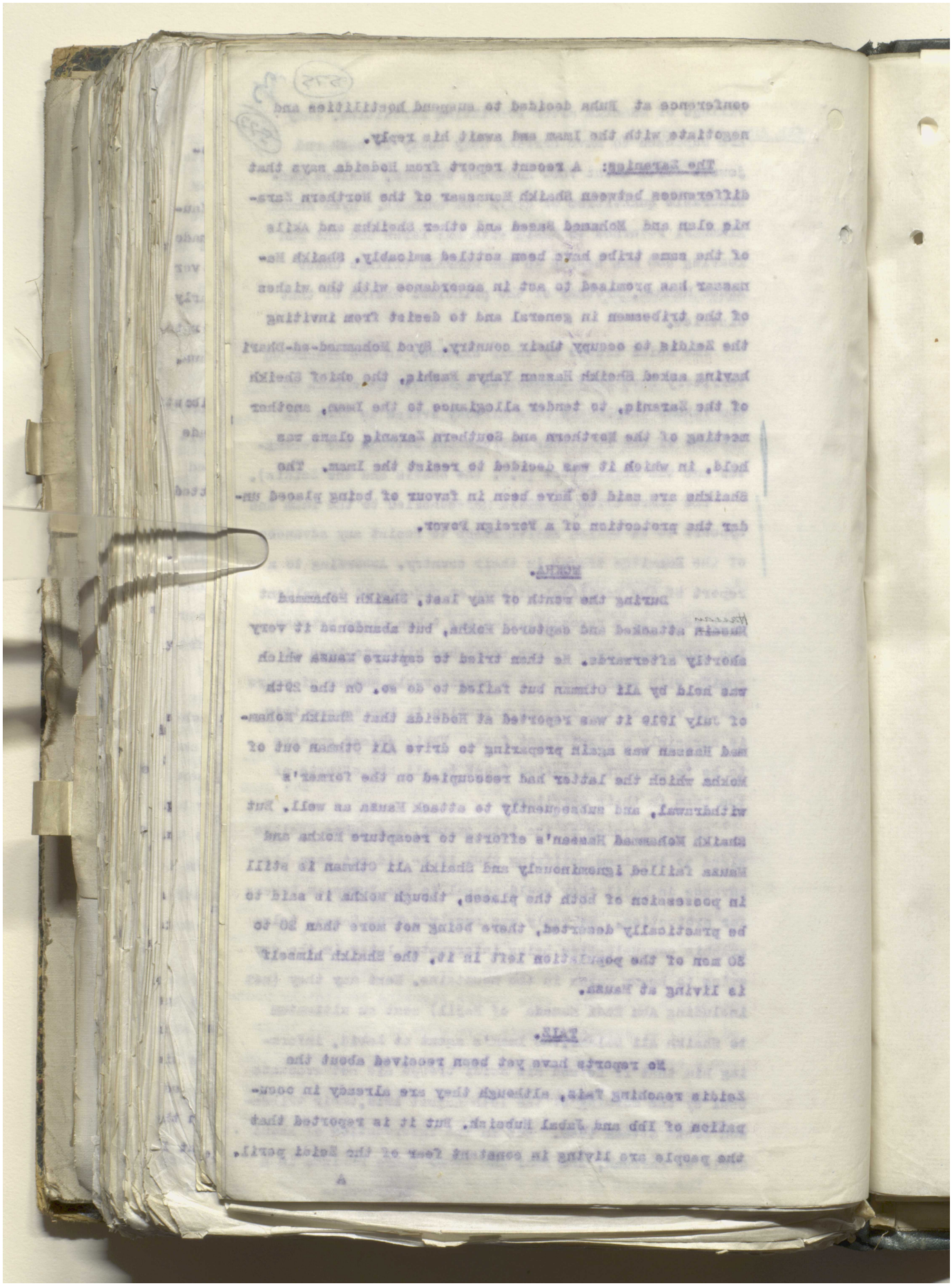

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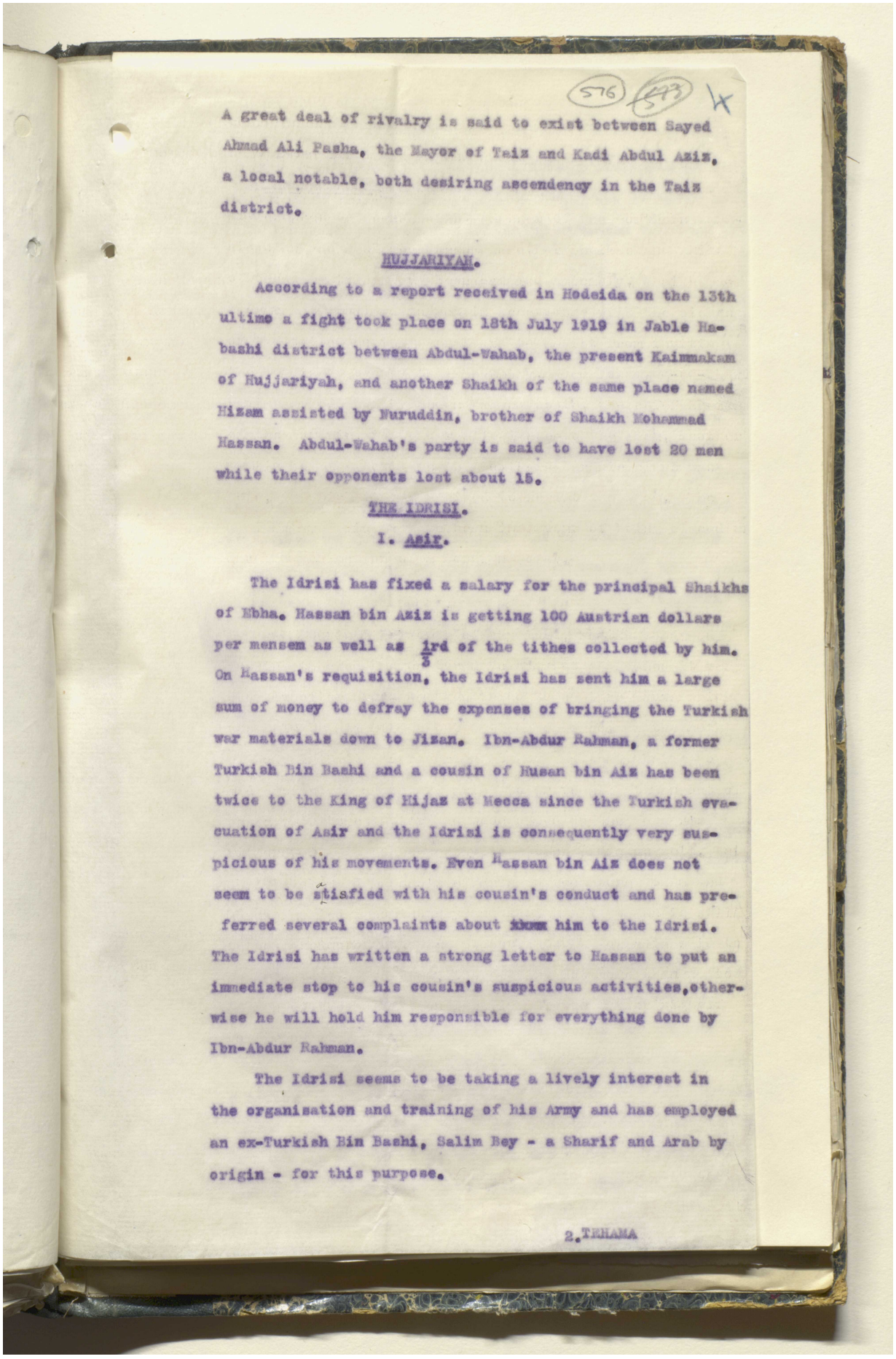

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A great deal of rivalry is said to exist between Sayed Ahmad Ali Pasha, the Mayor of Taiz and Kadi Abdul Aziz, a local notable, both desiring ascendency in the Taiz district.

HUJJARIYAH.

According to a report received in Hodeida on the 13th ultimo a fight took place on 18th July 1919 in Jable Habashi district between Abdul-Wahab, the present Kaimmakam of Hujjariyah, and another Shaikh of the same place named Hizam assisted by Nuruddin, brother of Shaikh Mohammad Hassan. Abdul-Wahab's party is said to have lost 20 men while their opponents lost about 15.

THE IDRISI.

I. Asir.

The Idrisi has fixed a salary for the principal Shaikhs of Abha. Hassan bin Aziz is getting 100 Austrian dollars per mensem as well as 1/3rd of the tithes collected by him. On Hassan's requisition, the Idrisi has sent him a large sum of money to defray the expenses of bringing the Turkish war materials down to Jizan. Ibn-Abdur Rahman, a former Turkish Bin Bashi and a cousin of Husan bin Aiz has been twice to the King of Hijaz at Mecca since the Turkish evacuation of Asir and the Idrisi is consequently very suspicious of his movements. Even Hassan bin Aiz does not seem to be satisfied with his cousin's conduct and has preferred several complaints about him to the Idrisi. The Idrisi has written a strong letter to Hassan to put an immediate stop to his cousin's suspicious activities, otherwise he will hold him responsible for everything done by Ibn-Abdur Rahman.

The Idrisi seems to be taking a lively interest in the organisation and training of his Army and has employed an ex-Turkish Bin Bashi, Salim Bey - a Sharif and Arab by origin - for this purpose.

2. TEHAMA

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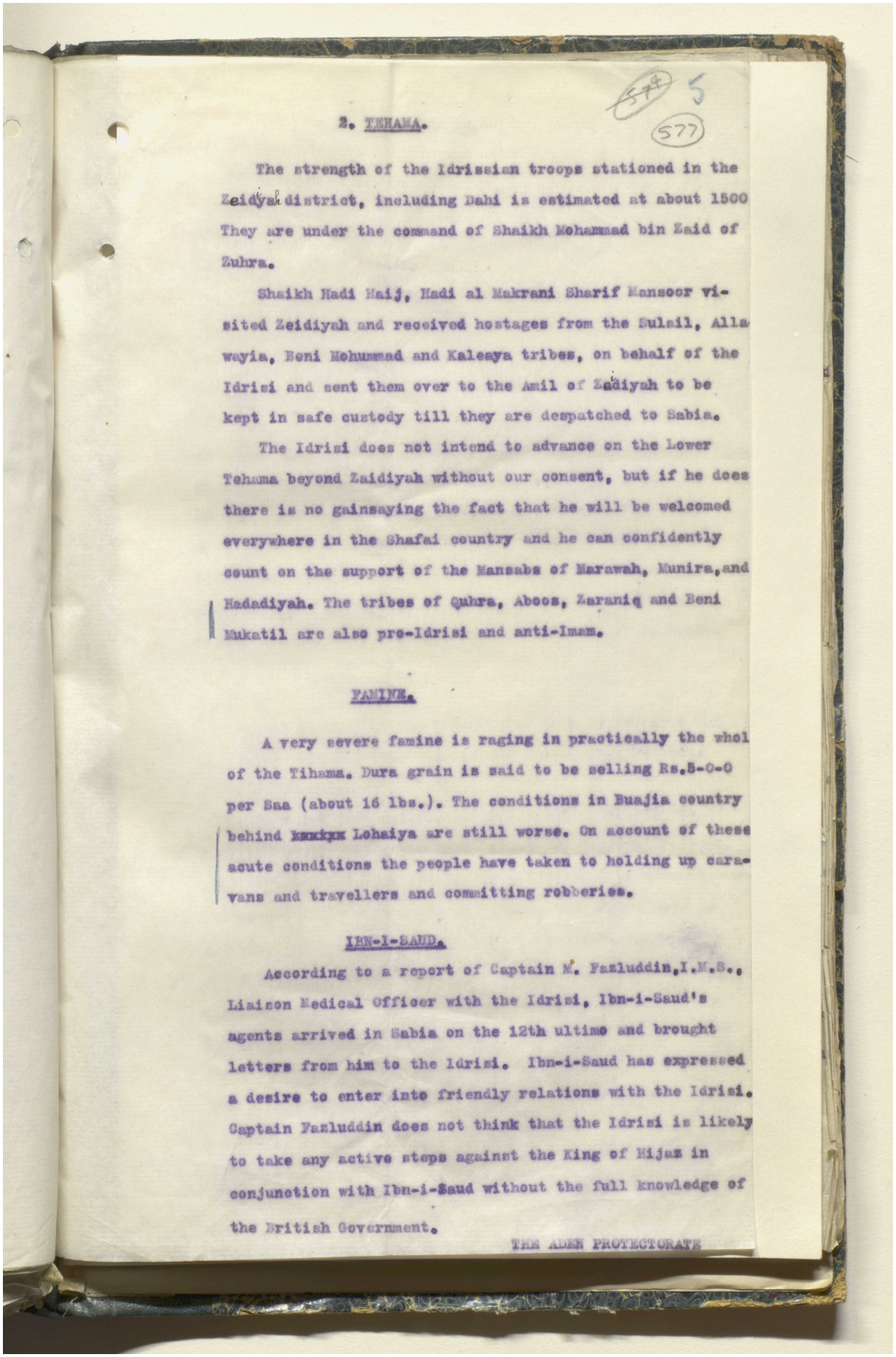

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2. TEHAMA.

The strength of the Idrissian troops stationed in the Zeidyah district, including Dahi is estimated at about 1500 They are under the command of Shaikh Mohammad bin Zaid of Zuhra.

Shaikh Hadi Haij, Hadi al Makrani Sharif Mansoor visited Zeidiyah and received hostages from the Sulail, Allawayia, Beni Mohammad and Kaleaya tribes, on behalf of the Idrisi and sent them over to the Amil of Zeidiyah to be kept in safe custody till they are despatched to Sabia.

The Idrisi does not intend to advance on the Lower Tehama beyond Zaidiyah without our consent, but if he does there is no gainsaying the fact that he will be welcomed everywhere in the Shafai country and he can confidently count on the support of the Mansabs of Marawah, Munira, and Hadadiyah. The tribes of Quhra, Aboos, Zaraniq and Beni Mukatil are also pro-Idrisi and anti-Imam.

FAMINE.

A very severe famine is raging in practically the whol of the Tihama. Dura grain is said to be selling Rs.5-0-0 per Saa (about 16 lbs.). The conditions in Buajia country behind Lohaiya are still worse. On account of these acute conditions the people have taken to holding up caravans and travellers and committing robberies.

IBN-I-SAUD.

According to a report of Captain M. Fazluddin, I.M.S., Liaison Medical Officer with the Idrisi, Ibn-i-Saud's agents arrived in Sabia on the 12th ultimo and brought letters from him to the Idrisi. Ibn-i-Saud has expressed a desire to enter into friendly relations with the Idrisi. Captain Fazluddin does not think that the Idrisi is likely to take any active steps against the King of Hijaz in conjunction with Ibn-i-Saud without the full knowledge of the British Government.

THE ADEN PROTECTORATE

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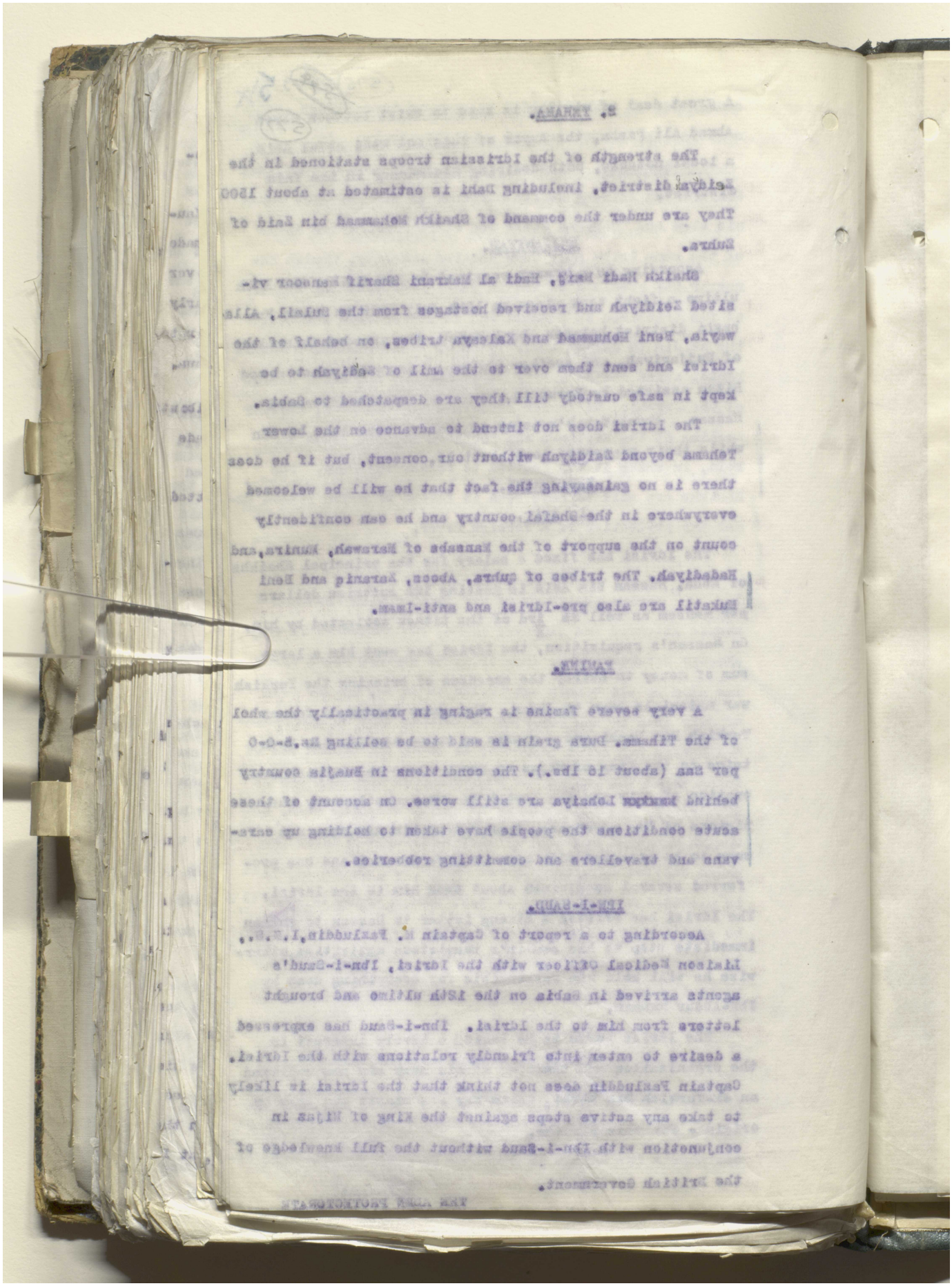

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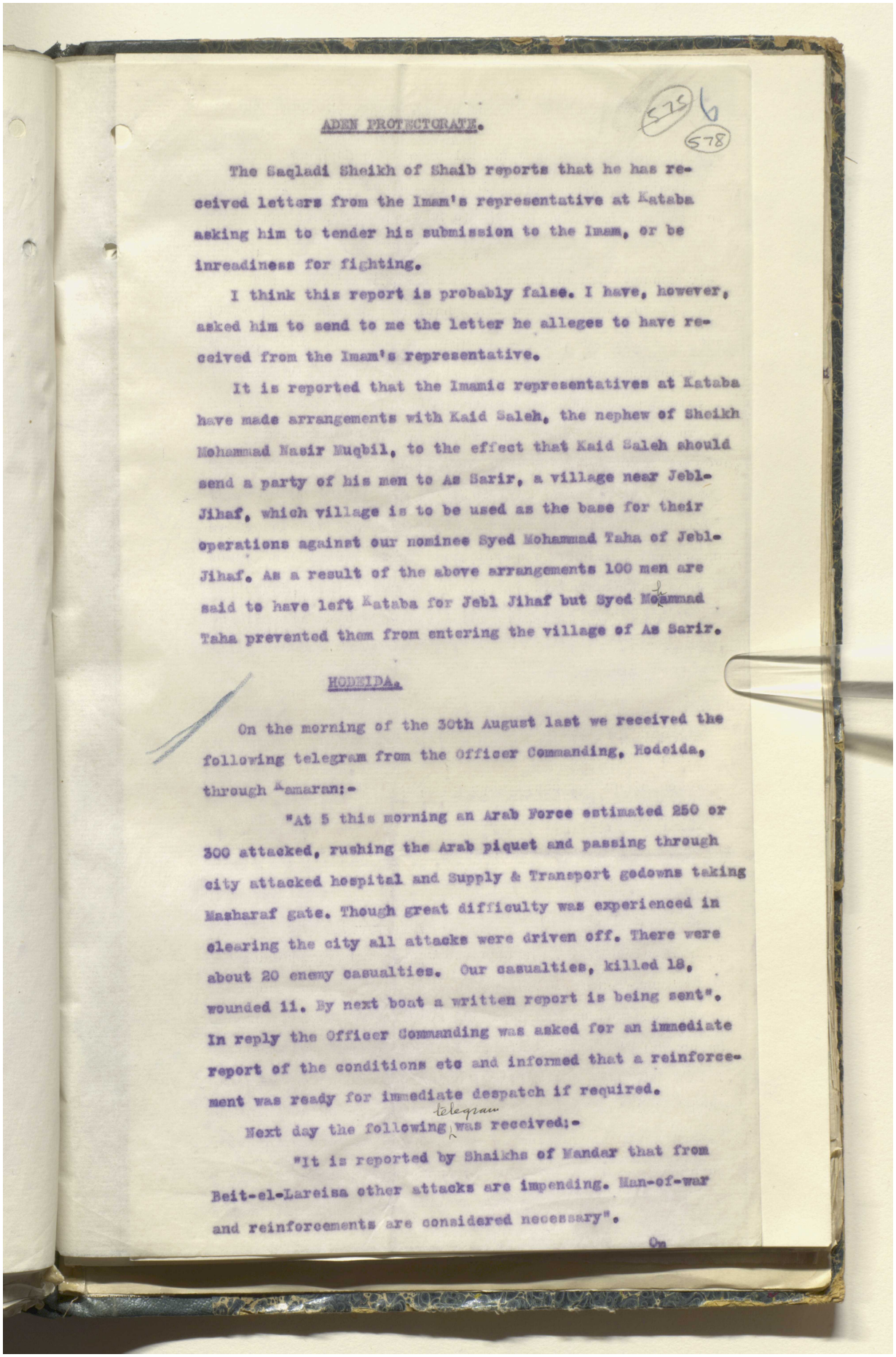

ADEN PROTECTORATE.

The Saqladi Sheikh of Shaib reports that he has received letters from the Imam's representative at Kataba asking him to tender his submission to the Imam, or be inreadiness for fighting.

I think this report is probably false. I have, however, asked him to send to me the letter he alleges to have received from the Imam's representative.

It is reported that the Imamic representatives at Kataba have made arrangements with Kaid Saleh, the nephew of Sheikh Mohammad Nasir Muqbil, to the effect that Kaid Saleh should send a party of his men to As Sarir, a village near Jebl-Jihaf, which village is to be used as the base for their operations against our nominee Syed Mohammad Taha of Jebl-Jihaf. As a result of the above arrangements 100 men are said to have left Kataba for Jebl Jihaf but Syed Mohammad Taha prevented them from entering the village of As Sarir.

HODEIDA.

On the morning of the 30th August last we received the following telegram from the Officer Commanding, Hodeida, through Kamaran:-

"At 5 this morning an Arab Force estimated 250 or 300 attacked, rushing the Arab piquet and passing through city attacked hospital and Supply & Transport godowns taking Masharaf gate. Though great difficulty was experienced in clearing the city all attacks were driven off. There were about 20 enemy casualties. Our casualties, killed 18, wounded 11. By next boat a written report is being sent". In reply the Officer Commanding was asked for an immediate report of the conditions etc and informed that a reinforcement was ready for immediate despatch if required.

Next day the following telegram was received:-

"It is reported by Shaikhs of Mandar that from Beit-el-Lareisa other attacks are impending. Man-of-war and reinforcements are considered necessary".

On

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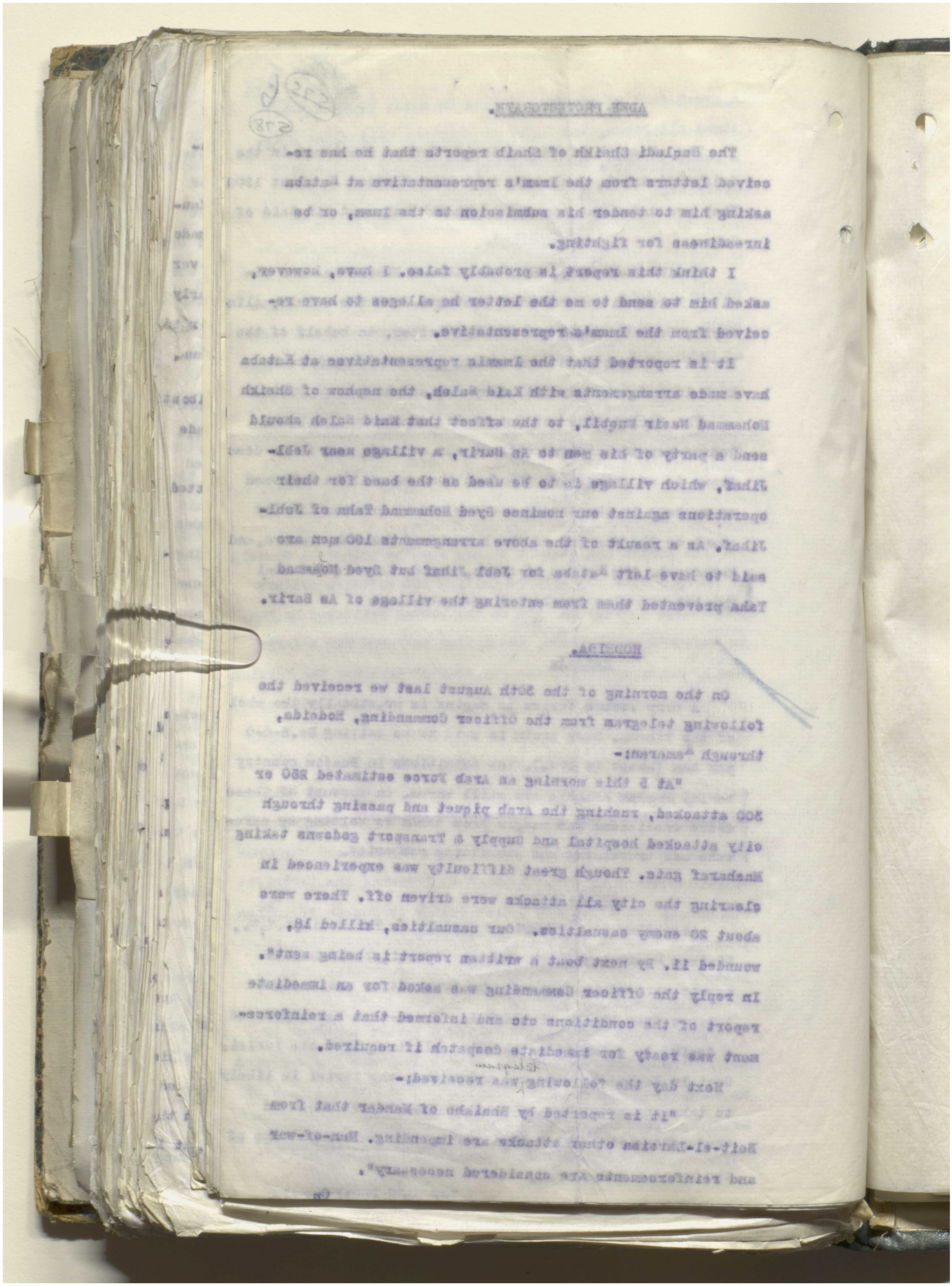

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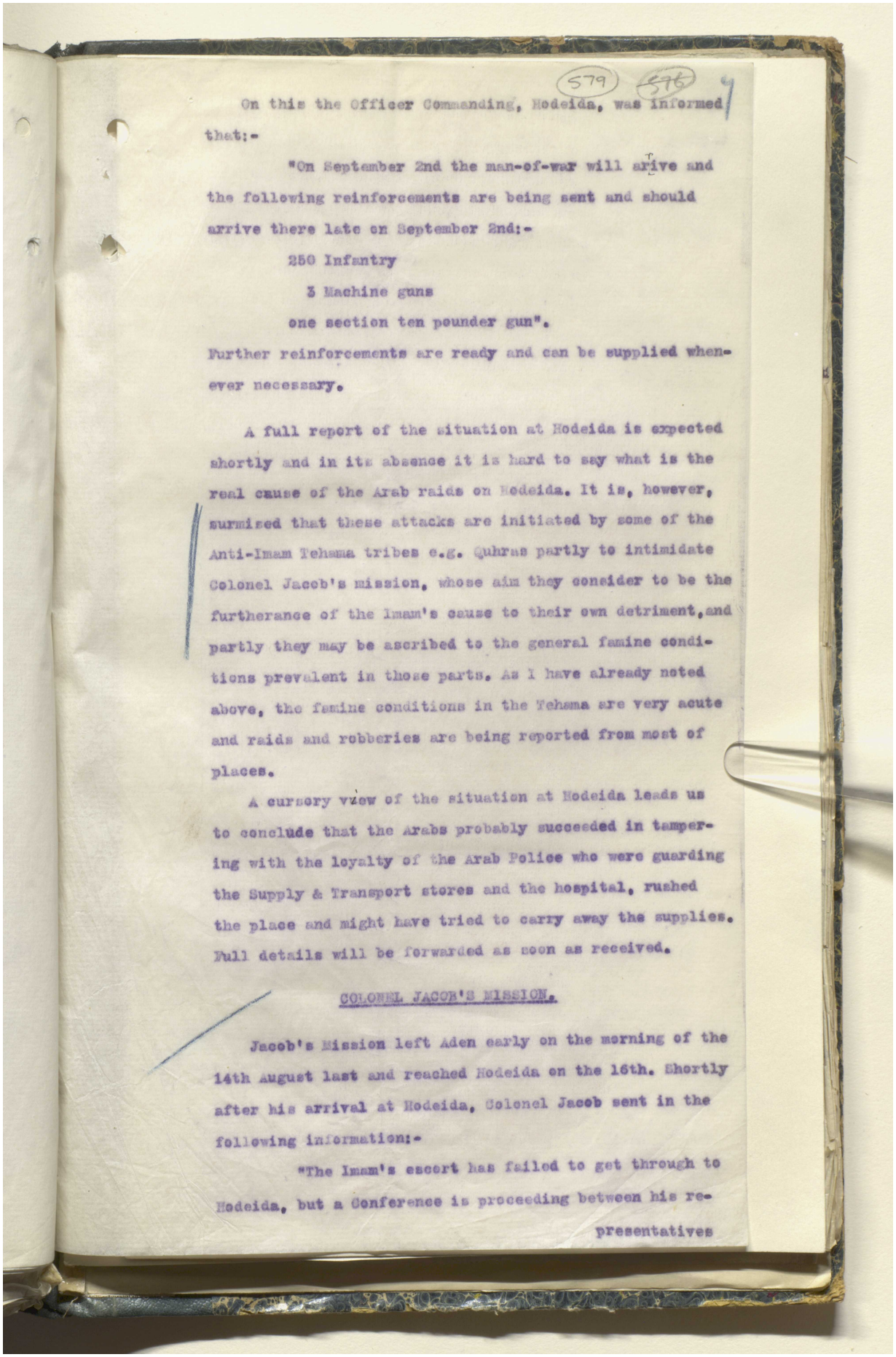

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On this the Officer Commanding, Hodeida, was informed that:-

"On September 2nd the man-of-war will arive and the following reinforcements are being sent and should arrive there late on September 2nd:-

250 Infantry
3 Machine guns
one section ten pounder gun".

Further reinforcements are ready and can be supplied whenever necessary.

A full report of the situation at Hodeida is expected shortly and in its absence it is hard to say what is the real cause of the Arab raids on Hodeida. It is, however, surmised that these attacks are initiated by some of the Anti-Imam Tehama tribes e.g. Quhras partly to intimidate Colonel Jacob's mission, whose aim they consider to be the furtherance of the Imam's cause to their own detriment, and partly they may be ascribed to the general famine conditions prevalent in those parts. As I have already noted above, the famine conditions in the Tehama are very acute and raids and robberies are being reported from most of places.

A cursory view of the situation at Hodeida leads us to conclude that the Arabs probably succeeded in tampering with the loyalty of the Arab Police who were guarding the Supply & Transport stores and the hospital, rushed the place and might have tried to carry away the supplies. Full details will be forwarded as soon as received.

COLONEL JACOB'S MISSION.

Jacob's Mission left Aden early on the morning of the 14th August last and reached Hodeida on the 16th. Shortly after his arrival at Hodeida, Colonel Jacob sent in the following information:-

"The Imam's escort has failed to get through to Hodeida, but a Conference is proceeding between his representatives

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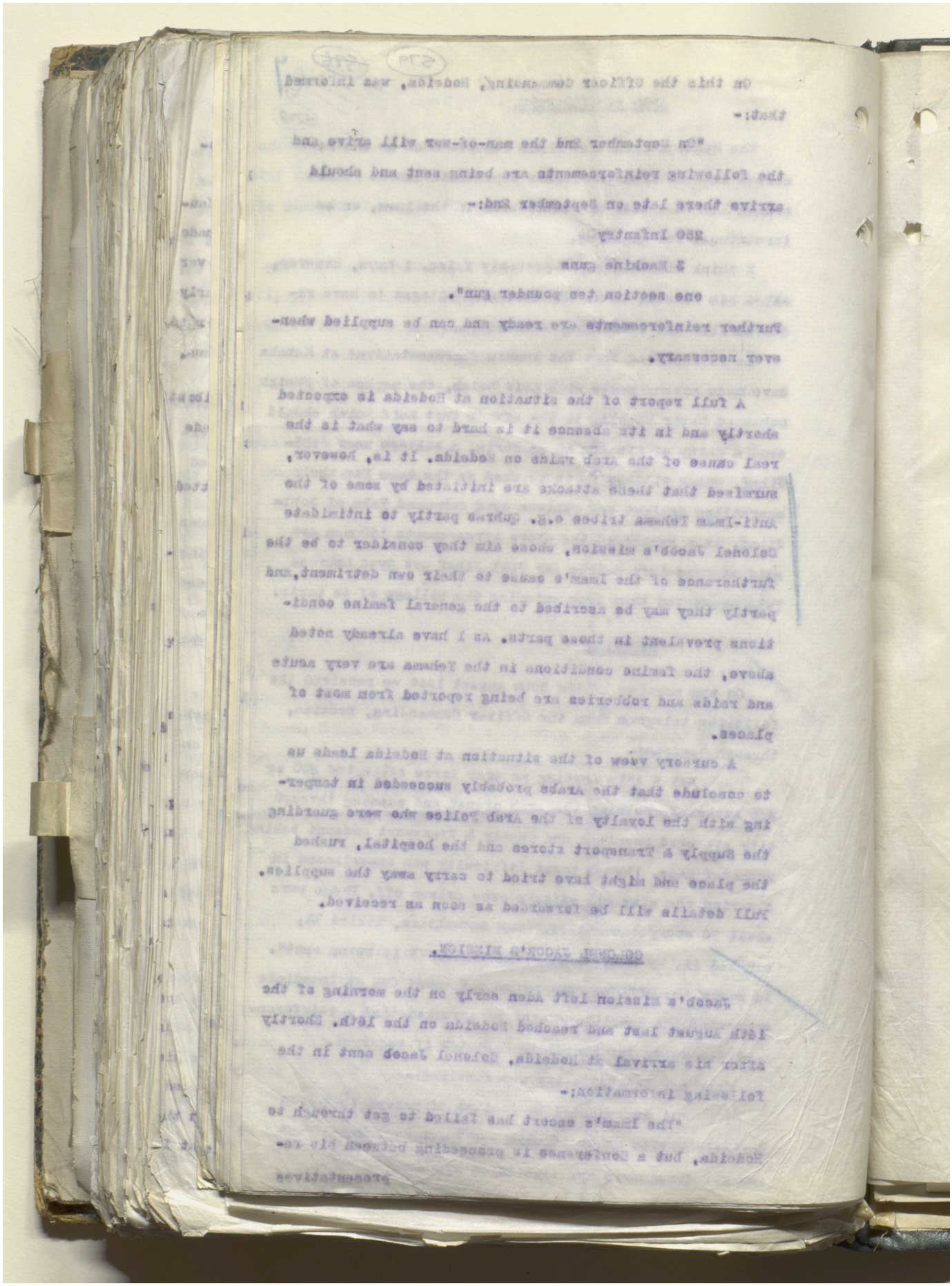

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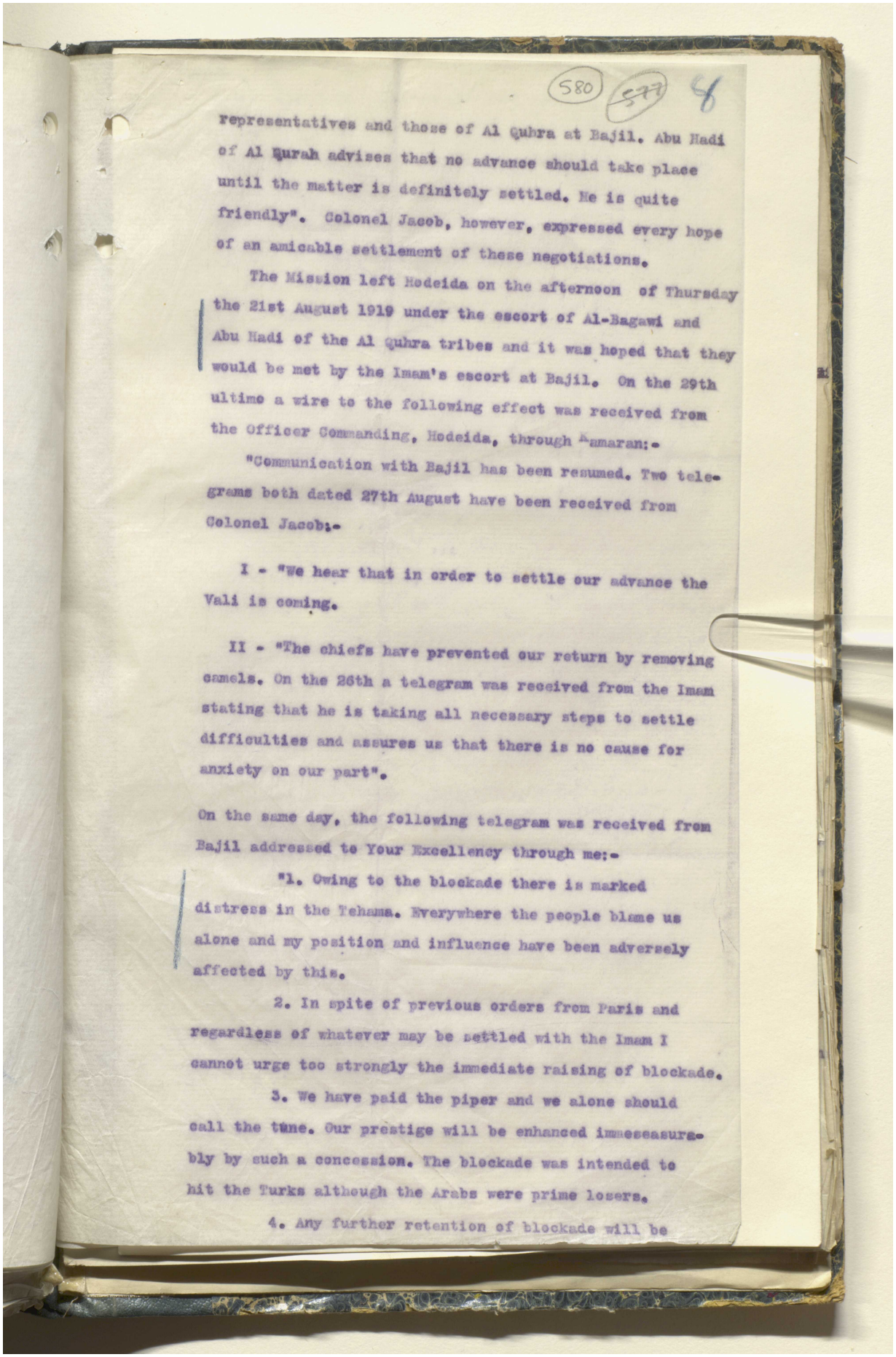

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Representatives and those of Al Quhra at Bajil. Abu Nadi of Al Qurah advises that no advance should take place until the matter is definitely settled. He is quite friendly". Colonel Jacob, however, expressed every hope of an amicable settlement of these negotiations.

The Mission left Hodeida on the afternoon of Thursday the 21st August 1919 under the escort of Al-Bagawi and Abu Nadi of the Al Quhra tribes and it was hoped that they would be met by the Imam's escort at Bajil. On the 29th ultimo a wire to the following effect was received from the Officer Commanding, Hodeida, through Amaran:-

"Communication with Bajil has been resumed. Two telegrams both dated 27th August have been received from Colonel Jacob:-

I - "We hear that in order to settle our advance the Vali is coming.

II - "The chiefs have prevented our return by removing camels. On the 26th a telegram was received from the Imam stating that he is taking all necessary steps to settle difficulties and assures us that there is no cause for anxiety on our part".

On the same day, the following telegram was received from Bajil addressed to Your Excellency through me:-

"1. Owing to the blockade there is marked distress in the Tehama. Everywhere the people blame us alone and my position and influence have been adversely affected by this.

2. In spite of previous orders from Paris and regardless of whatever may be settled with the Imam I cannot urge too strongly the immediate raising of blockade.

3. We have paid the piper and we alone should call the tune. Our prestige will be enhanced immeseasurably by such a concession. The blockade was intended to hit the Turks although the Arabs were prime losers.

4. Any further retention of blockade will be

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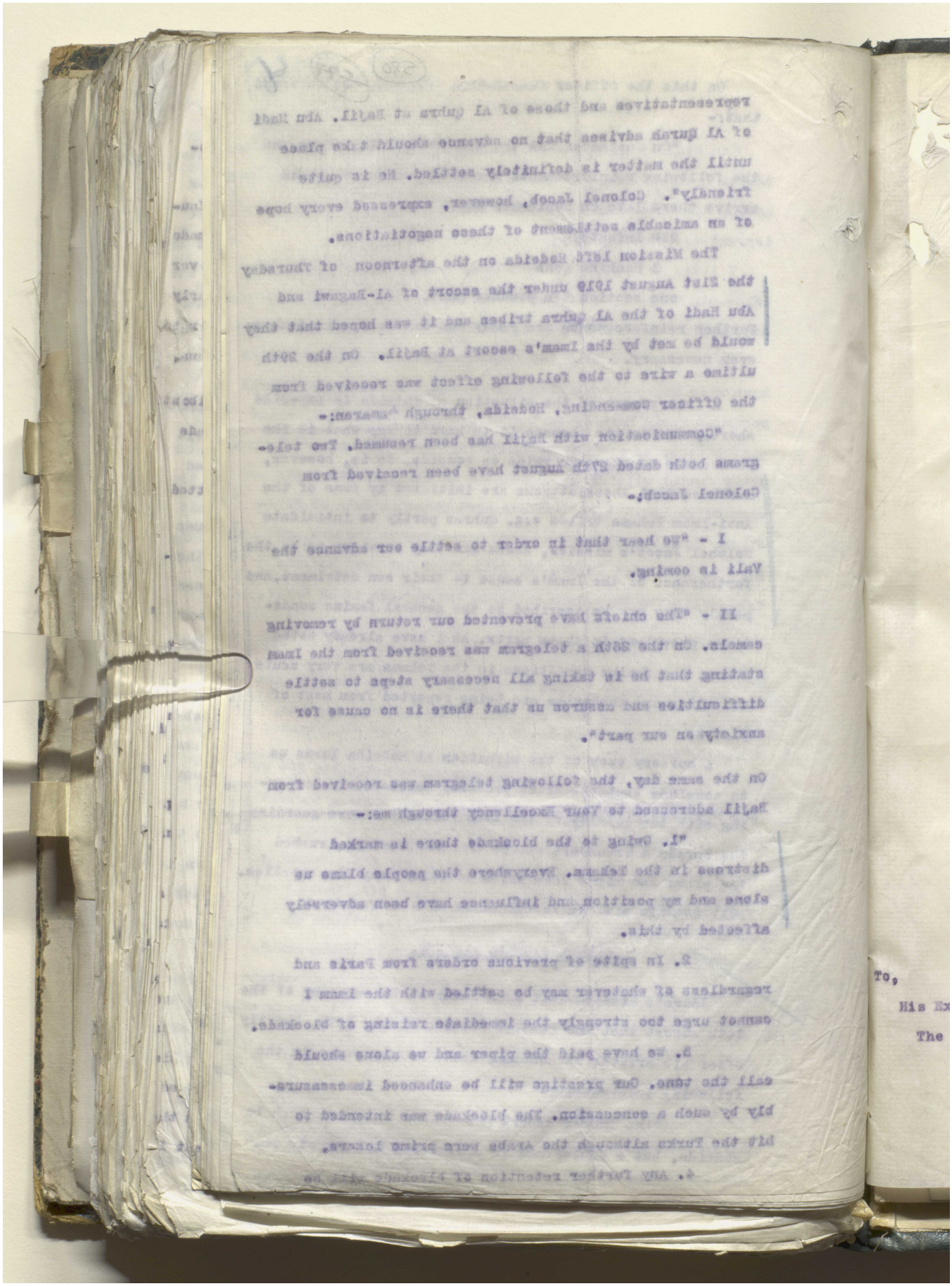

To,

His Ex

The

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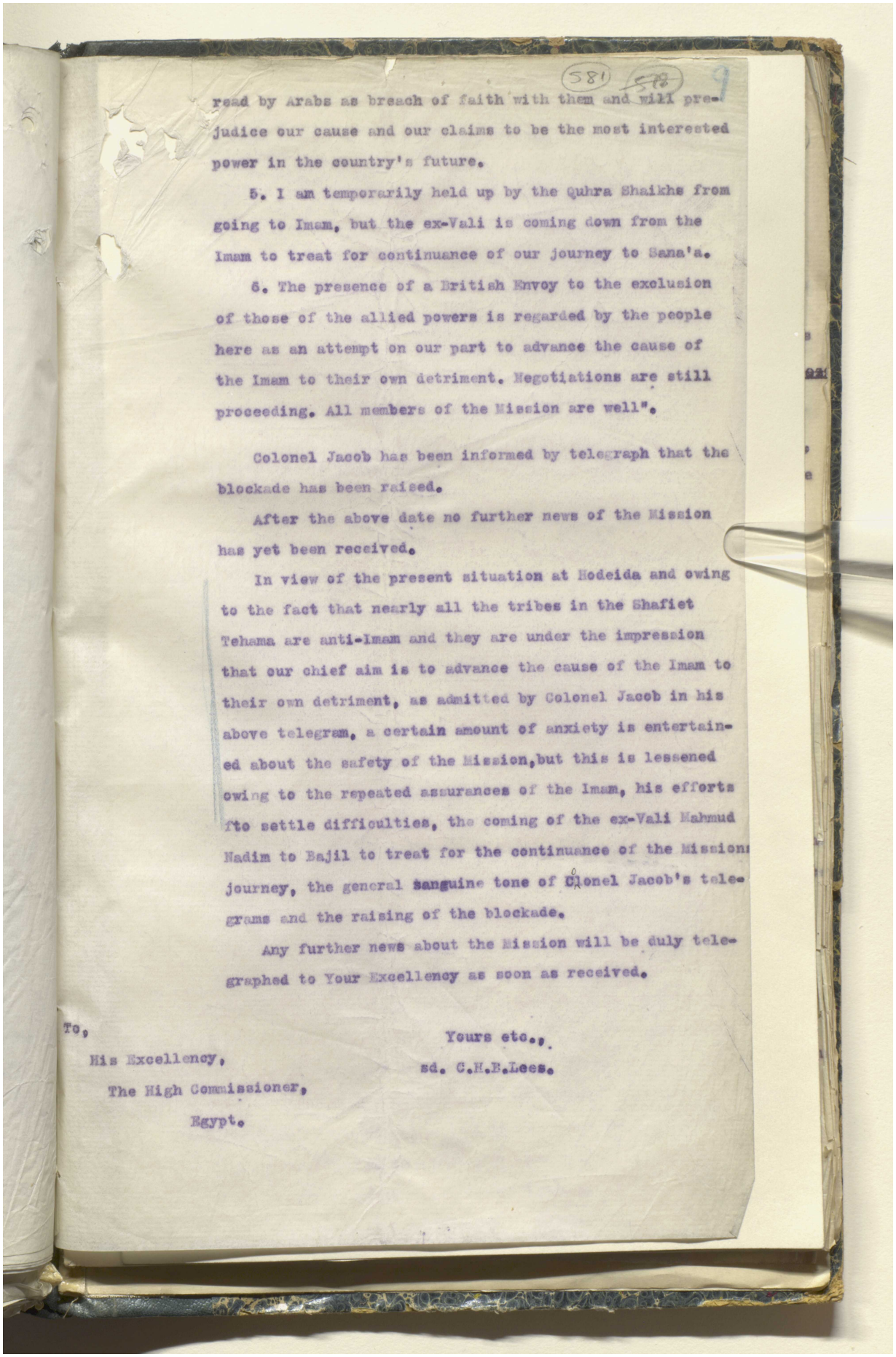

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read by Arabs as breach of faith with them and will prejudice our cause and our claims to be the most interested power in the country's future.

5. I am temporarily held up by the Quhra Shaikhs from going to Imam, but the ex-Vali is coming down from the Imam to treat for continuance of our journey to Sana'a.

6. The presence of a British Envoy to the exclusion of those of the allied powers is regarded by the people here as an attempt on our part to advance the cause of the Imam to their own detriment. Negotiations are still proceeding. All members of the Mission are well".

Colonel Jacob has been informed by telegraph that the blockade has been raised.

After the above date no further news of the Mission has yet been received.

In view of the present situation at Hodeida and owing to the fact that nearly all the tribes in the Shafiet Tehama are anti-Imam and they are under the impression that our chief aim is to advance the cause of the Imam to their own detriment, as admitted by Colonel Jacob in his above telegram, a certain amount of anxiety is entertained about the safety of the Mission, but this is lessened owing to the repeated assurances of the Imam, his efforts to settle difficulties, the coming of the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadim to Bajil to treat for the continuance of the Mission's journey, the general sanguine tone of Colonel Jacob's telegrams and the raising of the blockade.

Any further news about the Mission will be duly telegraphed to Your Excellency as soon as received.

Yours etc.,
sd. C.H.B.Lees.

To,
His Excellency,
The High Commissioner,
Egypt.

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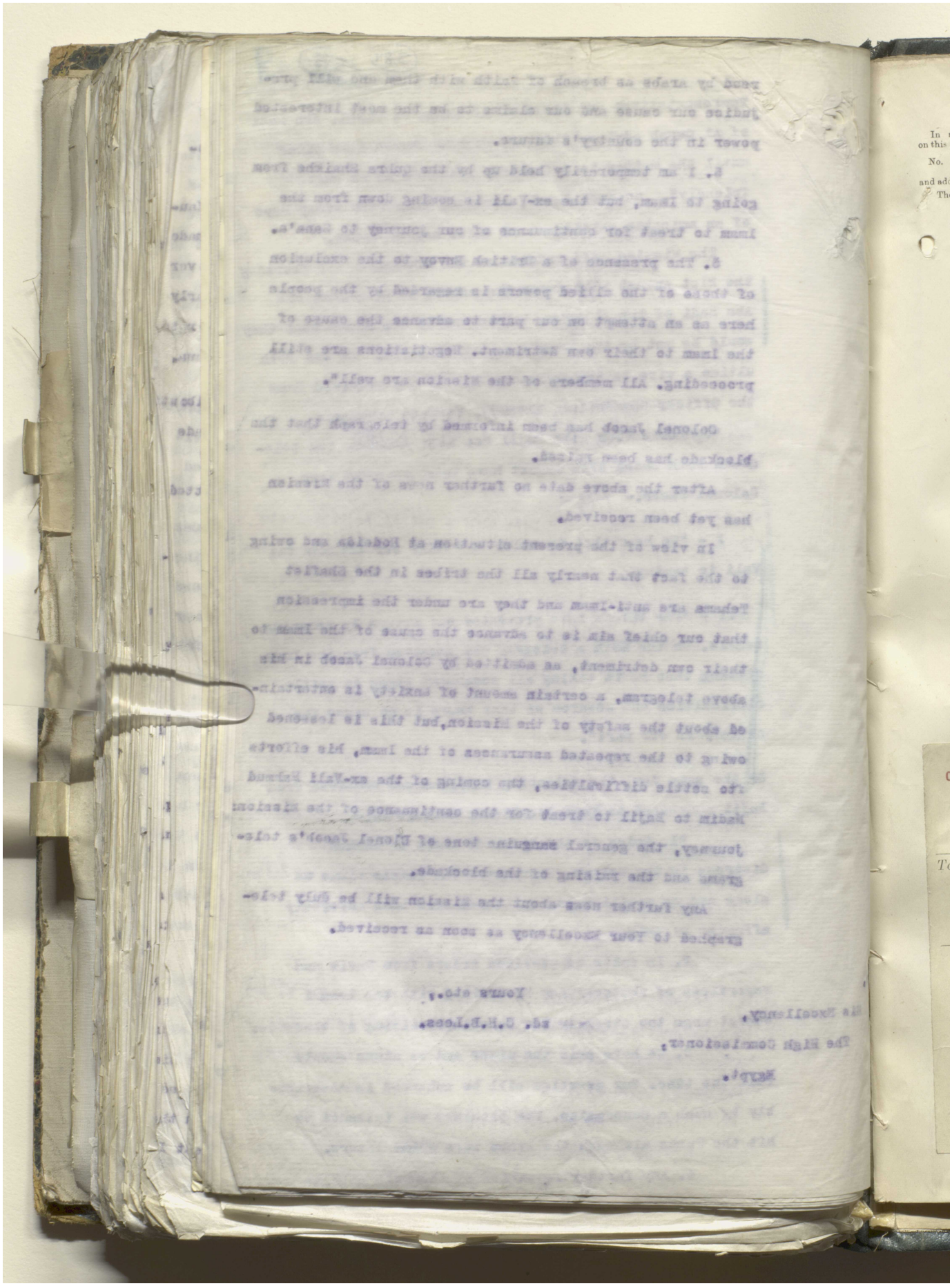

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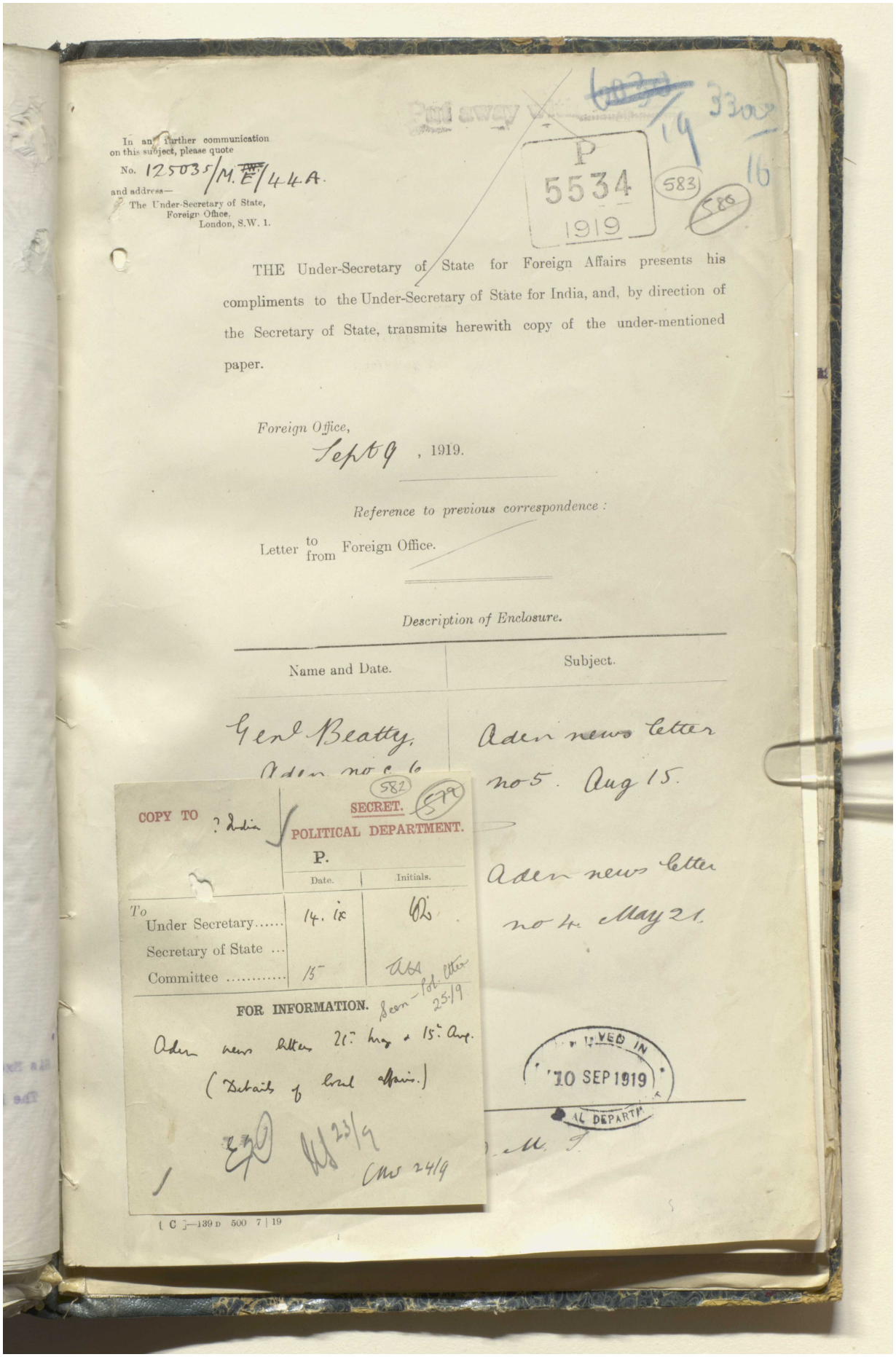

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The Under-Secretary of State,
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London, S.W. 1.

P 5534 1919

583

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Sept 9, 1919.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to / from Foreign Office.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Genl Beatty, Aden no 6	Aden news letter no 5. Aug 15.
	Aden news letter no 4. May 21.

COPY TO ? India

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SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	14. IX	WS
Secretary of State ...		
Committee	15	Ltr Pol Office 25/9

FOR INFORMATION. Seen

Aden news letter 21st May & 15th Aug.
(Details of local affairs.)

WS 23/9
CMW 24/9

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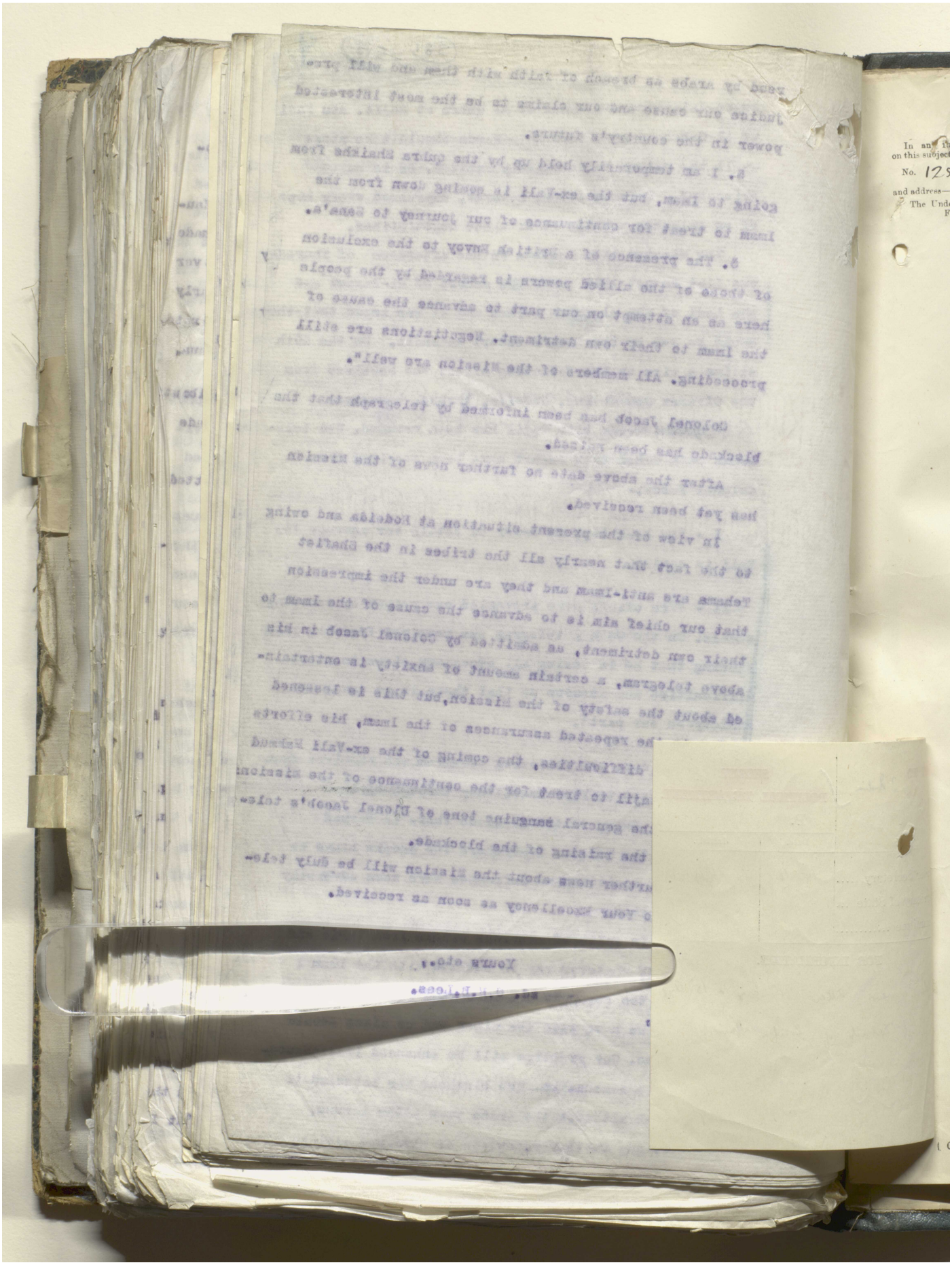

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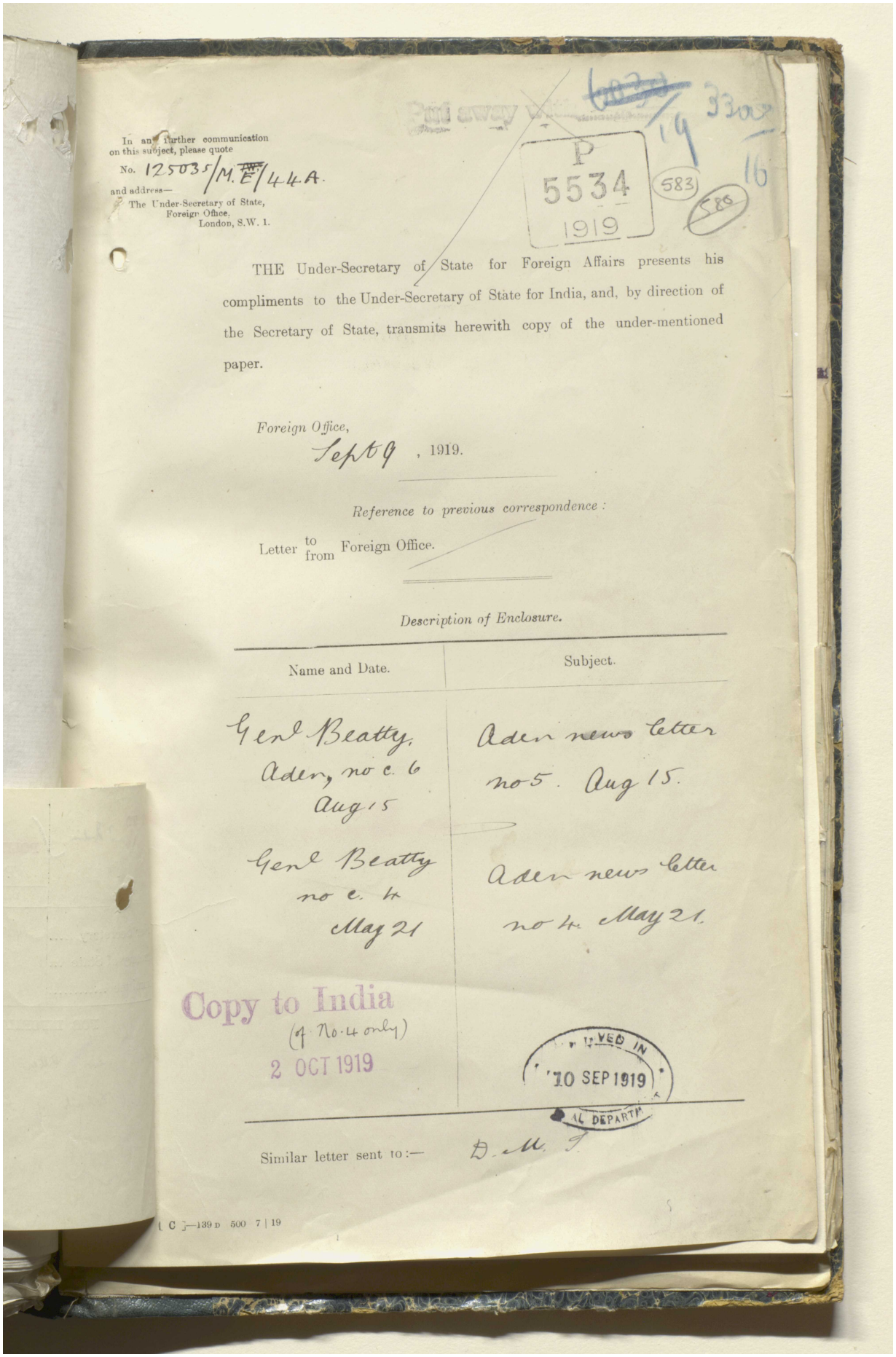

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Name and Date.	Subject.
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Genl Beatty no c. 4 May 21	Aden news letter no 4. May 21.

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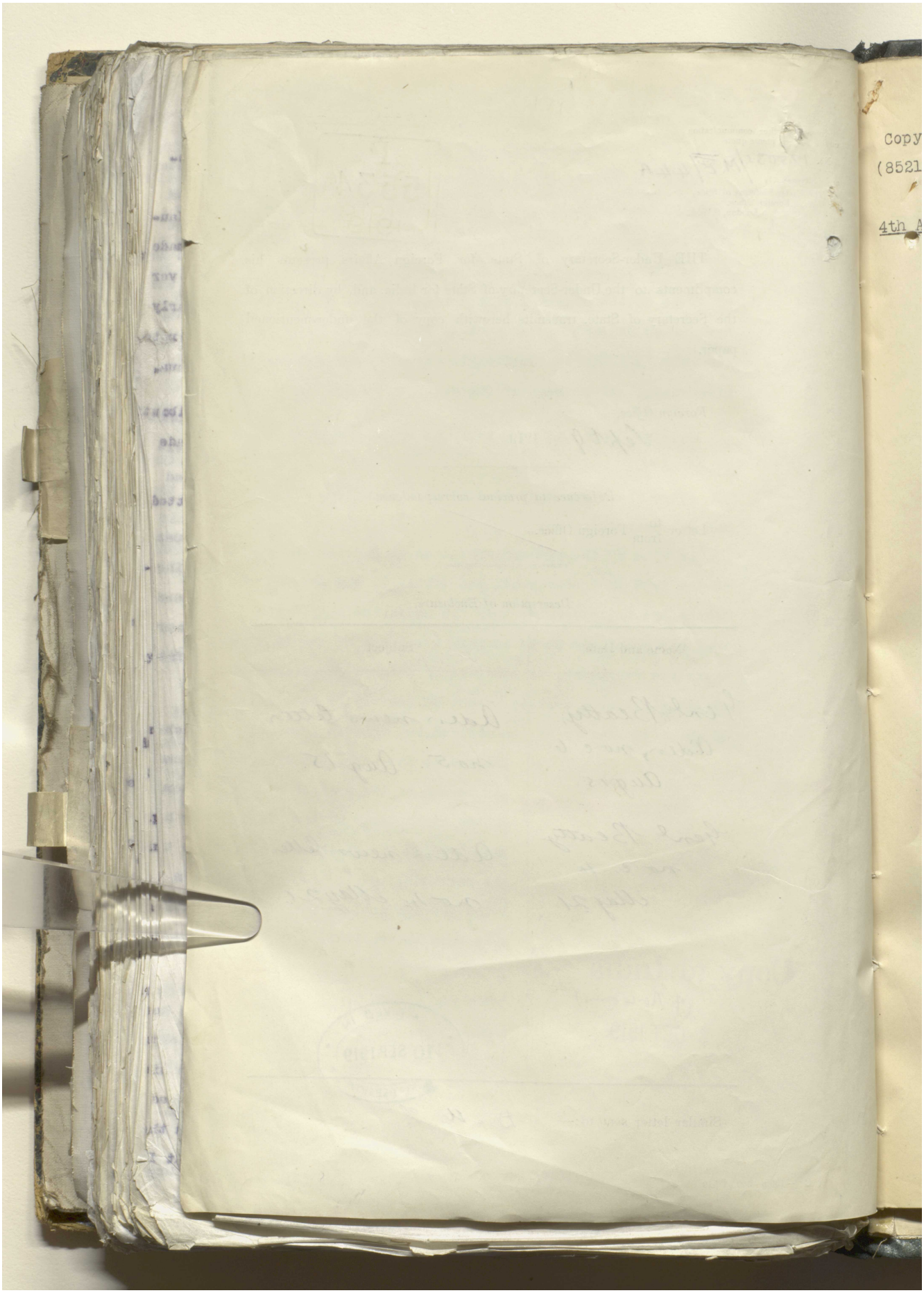

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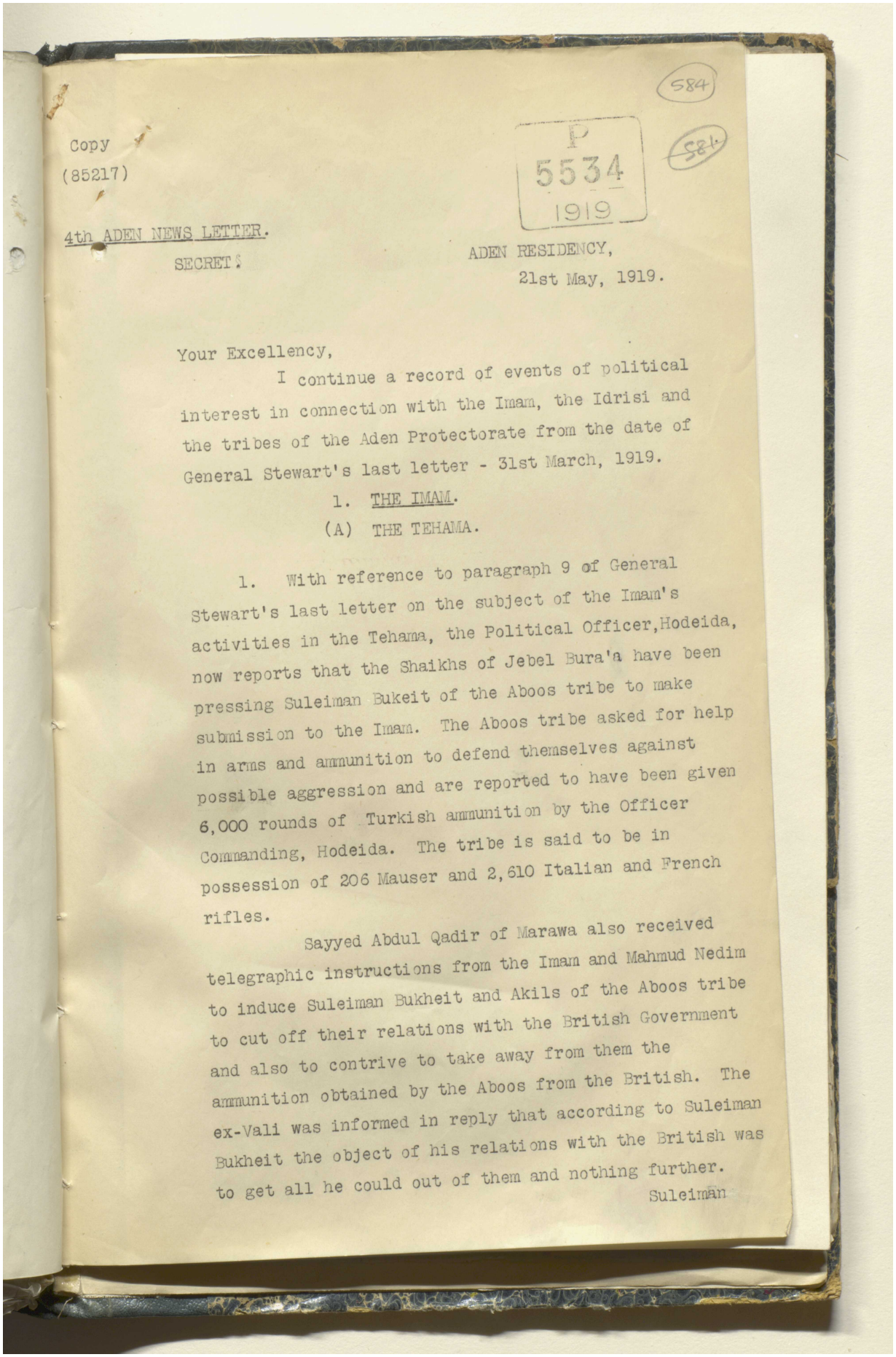

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4th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
21st May, 1919.

Your Excellency,

I continue a record of events of political interest in connection with the Imam, the Idrisi and the tribes of the Aden Protectorate from the date of General Stewart's last letter - 31st March, 1919.

1. THE IMAM.

(A) THE TEHAMA.

1. With reference to paragraph 9 of General Stewart's last letter on the subject of the Imam's activities in the Tehama, the Political Officer, Hodeida, now reports that the Shaikhs of Jebel Bura'a have been pressing Suleiman Bukeit of the Aboos tribe to make submission to the Imam. The Aboos tribe asked for help in arms and ammunition to defend themselves against possible aggression and are reported to have been given 6,000 rounds of Turkish ammunition by the Officer Commanding, Hodeida. The tribe is said to be in possession of 206 Mauser and 2,610 Italian and French rifles.

Sayyed Abdul Qadir of Marawa also received telegraphic instructions from the Imam and Mahmud Nedim to induce Suleiman Bukheit and Akils of the Aboos tribe to cut off their relations with the British Government and also to contrive to take away from them the ammunition obtained by the Aboos from the British. The ex-Vali was informed in reply that according to Suleiman Bukheit the object of his relations with the British was to get all he could out of them and nothing further.

Suleiman

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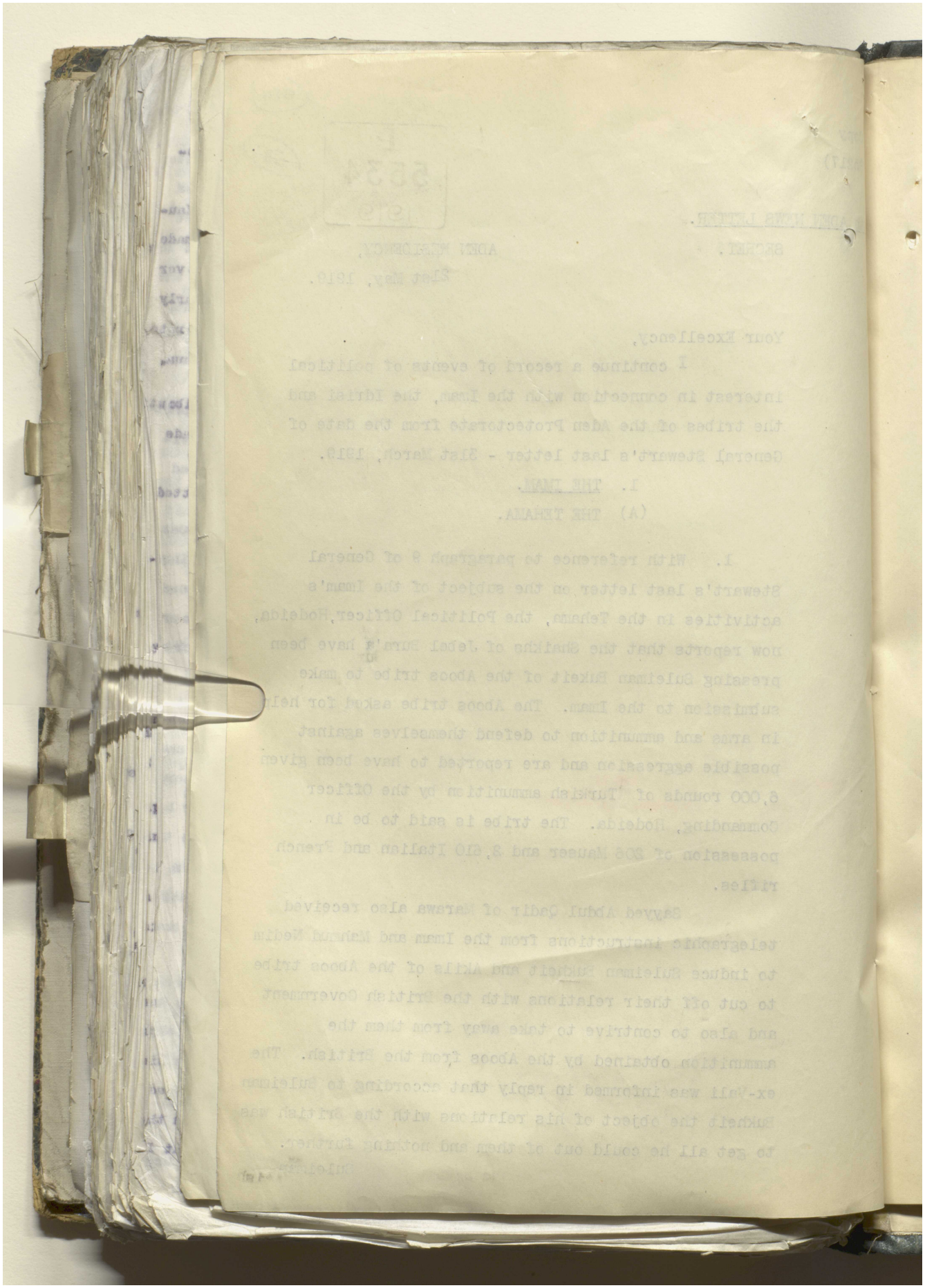

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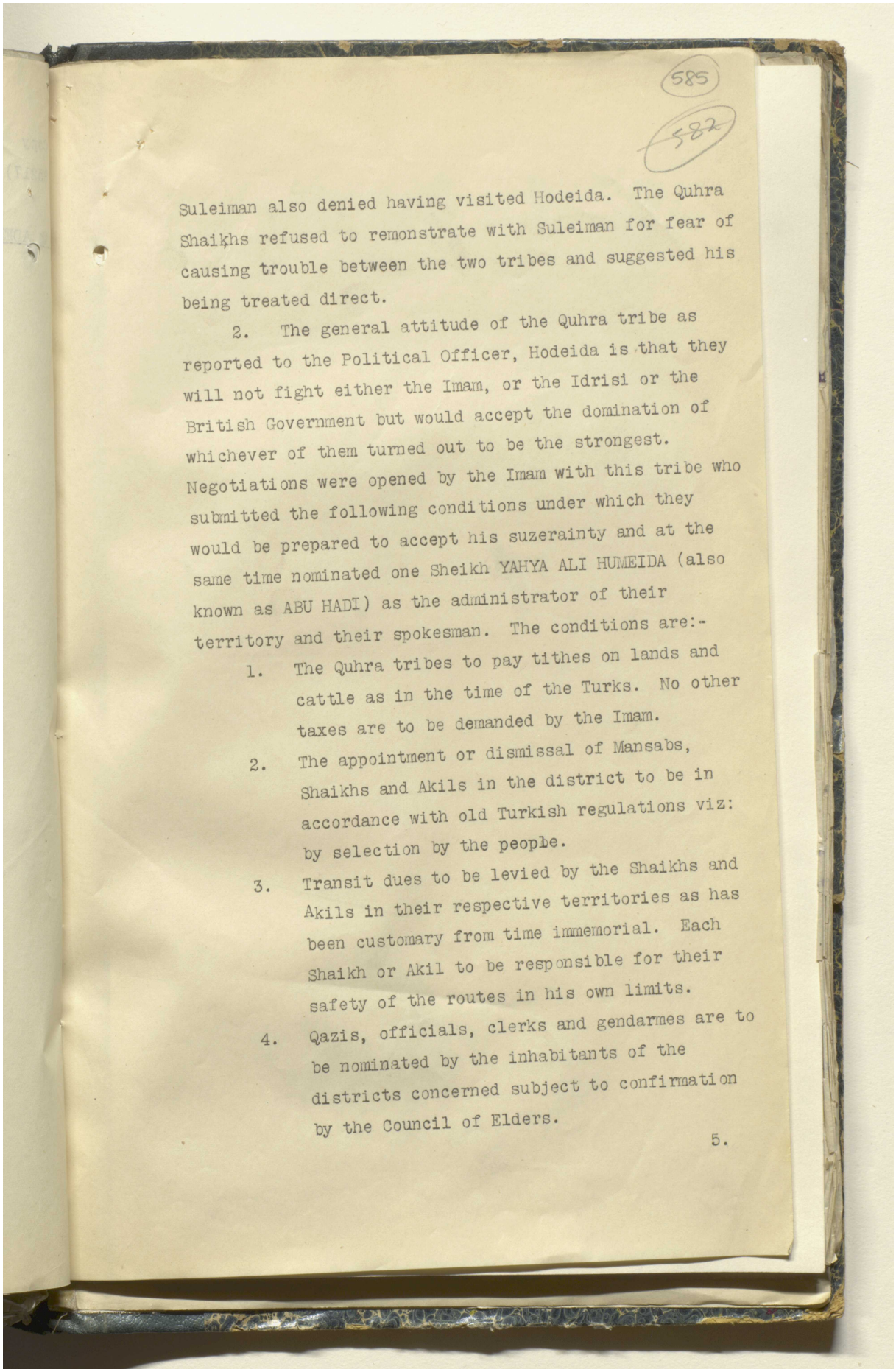

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Suleiman also denied having visited Hodeida. The Quhra Shaikhs refused to remonstrate with Suleiman for fear of causing trouble between the two tribes and suggested his being treated direct.

2. The general attitude of the Quhra tribe as reported to the Political Officer, Hodeida is that they will not fight either the Imam, or the Idrisi or the British Government but would accept the domination of whichever of them turned out to be the strongest. Negotiations were opened by the Imam with this tribe who submitted the following conditions under which they would be prepared to accept his suzerainty and at the same time nominated one Sheikh YAHYA ALI HUMEIDA (also known as ABU HADI) as the administrator of their territory and their spokesman. The conditions are:-

1. The Quhra tribes to pay tithes on lands and cattle as in the time of the Turks. No other taxes are to be demanded by the Imam.
2. The appointment or dismissal of Mansabs, Shaikhs and Akils in the district to be in accordance with old Turkish regulations viz: by selection by the people.
3. Transit dues to be levied by the Shaikhs and Akils in their respective territories as has been customary from time immemorial. Each Shaikh or Akil to be responsible for their safety of the routes in his own limits.
4. Qazis, officials, clerks and gendarmes are to be nominated by the inhabitants of the districts concerned subject to confirmation by the Council of Elders.

5.

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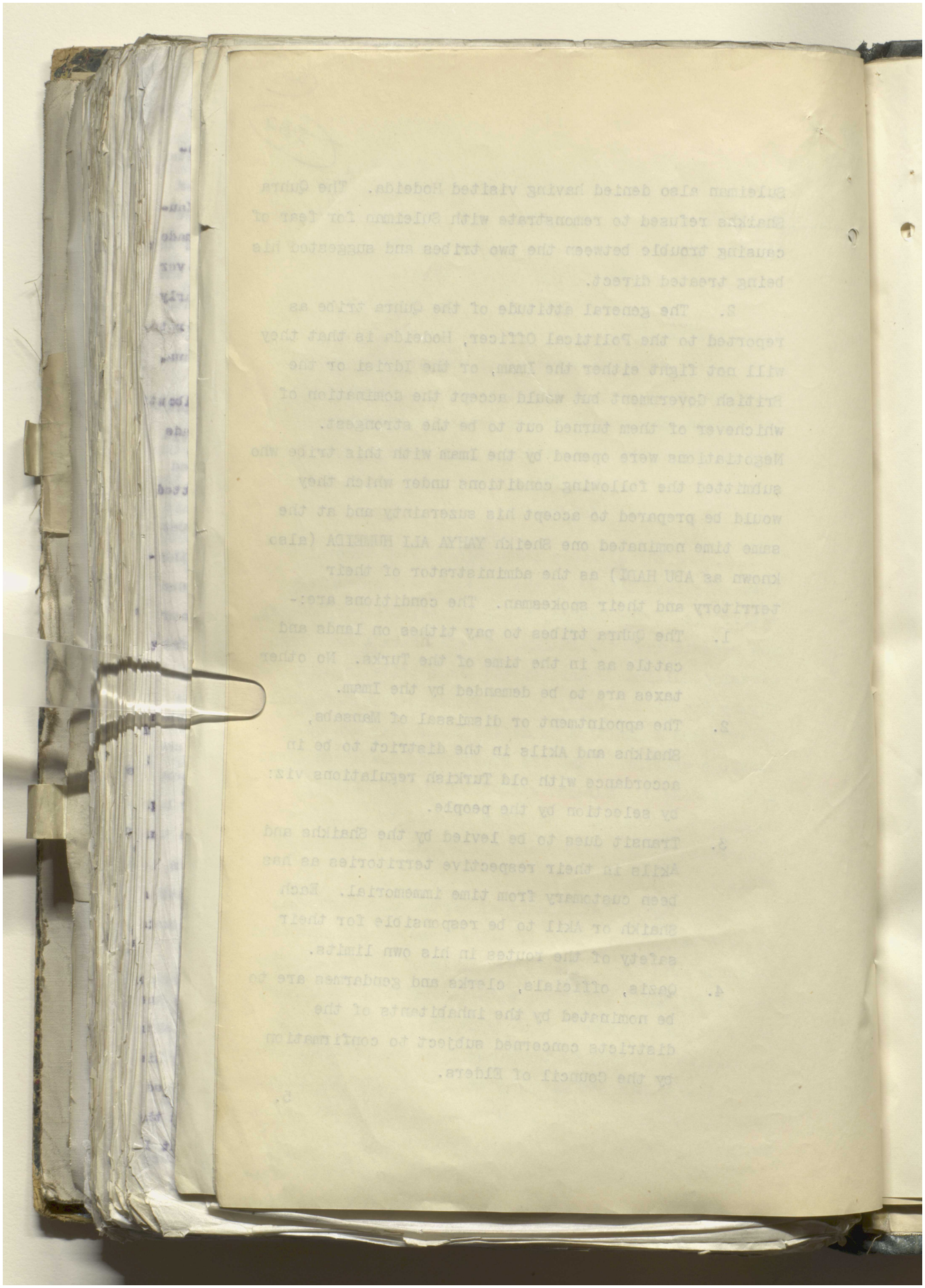

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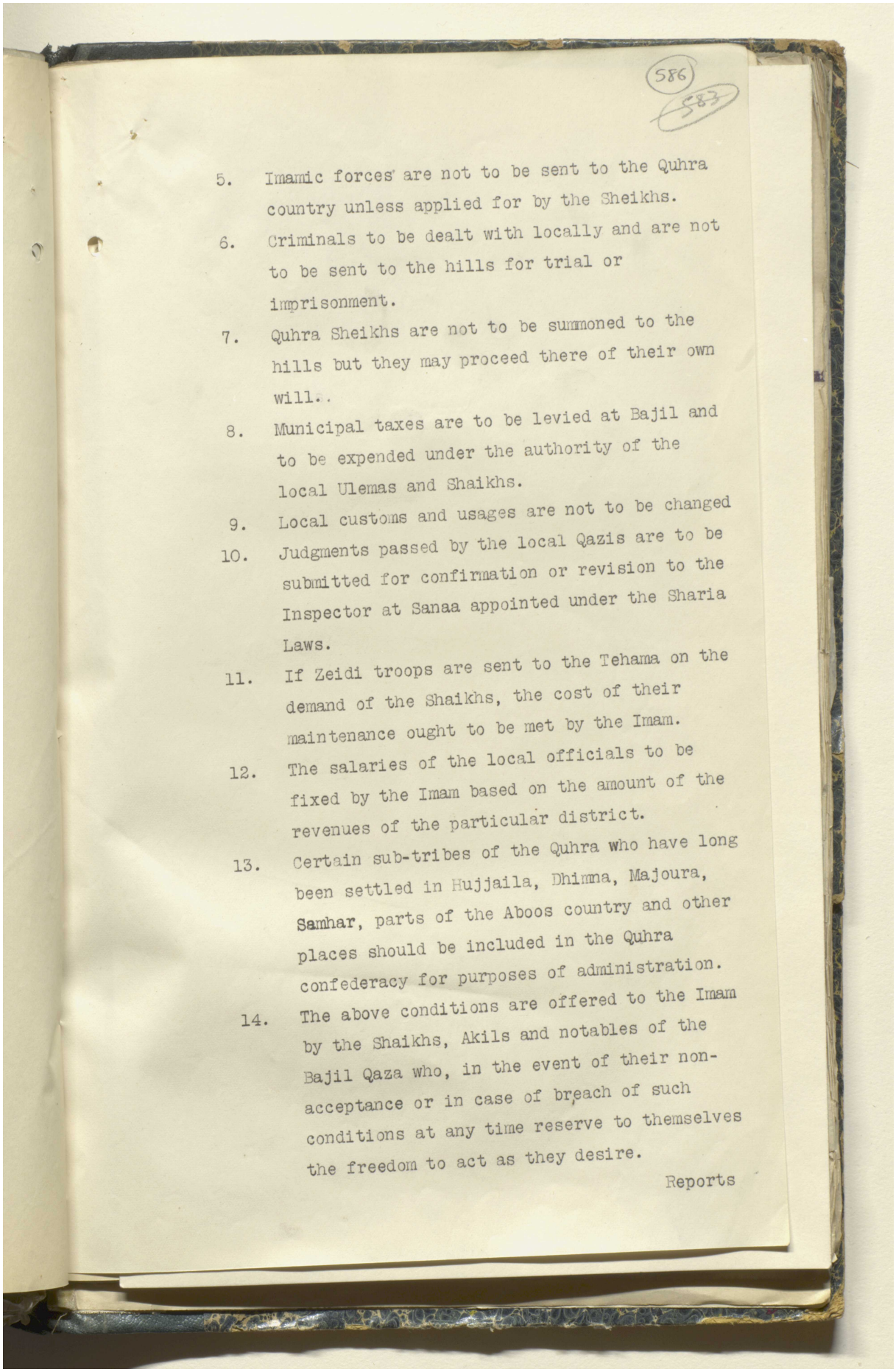

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5. Imamic forces are not to be sent to the Quhra country unless applied for by the Sheikhs.
6. Criminals to be dealt with locally and are not to be sent to the hills for trial or imprisonment.
7. Quhra Sheikhs are not to be summoned to the hills but they may proceed there of their own will..
8. Municipal taxes are to be levied at Bajil and to be expended under the authority of the local Ulemas and Shaikhs.
9. Local customs and usages are not to be changed
10. Judgments passed by the local Qazis are to be submitted for confirmation or revision to the Inspector at Sanaa appointed under the Sharia Laws.
11. If Zeidi troops are sent to the Tehama on the demand of the Shaikhs, the cost of their maintenance ought to be met by the Imam.
12. The salaries of the local officials to be fixed by the Imam based on the amount of the revenues of the particular district.
13. Certain sub-tribes of the Quhra who have long been settled in Hujjaila, Dhimma, Majoura, Samhar, parts of the Aboos country and other places should be included in the Quhra confederacy for purposes of administration.
14. The above conditions are offered to the Imam by the Shaikhs, Akils and notables of the Bajil Qaza who, in the event of their non-acceptance or in case of breach of such conditions at any time reserve to themselves the freedom to act as they desire.

Reports

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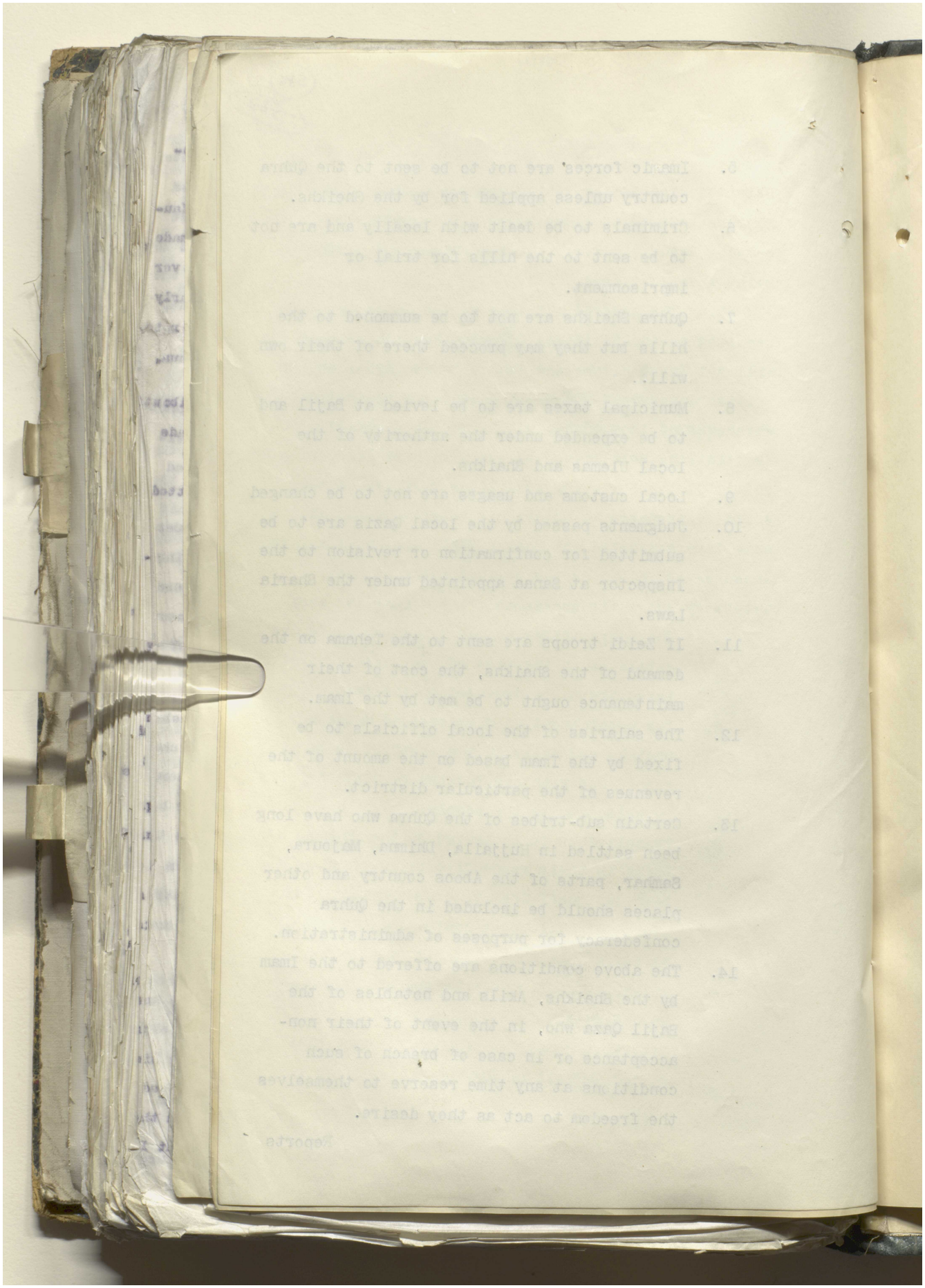

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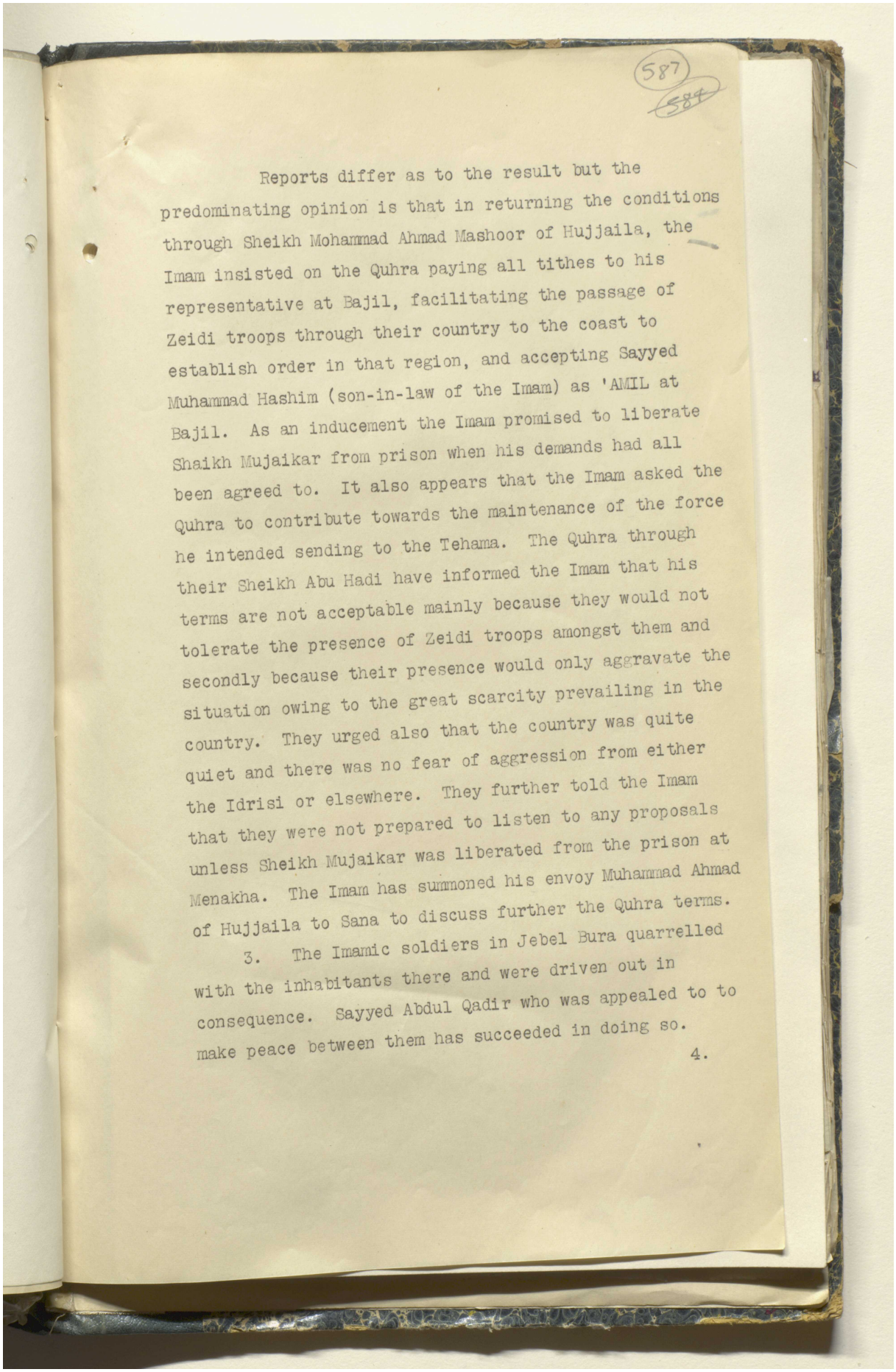

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Reports differ as to the result but the predominating opinion is that in returning the conditions through Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Mashoor of Hujjaila, the Imam insisted on the Quhra paying all tithes to his representative at Bajil, facilitating the passage of Zeidi troops through their country to the coast to establish order in that region, and accepting Sayyed Muhammad Hashim (son-in-law of the Imam) as 'AMIL at Bajil. As an inducement the Imam promised to liberate Shaikh Mujaikar from prison when his demands had all been agreed to. It also appears that the Imam asked the Quhra to contribute towards the maintenance of the force he intended sending to the Tehama. The Quhra through their Sheikh Abu Hadi have informed the Imam that his terms are not acceptable mainly because they would not tolerate the presence of Zeidi troops amongst them and secondly because their presence would only aggravate the situation owing to the great scarcity prevailing in the country. They urged also that the country was quite quiet and there was no fear of aggression from either the Idrisi or elsewhere. They further told the Imam that they were not prepared to listen to any proposals unless Sheikh Mujaikar was liberated from the prison at Menakha. The Imam has summoned his envoy Muhammad Ahmad of Hujjaila to Sana to discuss further the Quhra terms.

3. The Imamic soldiers in Jebel Bura quarrelled with the inhabitants there and were driven out in consequence. Sayyed Abdul Qadir who was appealed to to make peace between them has succeeded in doing so.

4.

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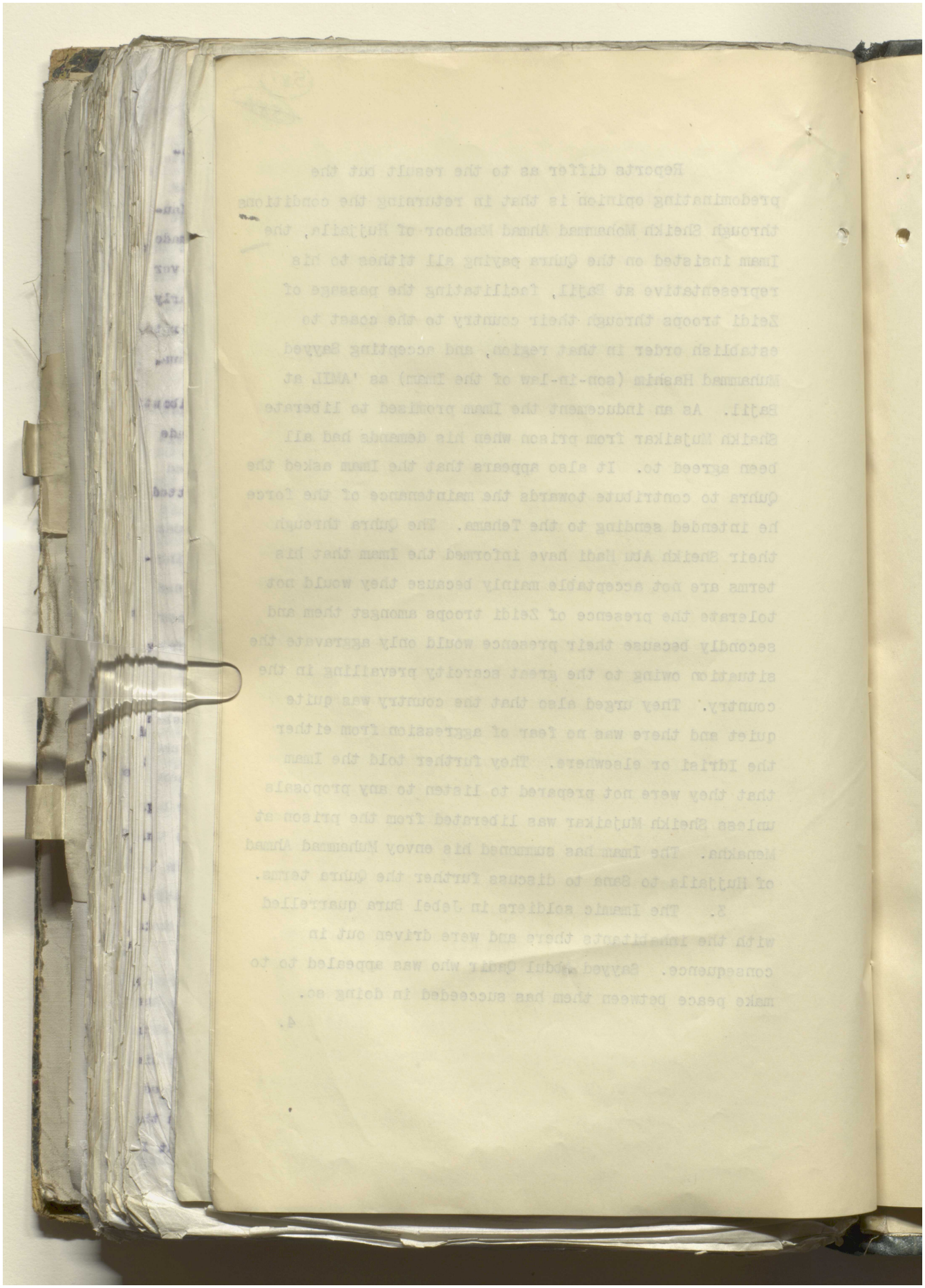

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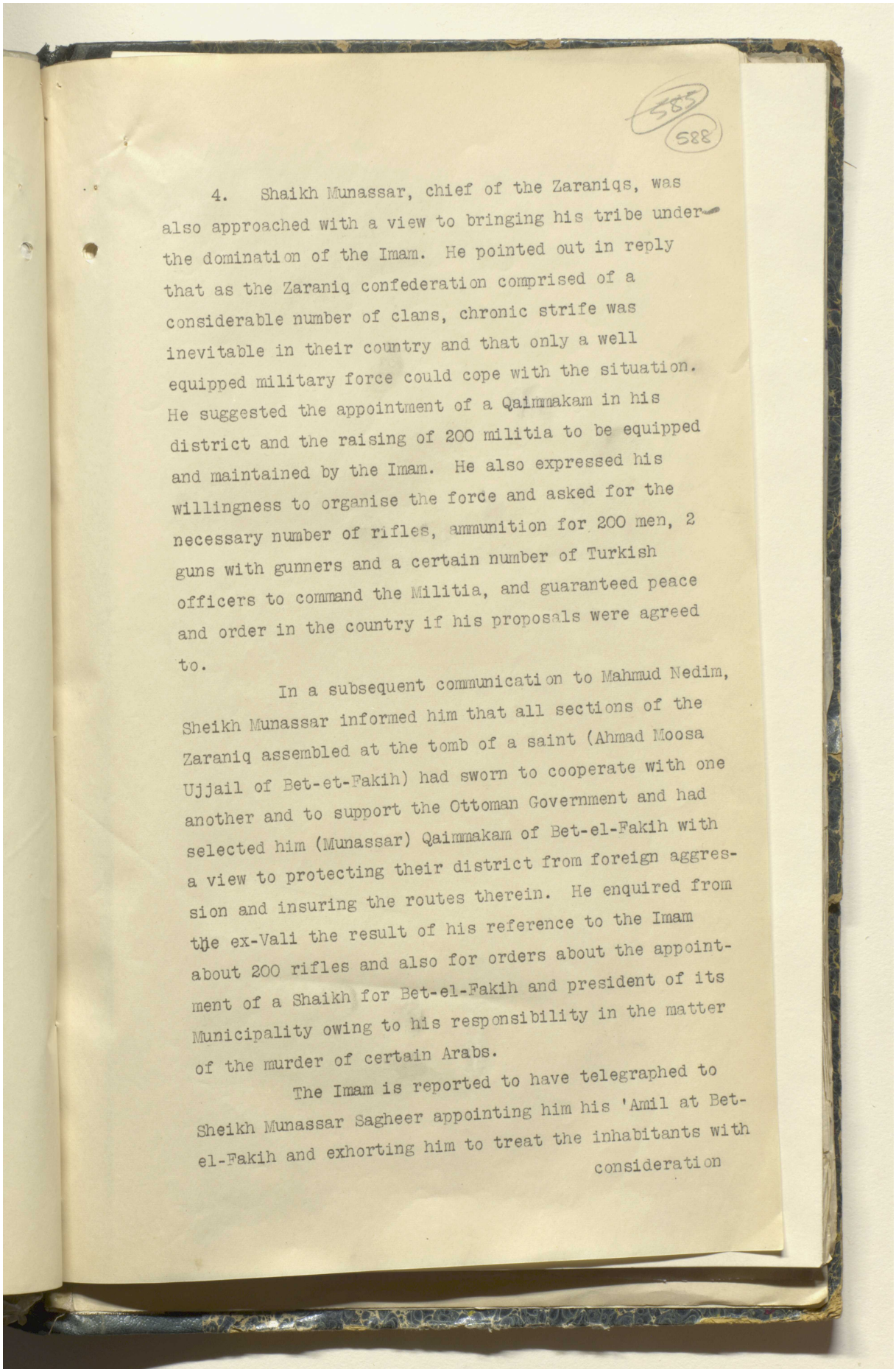

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4. Shaikh Munassar, chief of the Zaraniqs, was also approached with a view to bringing his tribe under the domination of the Imam. He pointed out in reply that as the Zaraniq confederation comprised of a considerable number of clans, chronic strife was inevitable in their country and that only a well equipped military force could cope with the situation. He suggested the appointment of a Qaimmakam in his district and the raising of 200 militia to be equipped and maintained by the Imam. He also expressed his willingness to organise the force and asked for the necessary number of rifles, ammunition for 200 men, 2 guns with gunners and a certain number of Turkish officers to command the Militia, and guaranteed peace and order in the country if his proposals were agreed to.

In a subsequent communication to Mahmud Nedim, Sheikh Munassar informed him that all sections of the Zaraniq assembled at the tomb of a saint (Ahmad Moosa Ujjail of Bet-et-Fakih) had sworn to cooperate with one another and to support the Ottoman Government and had selected him (Munassar) Qaimmakam of Bet-el-Fakih with a view to protecting their district from foreign aggression and insuring the routes therein. He enquired from the ex-Vali the result of his reference to the Imam about 200 rifles and also for orders about the appointment of a Shaikh for Bet-el-Fakih and president of its Municipality owing to his responsibility in the matter of the murder of certain Arabs.

The Imam is reported to have telegraphed to Sheikh Munassar Sagheer appointing him his 'Amil at Bet-el-Fakih and exhorting him to treat the inhabitants with consideration

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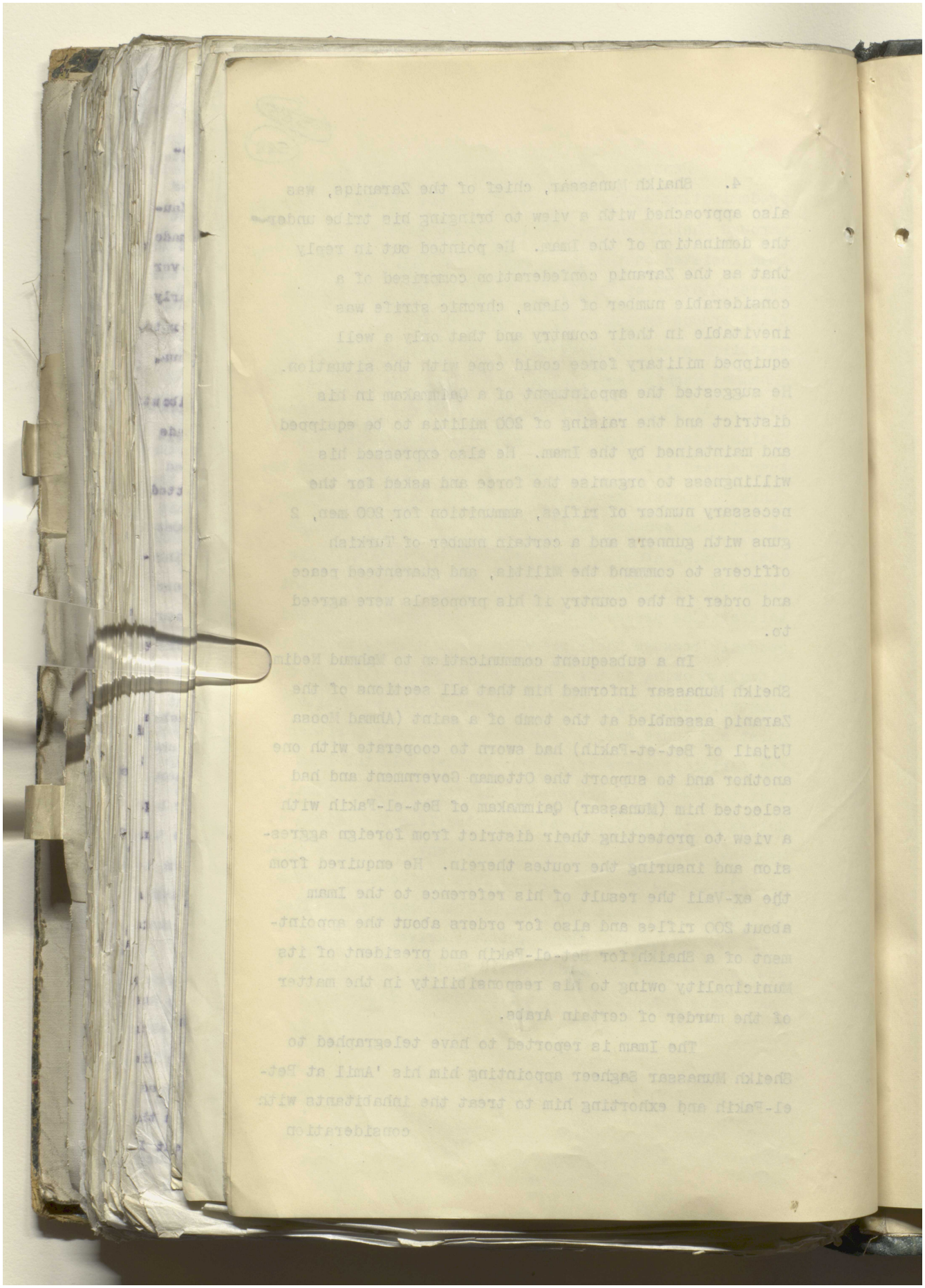

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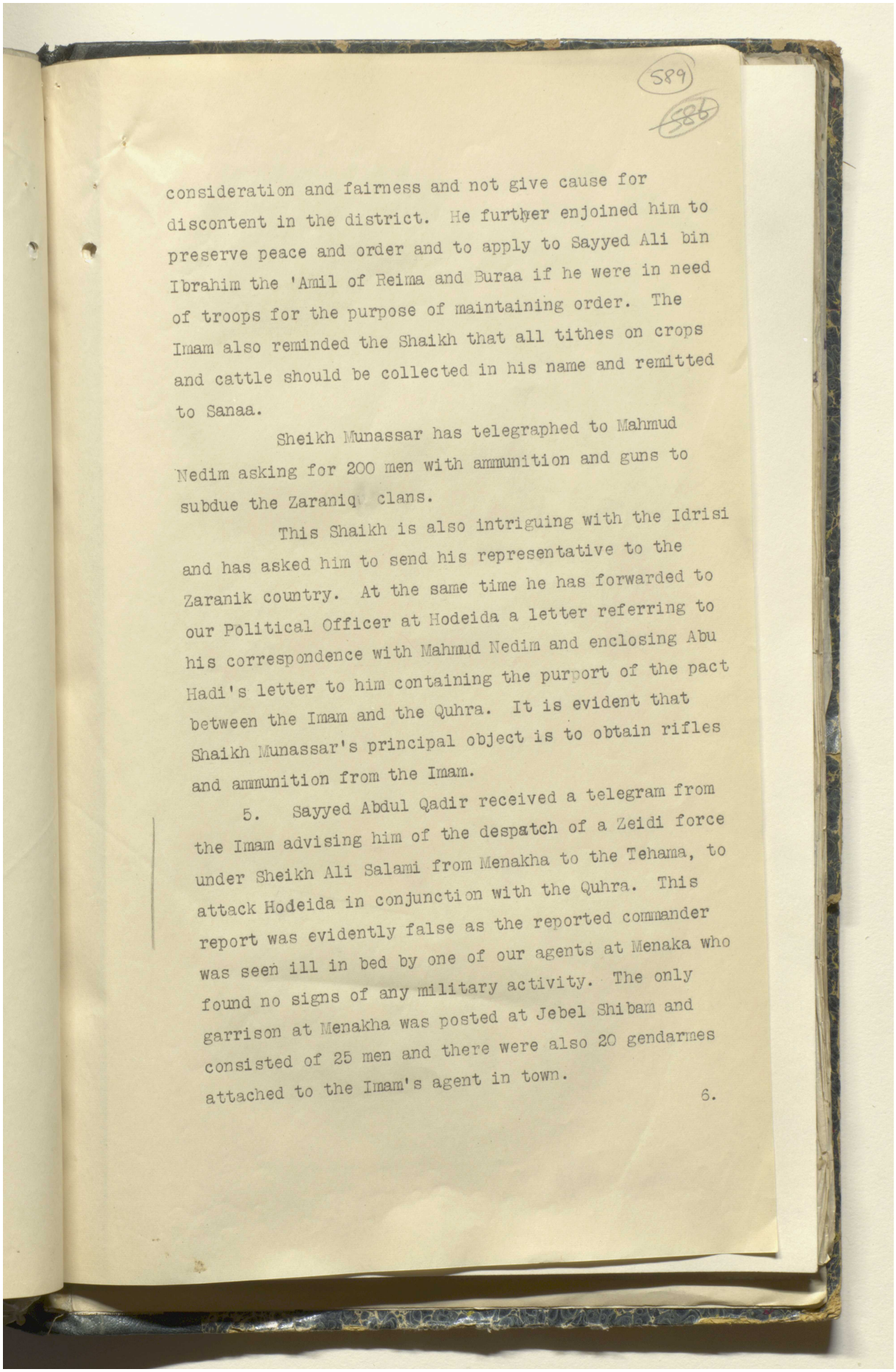

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consideration and fairness and not give cause for discontent in the district. He further enjoined him to preserve peace and order and to apply to Sayyed Ali bin Ibrahim the 'Amil of Reima and Buraa if he were in need of troops for the purpose of maintaining order. The Imam also reminded the Shaikh that all tithes on crops and cattle should be collected in his name and remitted to Sanaa.

Sheikh Munassar has telegraphed to Mahmud Nedim asking for 200 men with ammunition and guns to subdue the Zaraniq clans.

This Shaikh is also intriguing with the Idrisi and has asked him to send his representative to the Zaranik country. At the same time he has forwarded to our Political Officer at Hodeida a letter referring to his correspondence with Mahmud Nedim and enclosing Abu Hadi's letter to him containing the purport of the pact between the Imam and the Quhra. It is evident that Shaikh Munassar's principal object is to obtain rifles and ammunition from the Imam.

5. Sayyed Abdul Qadir received a telegram from the Imam advising him of the despatch of a Zeidi force under Sheikh Ali Salami from Menakha to the Tehama, to attack Hodeida in conjunction with the Quhra. This report was evidently false as the reported commander was seen ill in bed by one of our agents at Menaka who found no signs of any military activity. The only garrison at Menakha was posted at Jebel Shibam and consisted of 25 men and there were also 20 gendarmes attached to the Imam's agent in town.

6.

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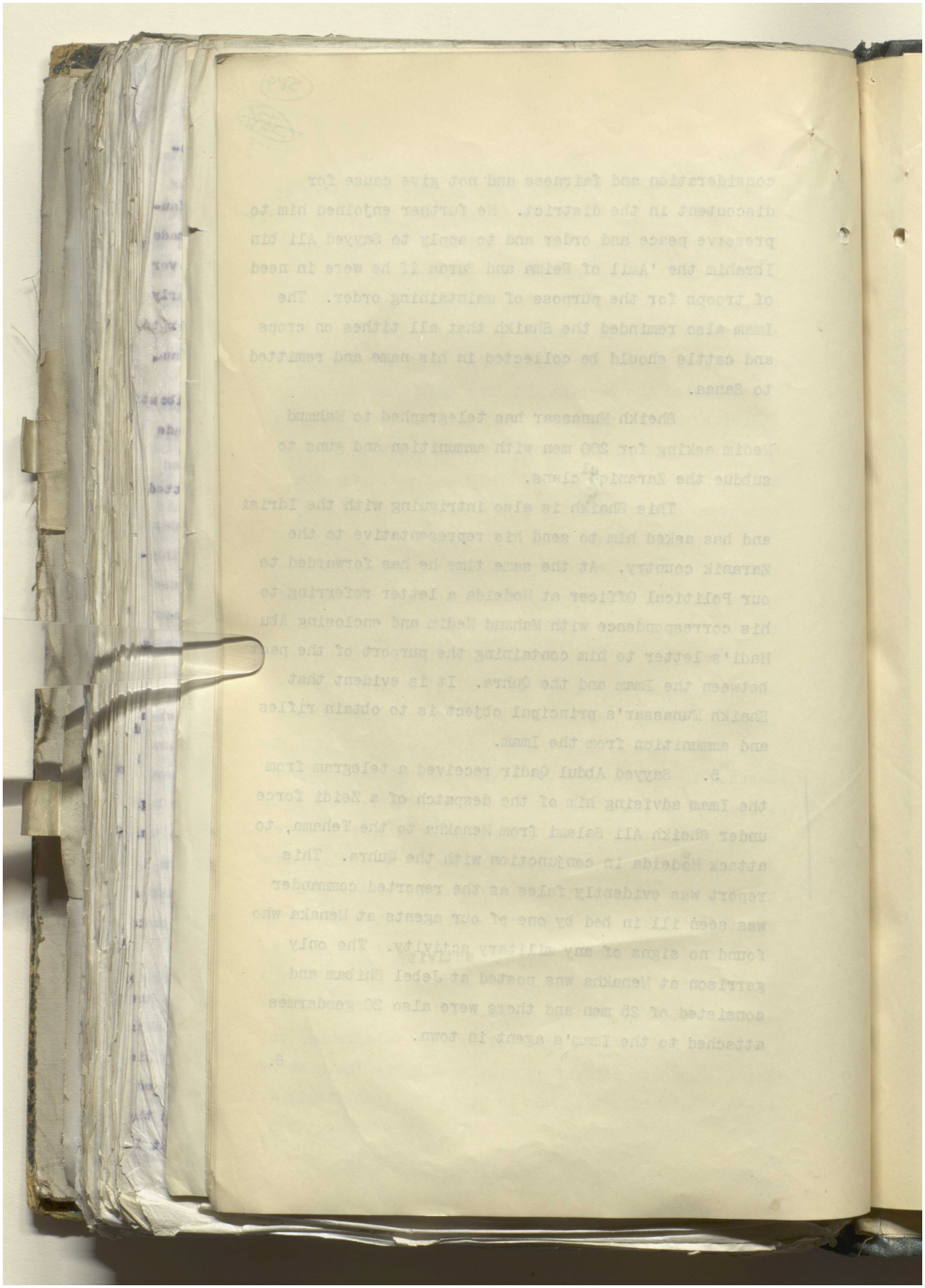

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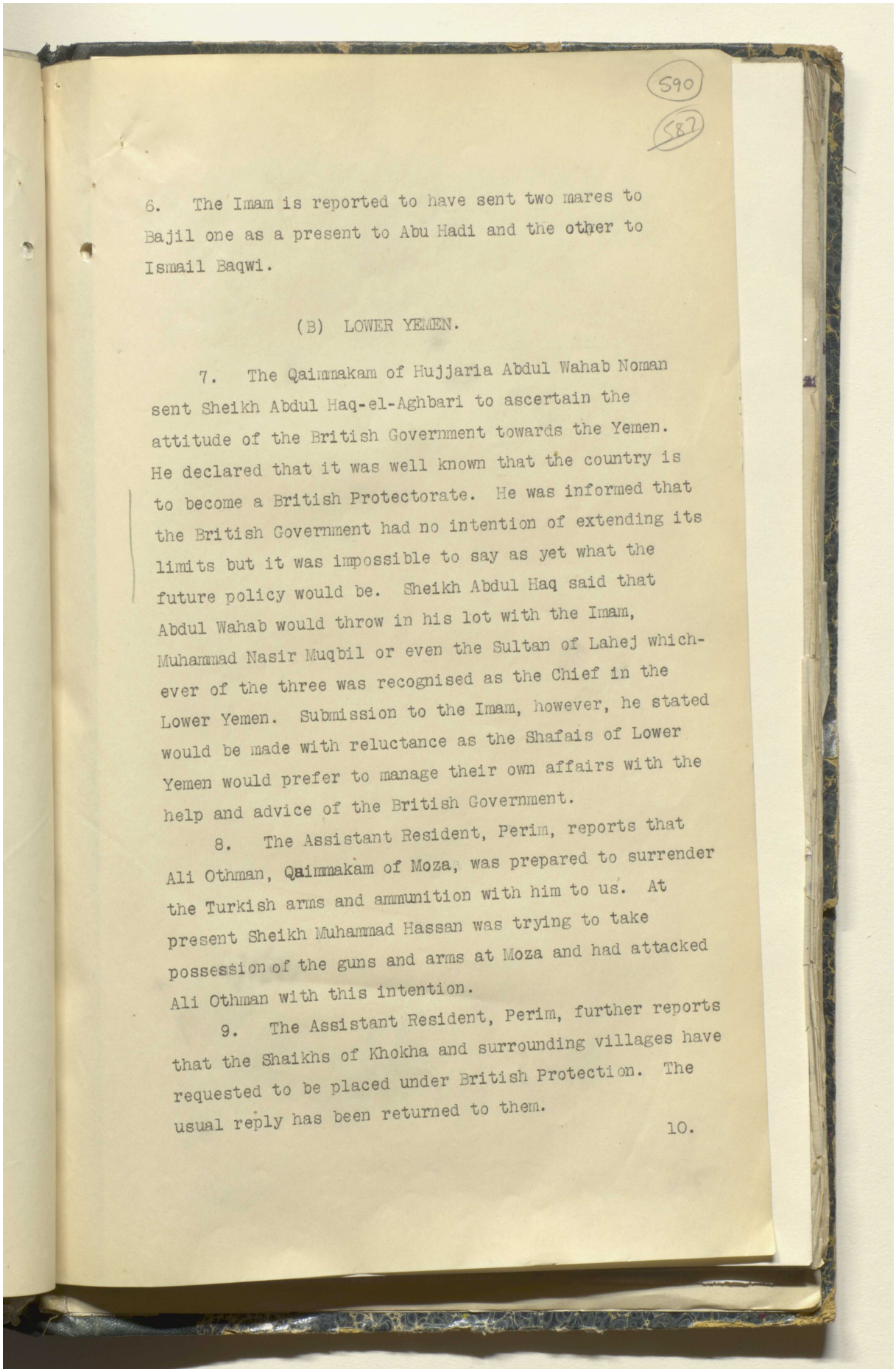

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6. The Imam is reported to have sent two mares to Bajil one as a present to Abu Hadi and the other to Ismail Baqwi.

(B) LOWER YEMEN.

7. The Qaimmakam of Hujjaria Abdul Wahab Noman sent Sheikh Abdul Haq-el-Aghbari to ascertain the attitude of the British Government towards the Yemen. He declared that it was well known that the country is to become a British Protectorate. He was informed that the British Government had no intention of extending its limits but it was impossible to say as yet what the future policy would be. Sheikh Abdul Haq said that Abdul Wahab would throw in his lot with the Imam, Muhammad Nasir Muqbil or even the Sultan of Lahej whichever of the three was recognised as the Chief in the Lower Yemen. Submission to the Imam, however, he stated would be made with reluctance as the Shafais of Lower Yemen would prefer to manage their own affairs with the help and advice of the British Government.

8. The Assistant Resident, Perim, reports that Ali Othman, Qaimmakam of Moza, was prepared to surrender the Turkish arms and ammunition with him to us. At present Sheikh Muhammad Hassan was trying to take possession of the guns and arms at Moza and had attacked Ali Othman with this intention.

9. The Assistant Resident, Perim, further reports that the Shaikhs of Khokha and surrounding villages have requested to be placed under British Protection. The usual reply has been returned to them.

10.

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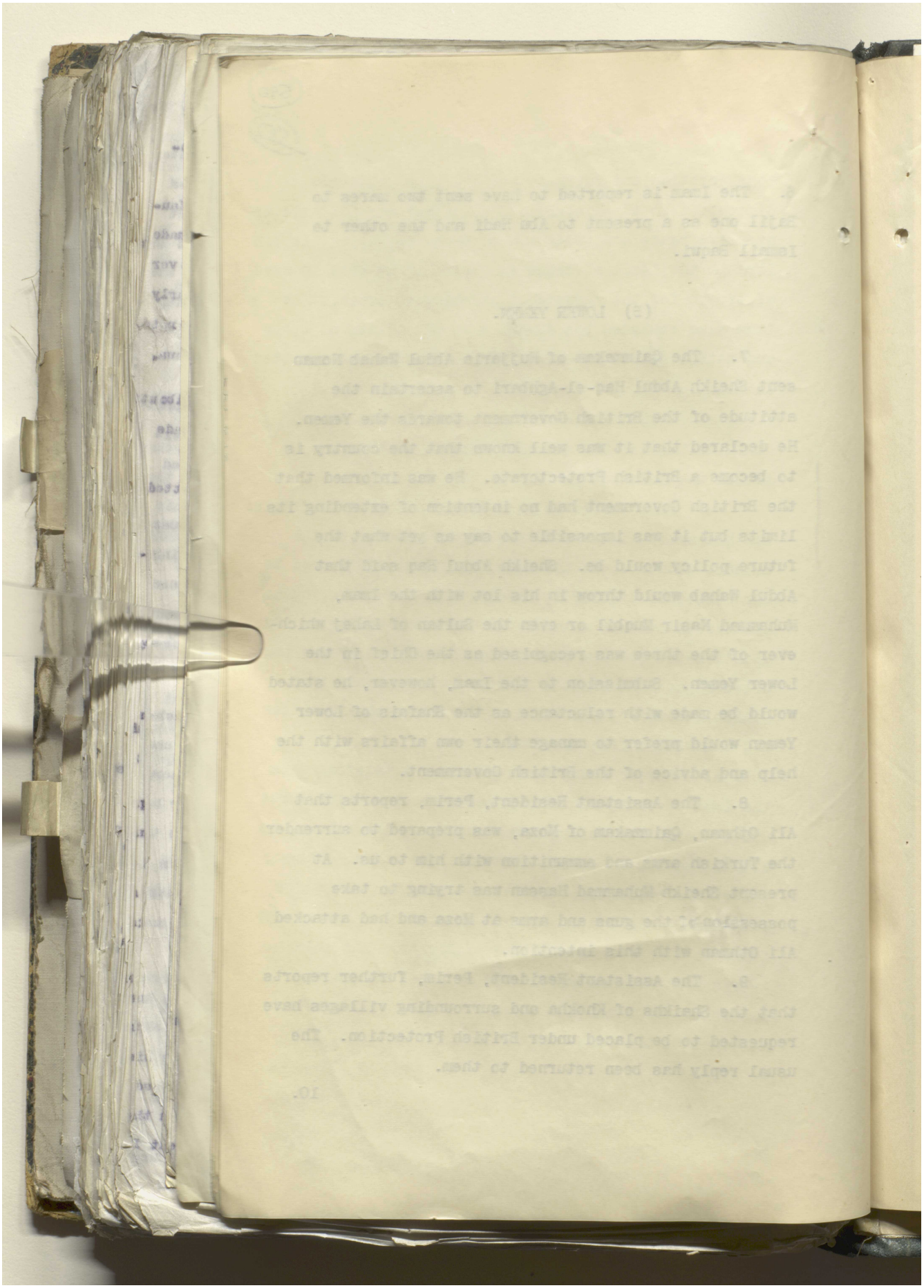

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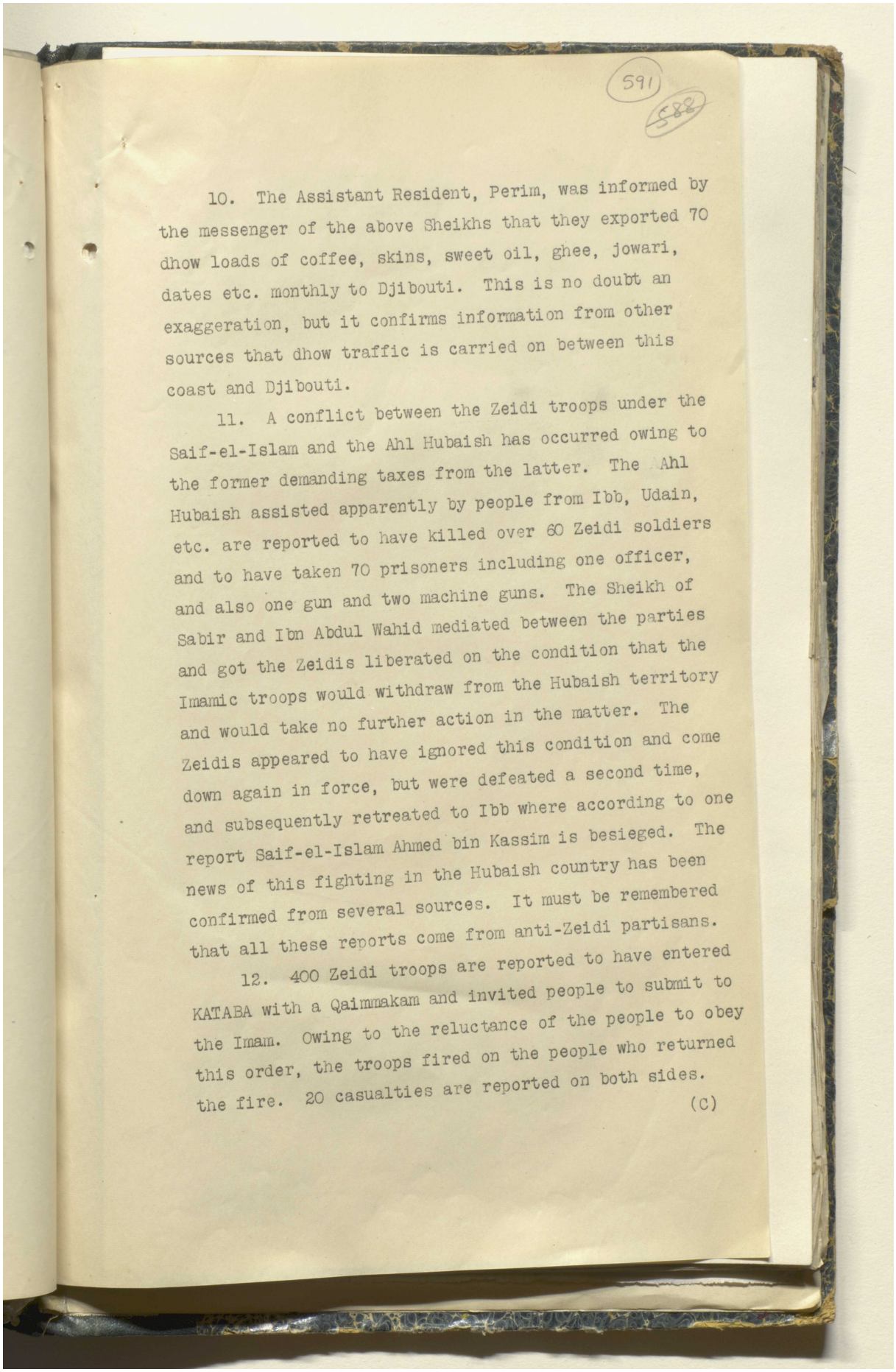

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10. The Assistant Resident, Perim, was informed by the messenger of the above Sheikhs that they exported 70 dhow loads of coffee, skins, sweet oil, ghee, jowari, dates etc. monthly to Djibouti. This is no doubt an exaggeration, but it confirms information from other sources that dhow traffic is carried on between this coast and Djibouti.

11. A conflict between the Zeidi troops under the Saif-el-Islam and the Ahl Hubaish has occurred owing to the former demanding taxes from the latter. The Ahl Hubaish assisted apparently by people from Ibb, Udain, etc. are reported to have killed over 60 Zeidi soldiers and to have taken 70 prisoners including one officer, and also one gun and two machine guns. The Sheikh of Sabir and Ibn Abdul Wahid mediated between the parties and got the Zeidis liberated on the condition that the Imamic troops would withdraw from the Hubaish territory and would take no further action in the matter. The Zeidis appeared to have ignored this condition and come down again in force, but were defeated a second time, and subsequently retreated to Ibb where according to one report Saif-el-Islam Ahmed bin Kassim is besieged. The news of this fighting in the Hubaish country has been confirmed from several sources. It must be remembered that all these reports come from anti-Zeidi partisans.

12. 400 Zeidi troops are reported to have entered KATABA with a Qaimmakam and invited people to submit to the Imam. Owing to the reluctance of the people to obey this order, the troops fired on the people who returned the fire. 20 casualties are reported on both sides.

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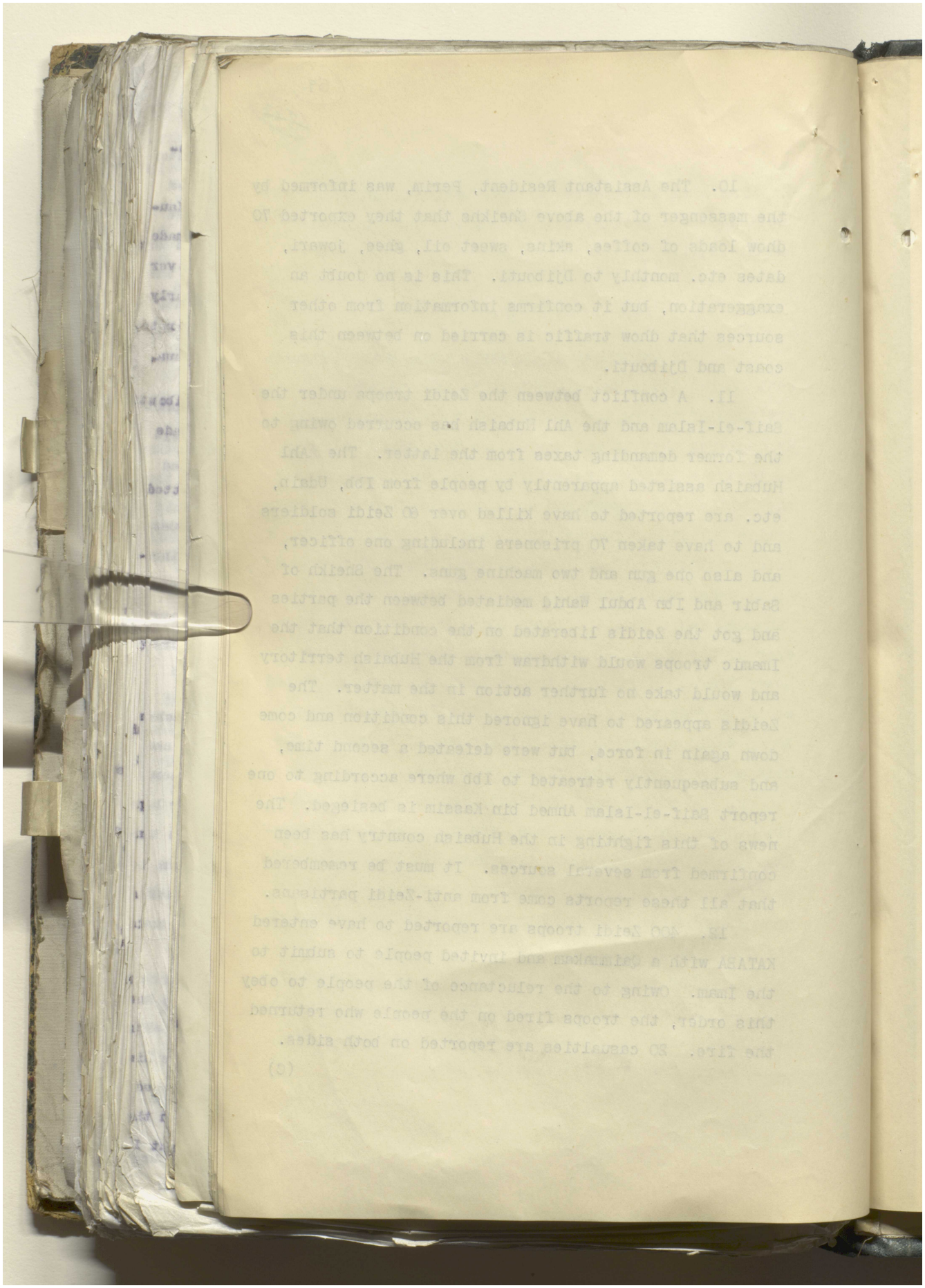

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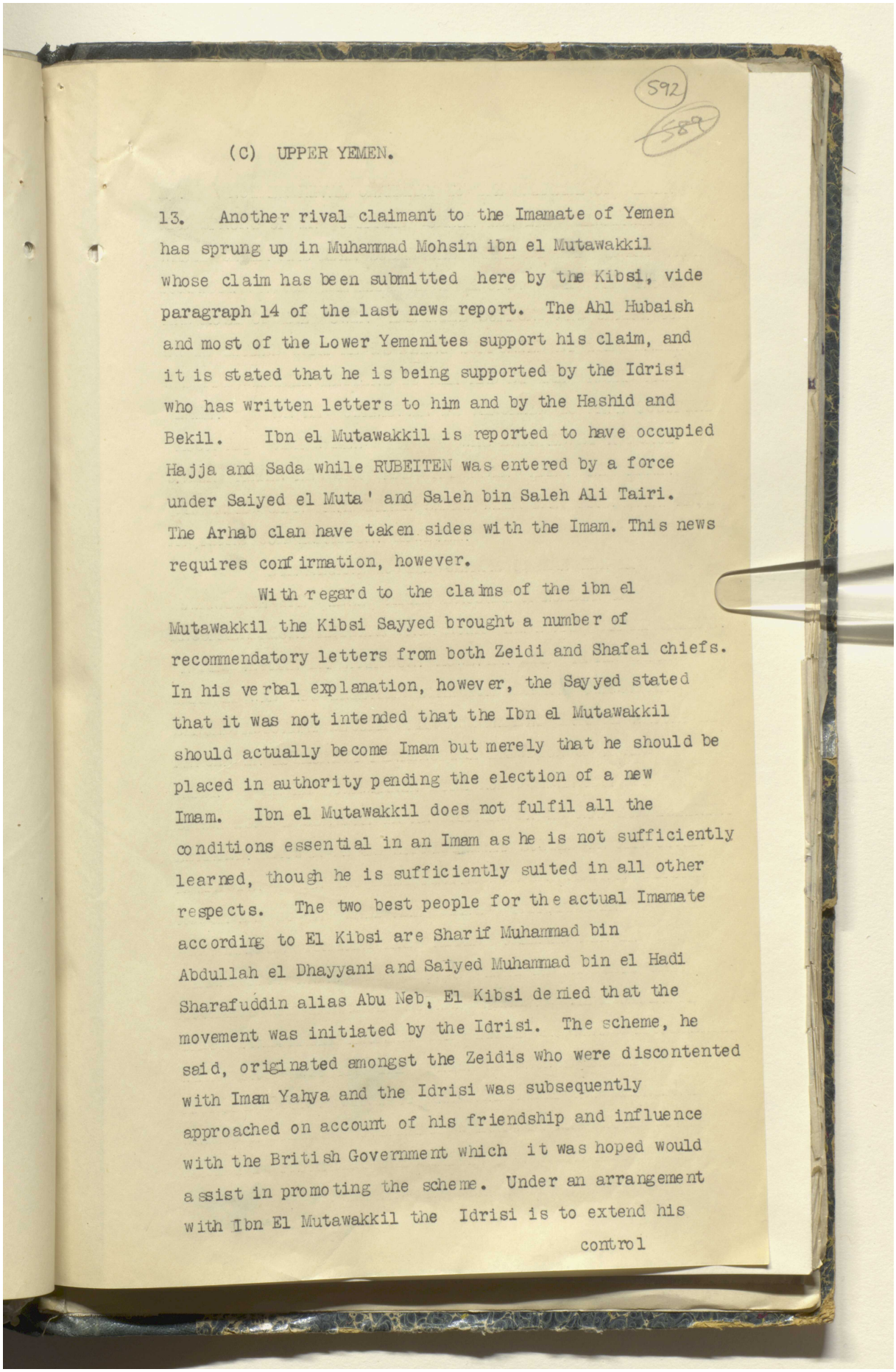

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(C) UPPER YEMEN.

13. Another rival claimant to the Imamate of Yemen has sprung up in Muhammad Mohsin ibn el Mutawakkil whose claim has been submitted here by the Kibsi, vide paragraph 14 of the last news report. The Ahl Hubaish and most of the Lower Yemenites support his claim, and it is stated that he is being supported by the Idrisi who has written letters to him and by the Hashid and Bekil. Ibn el Mutawakkil is reported to have occupied Hajja and Sada while RUBEITEN was entered by a force under Saiyed el Muta' and Saleh bin Saleh Ali Tairi. The Arhab clan have taken sides with the Imam. This news requires confirmation, however.

With regard to the claims of the ibn el Mutawakkil the Kibsi Sayyed brought a number of recommendatory letters from both Zeidi and Shafai chiefs. In his verbal explanation, however, the Sayyed stated that it was not intended that the Ibn el Mutawakkil should actually become Imam but merely that he should be placed in authority pending the election of a new Imam. Ibn el Mutawakkil does not fulfil all the conditions essential in an Imam as he is not sufficiently learned, though he is sufficiently suited in all other respects. The two best people for the actual Imamate according to El Kibsi are Sharif Muhammad bin Abdullah el Dhayyani and Saiyed Muhammad bin el Hadi Sharafuddin alias Abu Neb, El Kibsi denied that the movement was initiated by the Idrisi. The scheme, he said, originated amongst the Zeidis who were discontented with Imam Yahya and the Idrisi was subsequently approached on account of his friendship and influence with the British Government which it was hoped would assist in promoting the scheme. Under an arrangement with Ibn El Mutawakkil the Idrisi is to extend his

control

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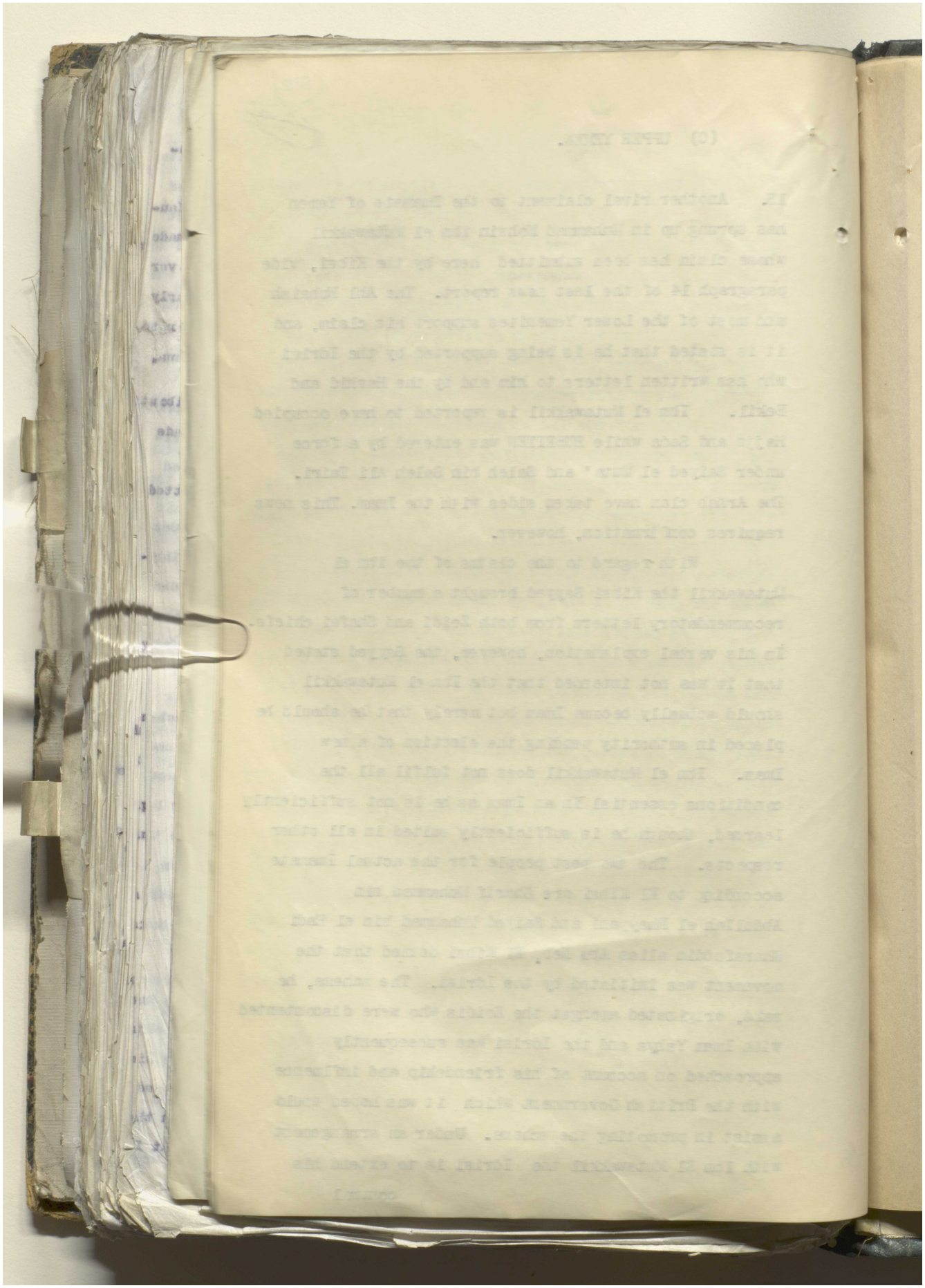

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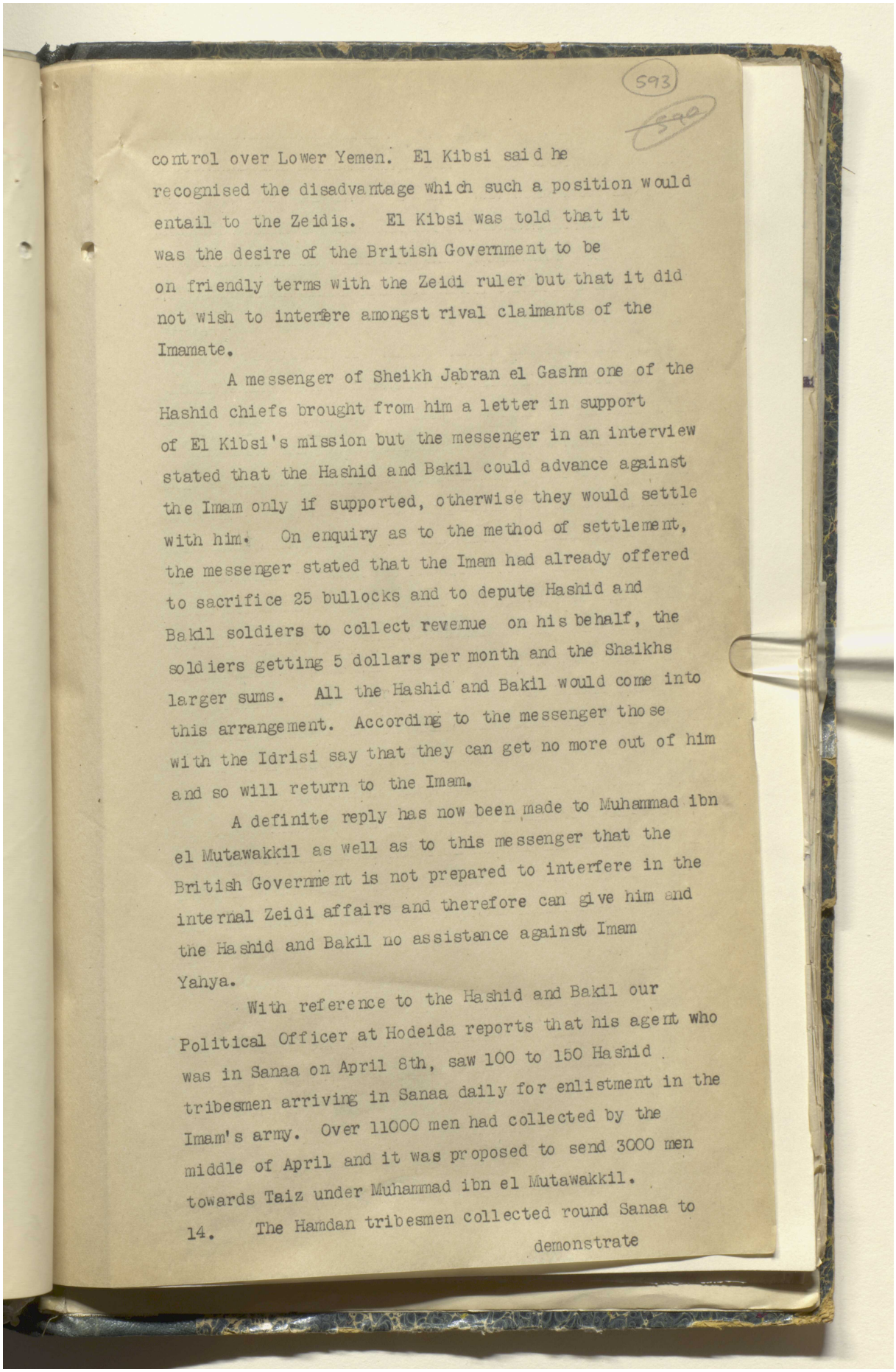

control over Lower Yemen. El Kibsi said he recognised the disadvantage which such a position would entail to the Zeidis. El Kibsi was told that it was the desire of the British Government to be on friendly terms with the Zeidi ruler but that it did not wish to interfere amongst rival claimants of the Imamate.

A messenger of Sheikh Jabran el Gashm one of the Hashid chiefs brought from him a letter in support of El Kibsi's mission but the messenger in an interview stated that the Hashid and Bakil could advance against the Imam only if supported, otherwise they would settle with him. On enquiry as to the method of settlement, the messenger stated that the Imam had already offered to sacrifice 25 bullocks and to depute Hashid and Bakil soldiers to collect revenue on his behalf, the soldiers getting 5 dollars per month and the Shaikhs larger sums. All the Hashid and Bakil would come into this arrangement. According to the messenger those with the Idrisi say that they can get no more out of him and so will return to the Imam.

A definite reply has now been made to Muhammad ibn el Mutawakkil as well as to this messenger that the British Government is not prepared to interfere in the internal Zeidi affairs and therefore can give him and the Hashid and Bakil no assistance against Imam Yahya.

With reference to the Hashid and Bakil our Political Officer at Hodeida reports that his agent who was in Sanaa on April 8th, saw 100 to 150 Hashid tribesmen arriving in Sanaa daily for enlistment in the Imam's army. Over 11000 men had collected by the middle of April and it was proposed to send 3000 men towards Taiz under Muhammad ibn el Mutawakkil.

14. The Hamdan tribesmen collected round Sanaa to demonstrate

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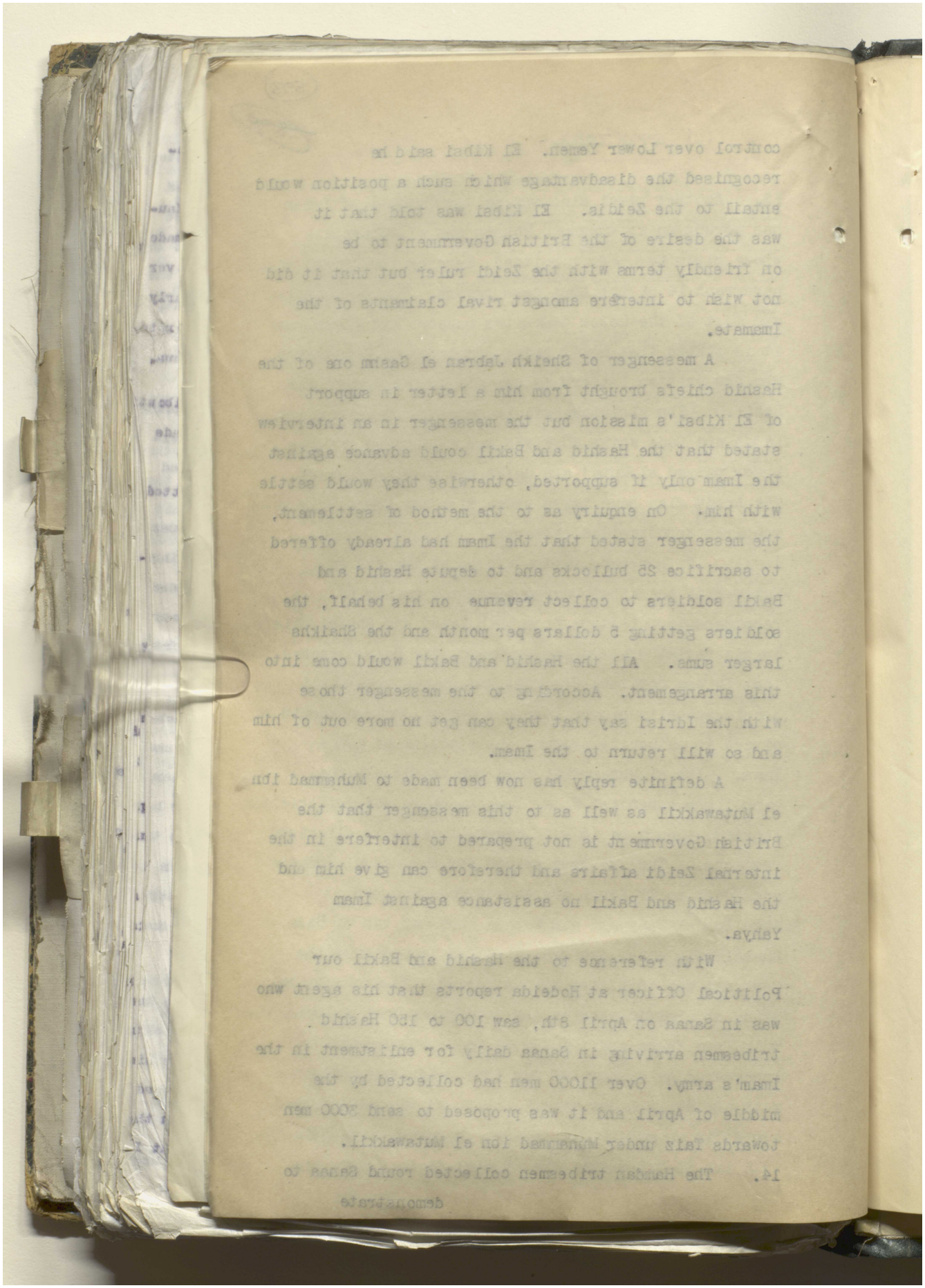

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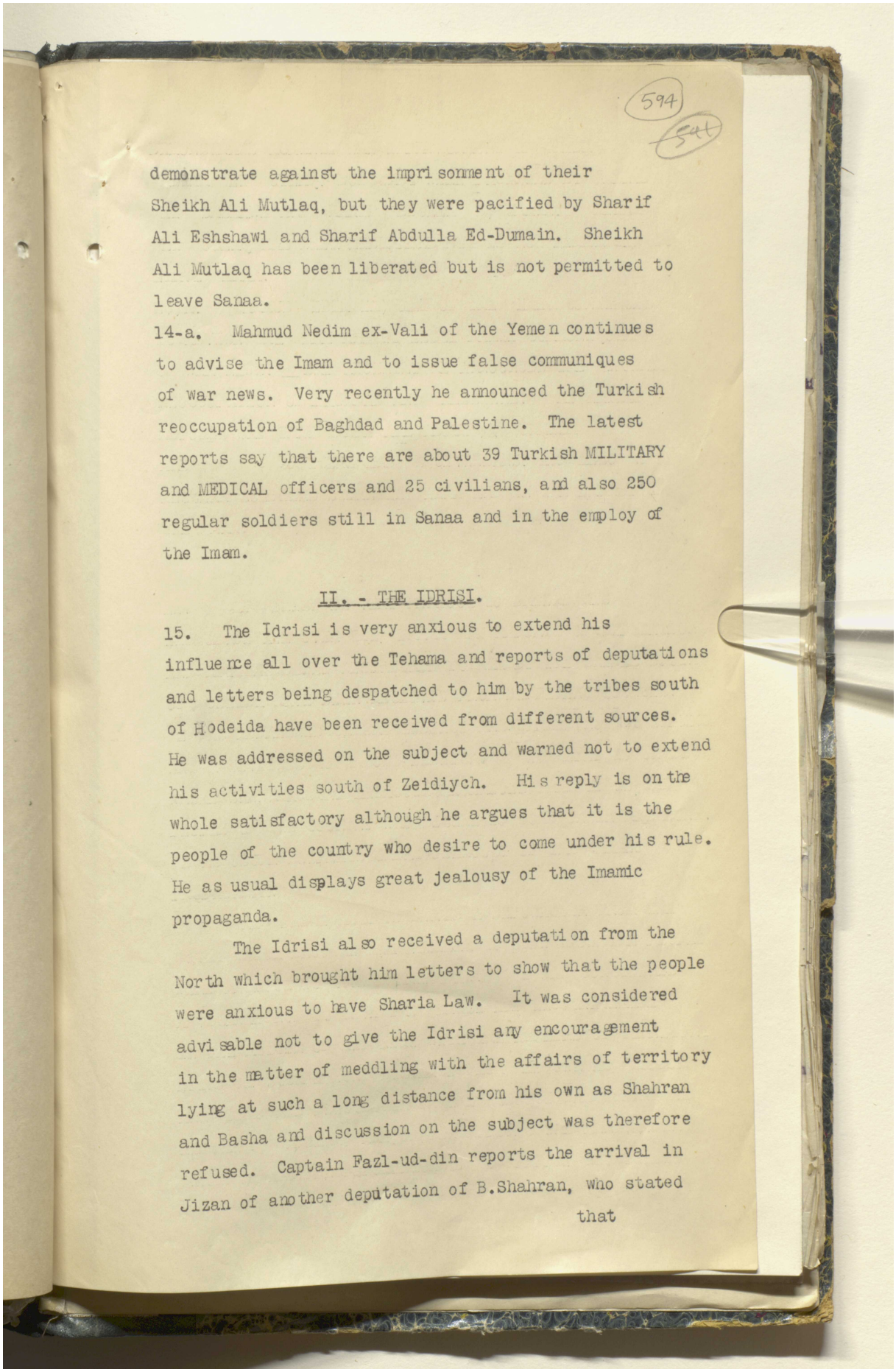

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demonstrate against the imprisonment of their Sheikh Ali Mutlaq, but they were pacified by Sharif Ali Eshshawi and Sharif Abdulla Ed-Dumain. Sheikh Ali Mutlaq has been liberated but is not permitted to leave Sanaa.

14-a. Mahmud Nedim ex-Vali of the Yemen continues to advise the Imam and to issue false communiques of war news. Very recently he announced the Turkish reoccupation of Baghdad and Palestine. The latest reports say that there are about 39 Turkish MILITARY and MEDICAL officers and 25 civilians, and also 250 regular soldiers still in Sanaa and in the employ of the Imam.

II. - THE IDRISI.

15. The Idrisi is very anxious to extend his influence all over the Tehama and reports of deputations and letters being despatched to him by the tribes south of Hodeida have been received from different sources. He was addressed on the subject and warned not to extend his activities south of Zeidiych. His reply is on the whole satisfactory although he argues that it is the people of the country who desire to come under his rule. He as usual displays great jealousy of the Imamic propaganda.

The Idrisi also received a deputation from the North which brought him letters to show that the people were anxious to have Sharia Law. It was considered advisable not to give the Idrisi any encouragement in the matter of meddling with the affairs of territory lying at such a long distance from his own as Shahran and Basha and discussion on the subject was therefore refused. Captain Fazl-ud-din reports the arrival in Jizan of another deputation of B.Shahran, who stated that

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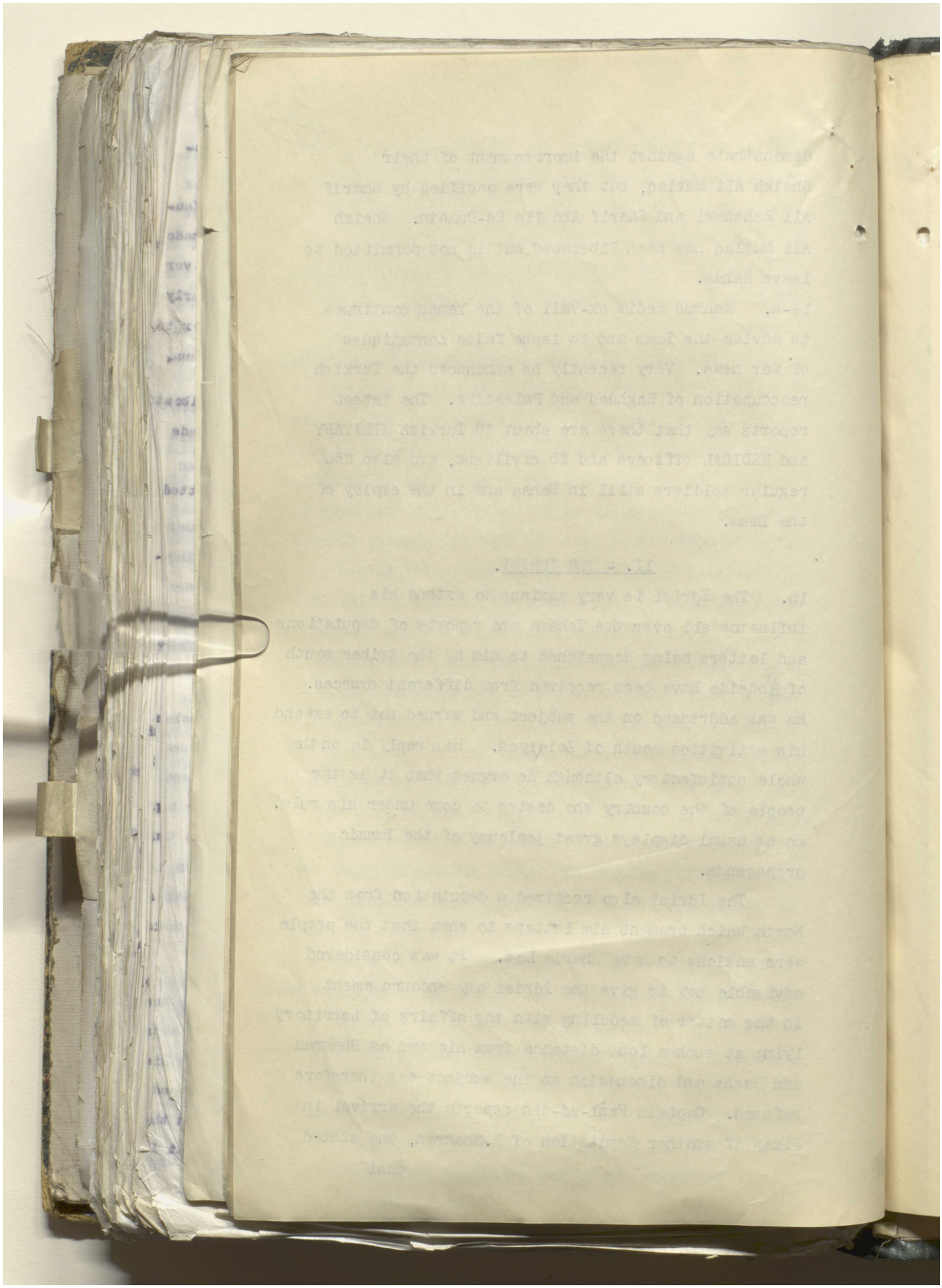

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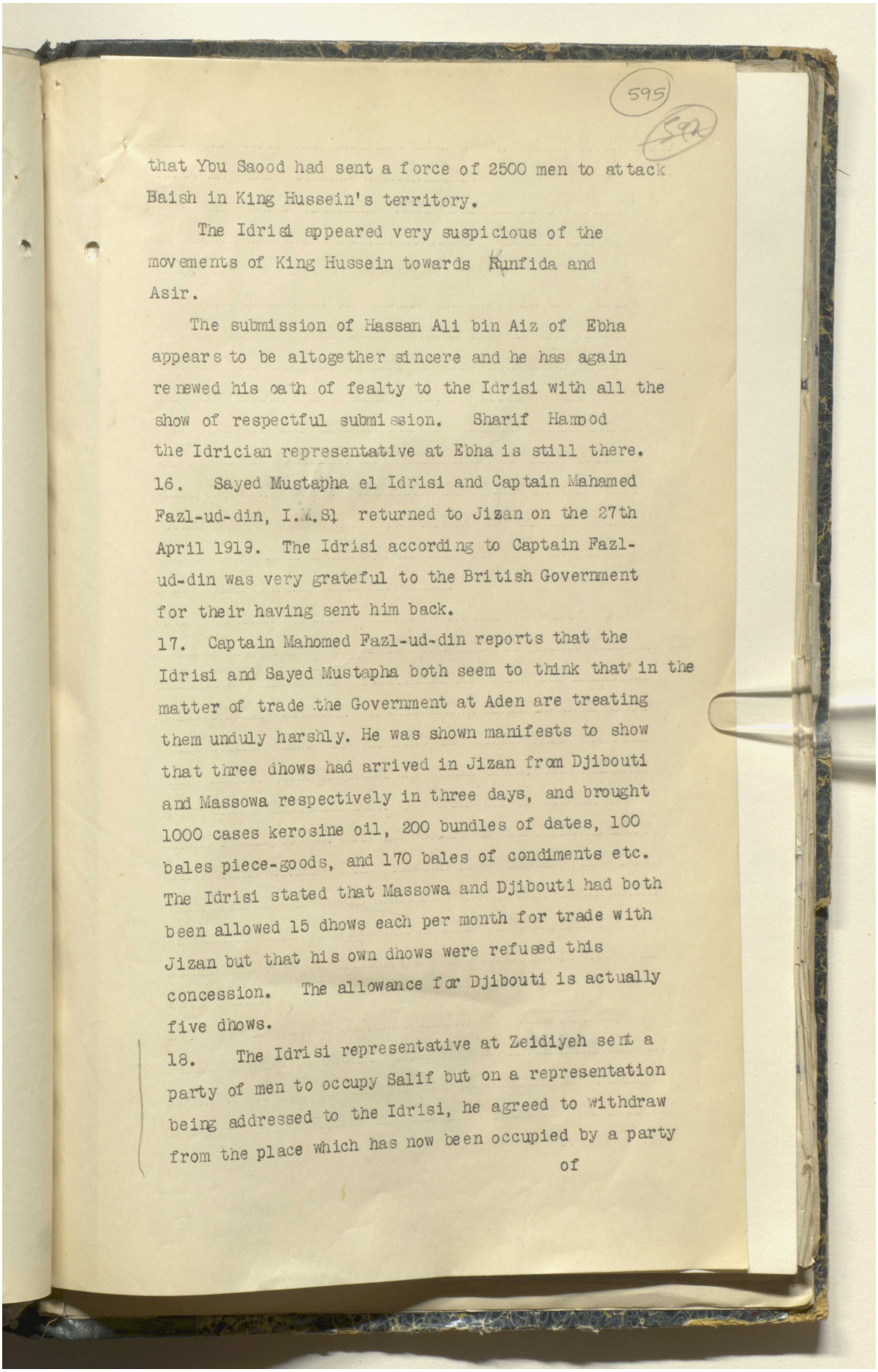

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that Ybu Saood had sent a force of 2500 men to attack Baish in King Hussein's territory.

The Idrisi appeared very suspicious of the movements of King Hussein towards Kunfida and Asir.

The submission of Hassan Ali bin Aiz of Ebha appears to be altogether sincere and he has again renewed his oath of fealty to the Idrisi with all the show of respectful submission. Sharif Hamood the Idrician representative at Ebha is still there.

16. Sayed Mustapha el Idrisi and Captain Mahamed Fazl-ud-din, I.M.S. returned to Jizan on the 27th April 1919. The Idrisi according to Captain Fazl-ud-din was very grateful to the British Government for their having sent him back.

17. Captain Mahomed Fazl-ud-din reports that the Idrisi and Sayed Mustapha both seem to think that in the matter of trade the Government at Aden are treating them unduly harshly. He was shown manifests to show that three dhows had arrived in Jizan from Djibouti and Massowa respectively in three days, and brought 1000 cases kerosine oil, 200 bundles of dates, 100 bales piece-goods, and 170 bales of condiments etc. The Idrisi stated that Massowa and Djibouti had both been allowed 15 dhows each per month for trade with Jizan but that his own dhows were refused this concession. The allowance for Djibouti is actually five dhows.

18. The Idrisi representative at Zeidiyeh sent a party of men to occupy Salif but on a representation being addressed to the Idrisi, he agreed to withdraw from the place which has now been occupied by a party of

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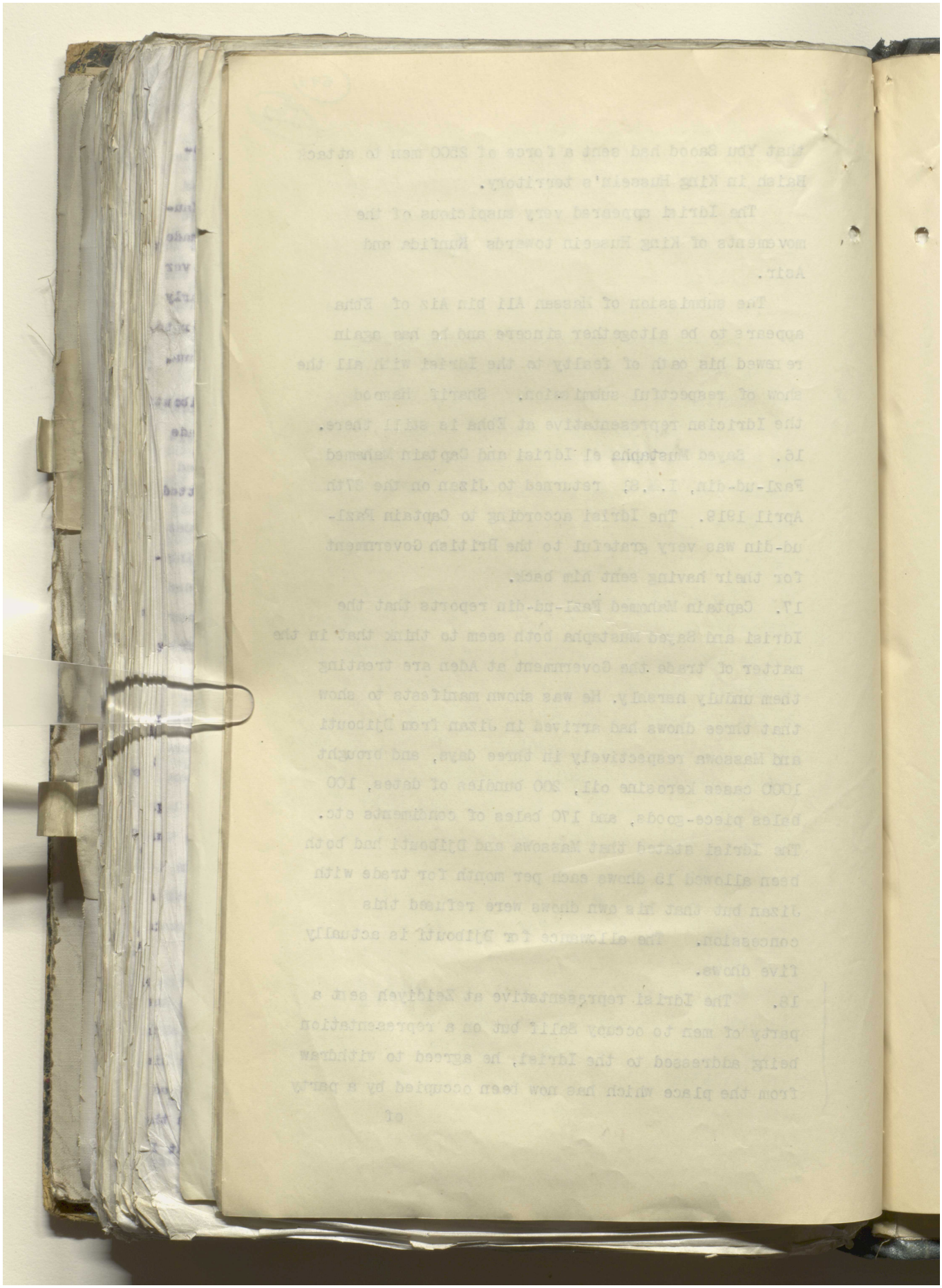

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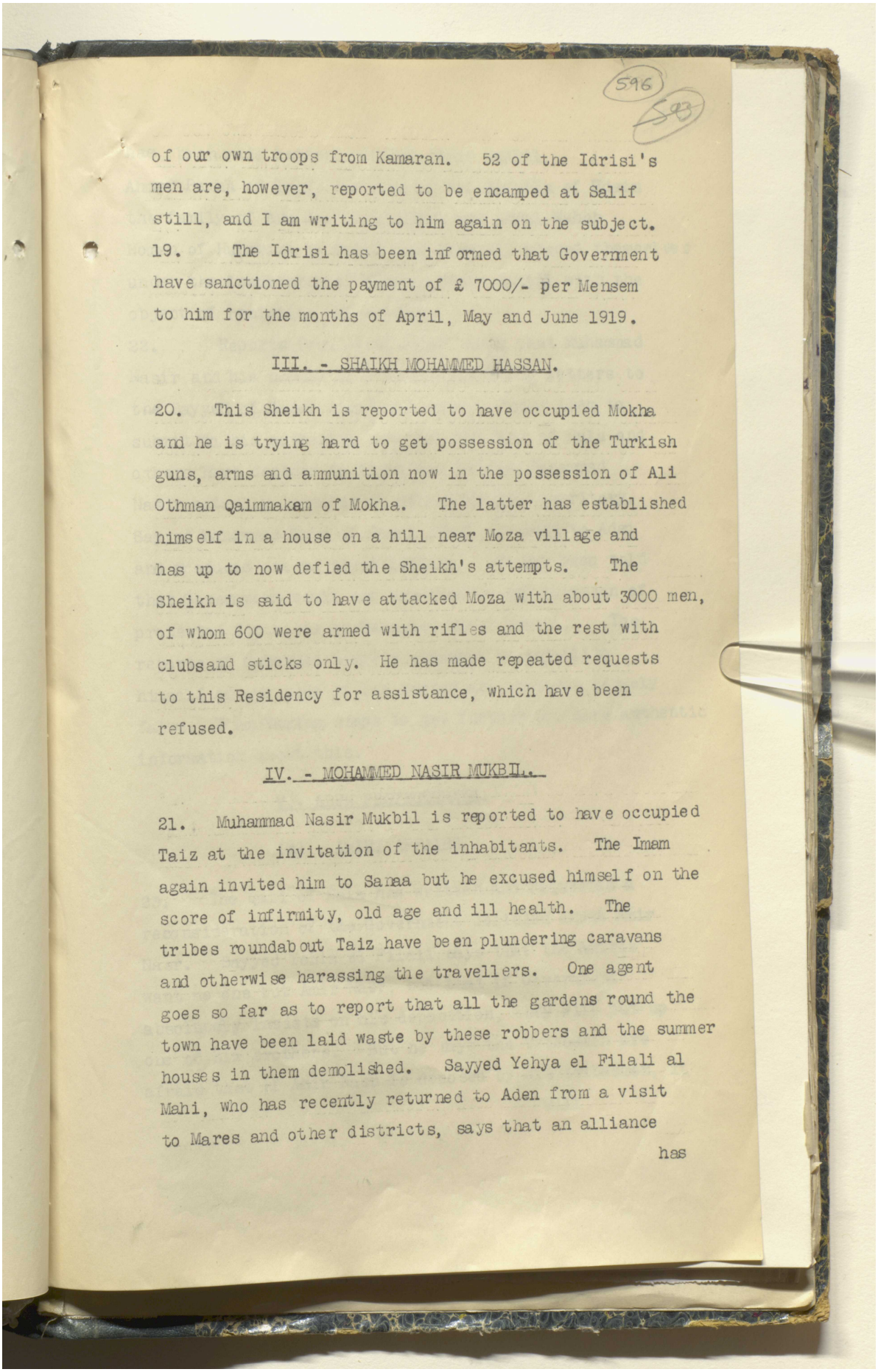

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of our own troops from Kamaran. 52 of the Idrisi's men are, however, reported to be encamped at Salif still, and I am writing to him again on the subject.

19. The Idrisi has been informed that Government have sanctioned the payment of £ 7000/- per Mensem to him for the months of April, May and June 1919.

III. - SHAIKH MOHAMMED HASSAN.

20. This Sheikh is reported to have occupied Mokha and he is trying hard to get possession of the Turkish guns, arms and ammunition now in the possession of Ali Othman Qaimmakam of Mokha. The latter has established himself in a house on a hill near Moza village and has up to now defied the Sheikh's attempts. The Sheikh is said to have attacked Moza with about 3000 men, of whom 600 were armed with rifles and the rest with clubsand sticks only. He has made repeated requests to this Residency for assistance, which have been refused.

IV. - MOHAMMED NASIR MUKBIL.

21. Muhammad Nasir Mukbil is reported to have occupied Taiz at the invitation of the inhabitants. The Imam again invited him to Sanaa but he excused himself on the score of infirmity, old age and ill health. The tribes roundabout Taiz have been plundering caravans and otherwise harassing the travellers. One agent goes so far as to report that all the gardens round the town have been laid waste by these robbers and the summer houses in them demolished. Sayyed Yehya el Filali al Mahi, who has recently returned to Aden from a visit to Mares and other districts, says that an alliance has

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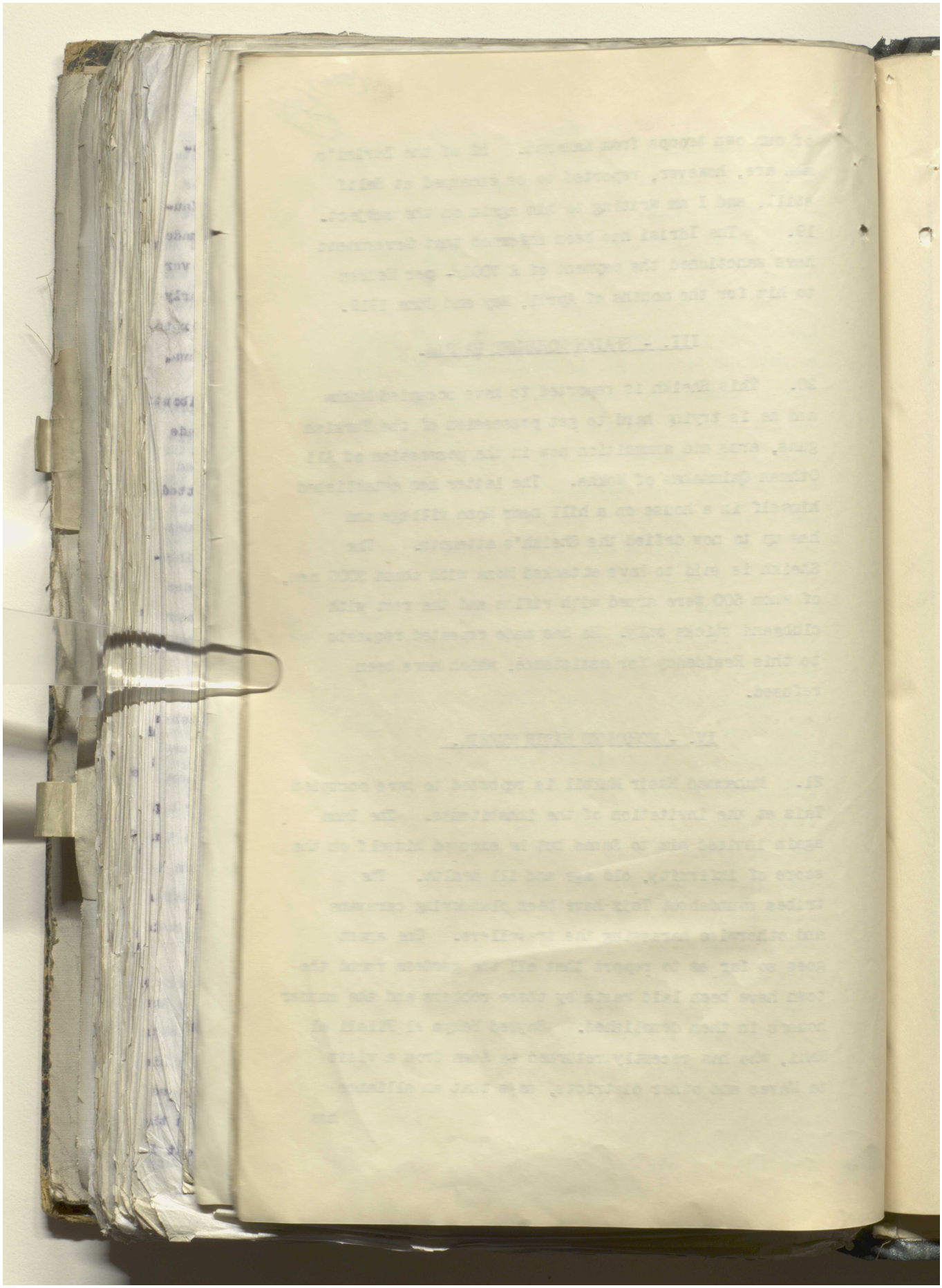

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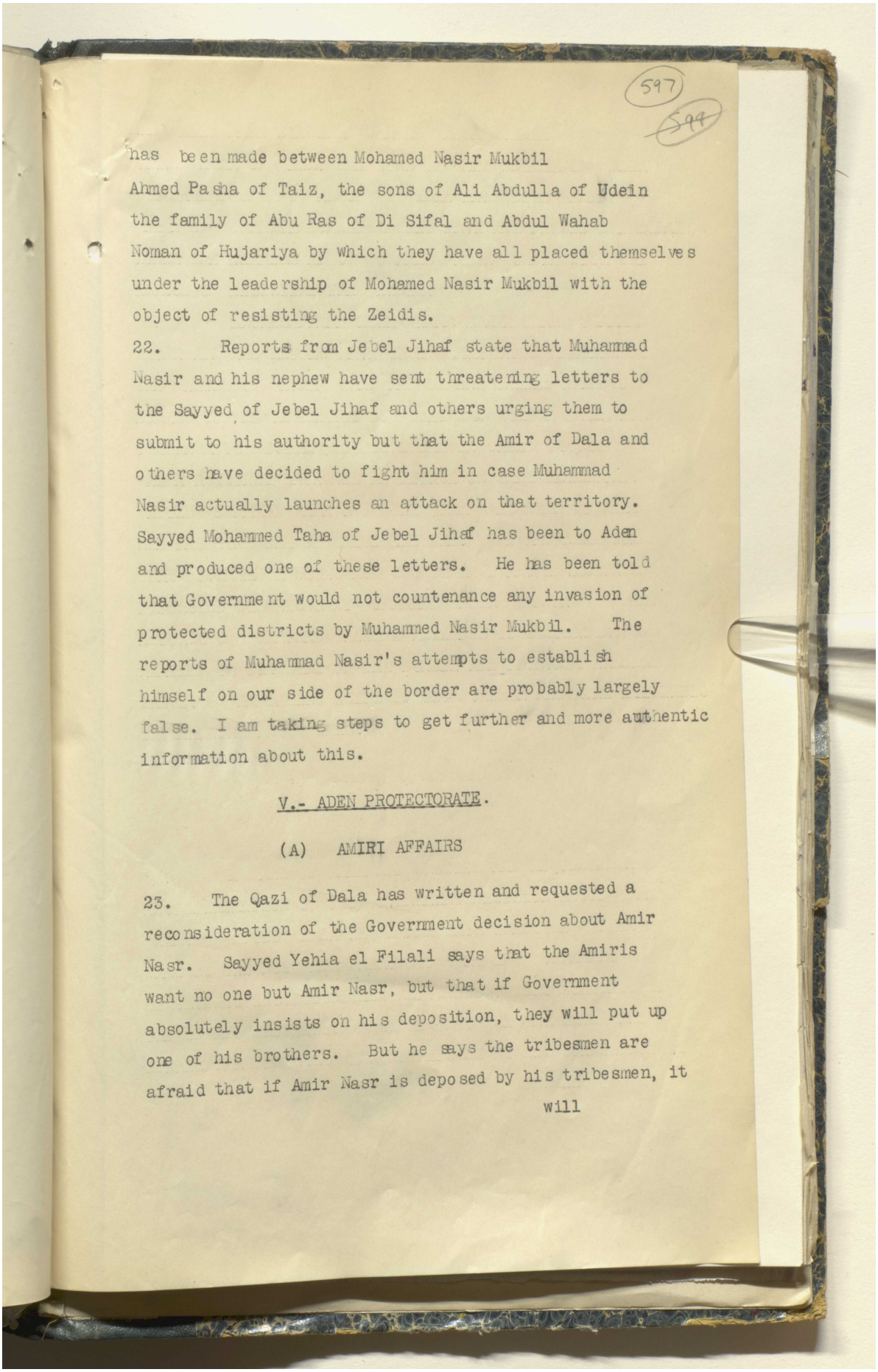

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has been made between Mohamed Nasir Mukbil Ahmed Pasha of Taiz, the sons of Ali Abdulla of Udein the family of Abu Ras of Di Sifal and Abdul Wahab Noman of Hujariya by which they have all placed themselves under the leadership of Mohamed Nasir Mukbil with the object of resisting the Zeidis.

22. Reports from Jebel Jihaf state that Muhammad Nasir and his nephew have sent threatening letters to the Sayyed of Jebel Jihaf and others urging them to submit to his authority but that the Amir of Dala and others have decided to fight him in case Muhammad Nasir actually launches an attack on that territory. Sayyed Mohammed Taha of Jebel Jihaf has been to Aden and produced one of these letters. He has been told that Government would not countenance any invasion of protected districts by Muhammed Nasir Mukbil. The reports of Muhammad Nasir's attempts to establish himself on our side of the border are probably largely false. I am taking steps to get further and more authentic information about this.

V.- ADEN PROTECTORATE.

(A) AMIRI AFFAIRS

23. The Qazi of Dala has written and requested a reconsideration of the Government decision about Amir Nasr. Sayyed Yehia el Filali says that the Amiris want no one but Amir Nasr, but that if Government absolutely insists on his deposition, they will put up one of his brothers. But he says the tribesmen are afraid that if Amir Nasr is deposed by his tribesmen, it will

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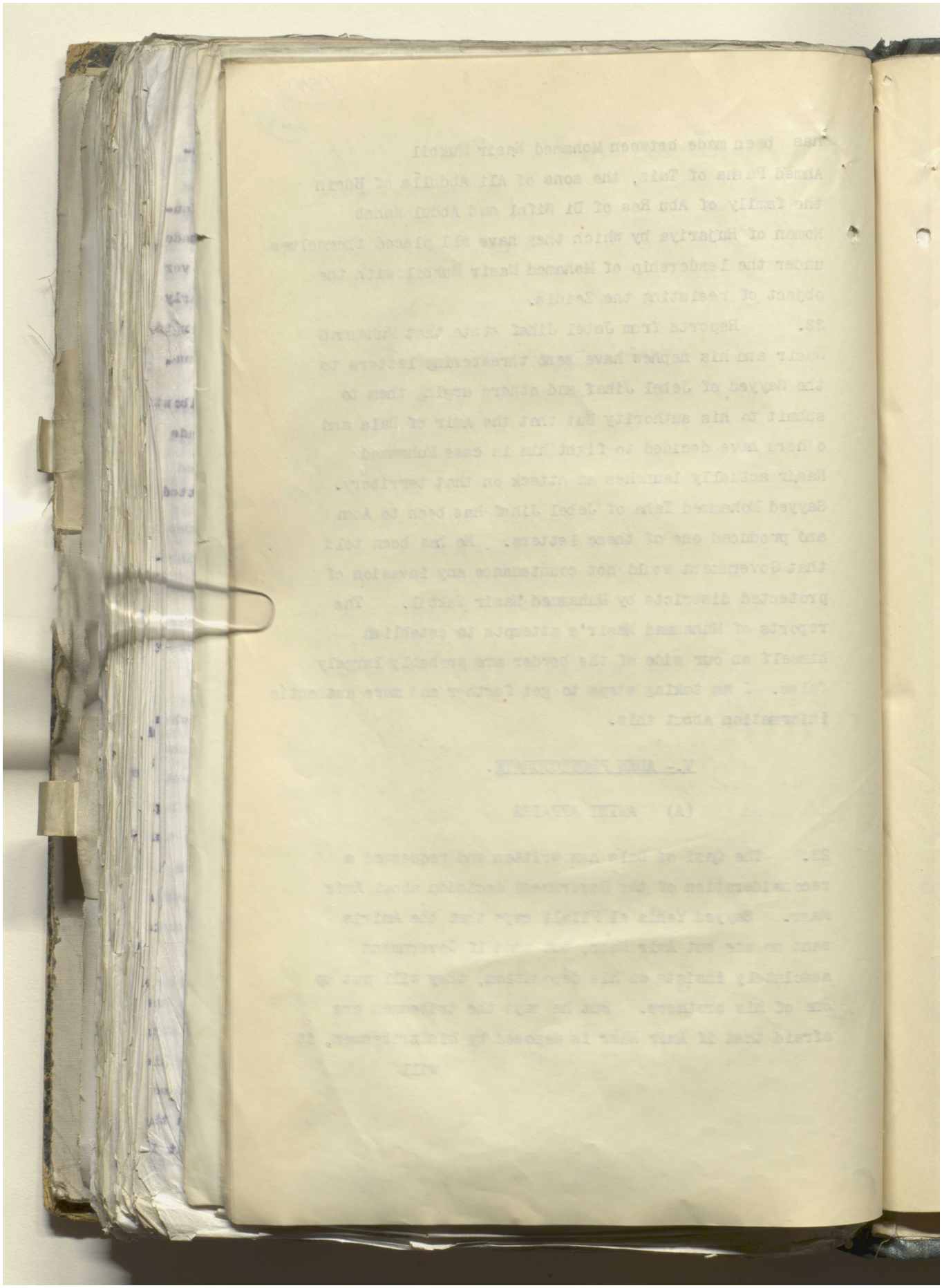

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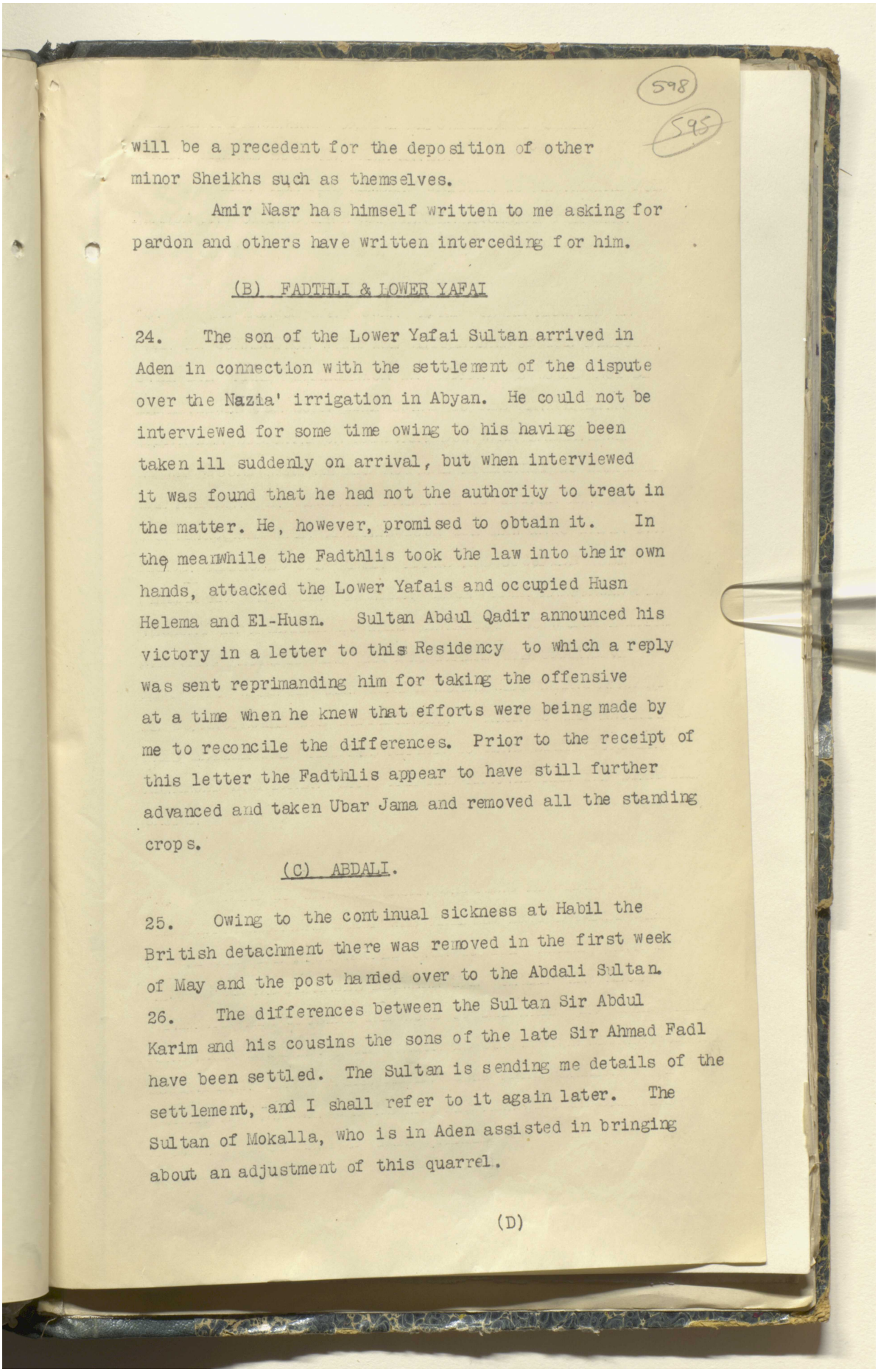

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will be a precedent for the deposition of other minor Sheikhs such as themselves.

Amir Nasr has himself written to me asking for pardon and others have written interceding for him.

(B) FADTHLI & LOWER YAFAI

24. The son of the Lower Yafai Sultan arrived in Aden in connection with the settlement of the dispute over the Nazia' irrigation in Abyan. He could not be interviewed for some time owing to his having been taken ill suddenly on arrival, but when interviewed it was found that he had not the authority to treat in the matter. He, however, promised to obtain it. In the meanwhile the Fadthlis took the law into their own hands, attacked the Lower Yafais and occupied Husn Helema and El-Husn. Sultan Abdul Qadir announced his victory in a letter to this Residency to which a reply was sent reprimanding him for taking the offensive at a time when he knew that efforts were being made by me to reconcile the differences. Prior to the receipt of this letter the Fadthlis appear to have still further advanced and taken Ubar Jama and removed all the standing crops.

(C) ABDALI.

25. Owing to the continual sickness at Habil the British detachment there was removed in the first week of May and the post handed over to the Abdali Sultan.

26. The differences between the Sultan Sir Abdul Karim and his cousins the sons of the late Sir Ahmad Fadl have been settled. The Sultan is sending me details of the settlement, and I shall refer to it again later. The Sultan of Mokalla, who is in Aden assisted in bringing about an adjustment of this quarrel.

(D)

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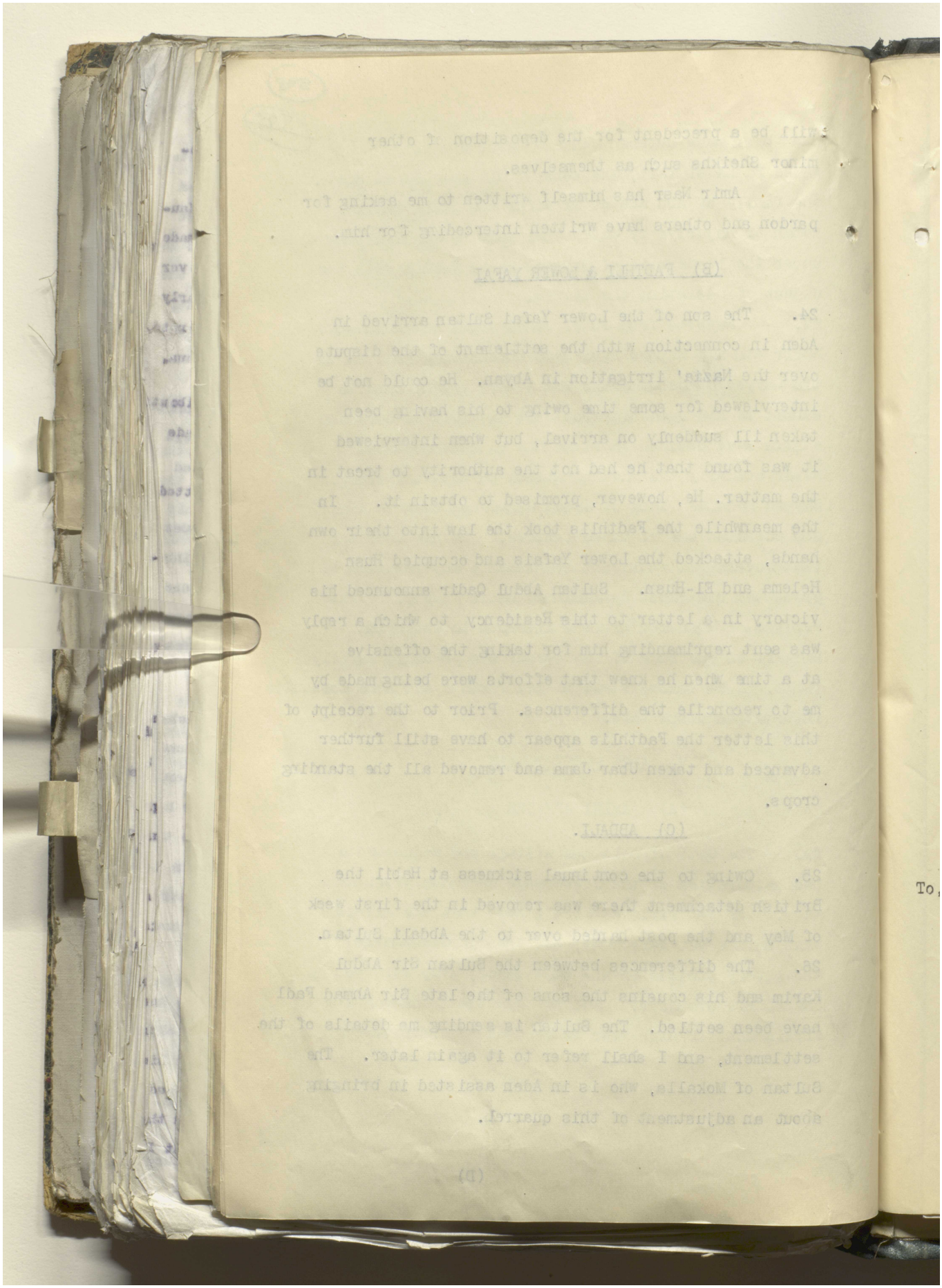

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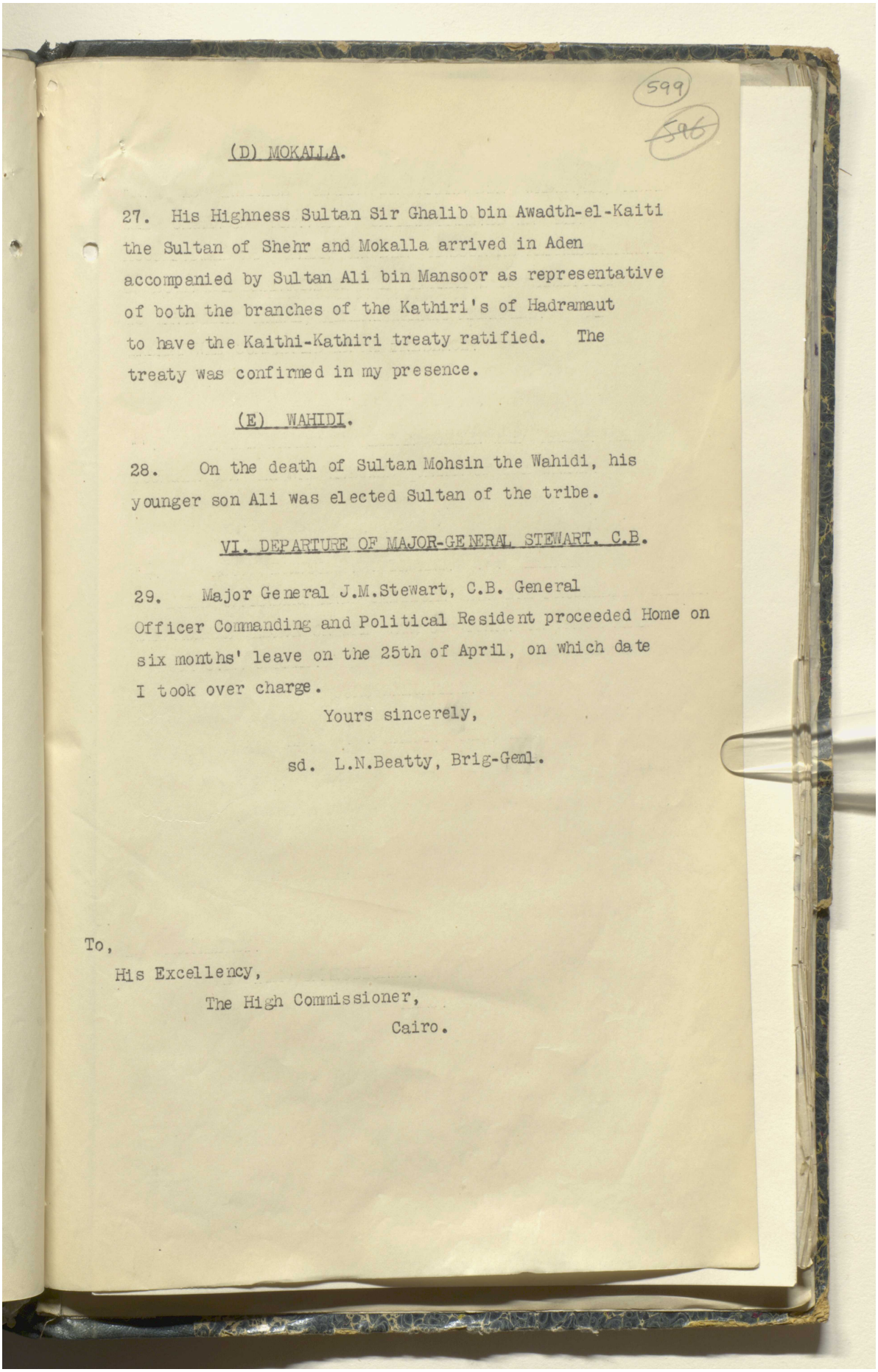

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(D) MOKALLA.

27. His Highness Sultan Sir Ghalib bin Awadth-el-Kaiti the Sultan of Shehr and Mokalla arrived in Aden accompanied by Sultan Ali bin Mansoor as representative of both the branches of the Kathiri's of Hadramaut to have the Kaithi-Kathiri treaty ratified. The treaty was confirmed in my presence.

(E) WAHIDI.

28. On the death of Sultan Mohsin the Wahidi, his younger son Ali was elected Sultan of the tribe.

VI. DEPARTURE OF MAJOR-GENERAL STEWART. C.B.

29. Major General J.M.Stewart, C.B. General Officer Commanding and Political Resident proceeded Home on six months' leave on the 25th of April, on which date I took over charge.

Yours sincerely,

sd. L.N.Beatty, Brig-Genl.

To,
His Excellency,
The High Commissioner,
Cairo.

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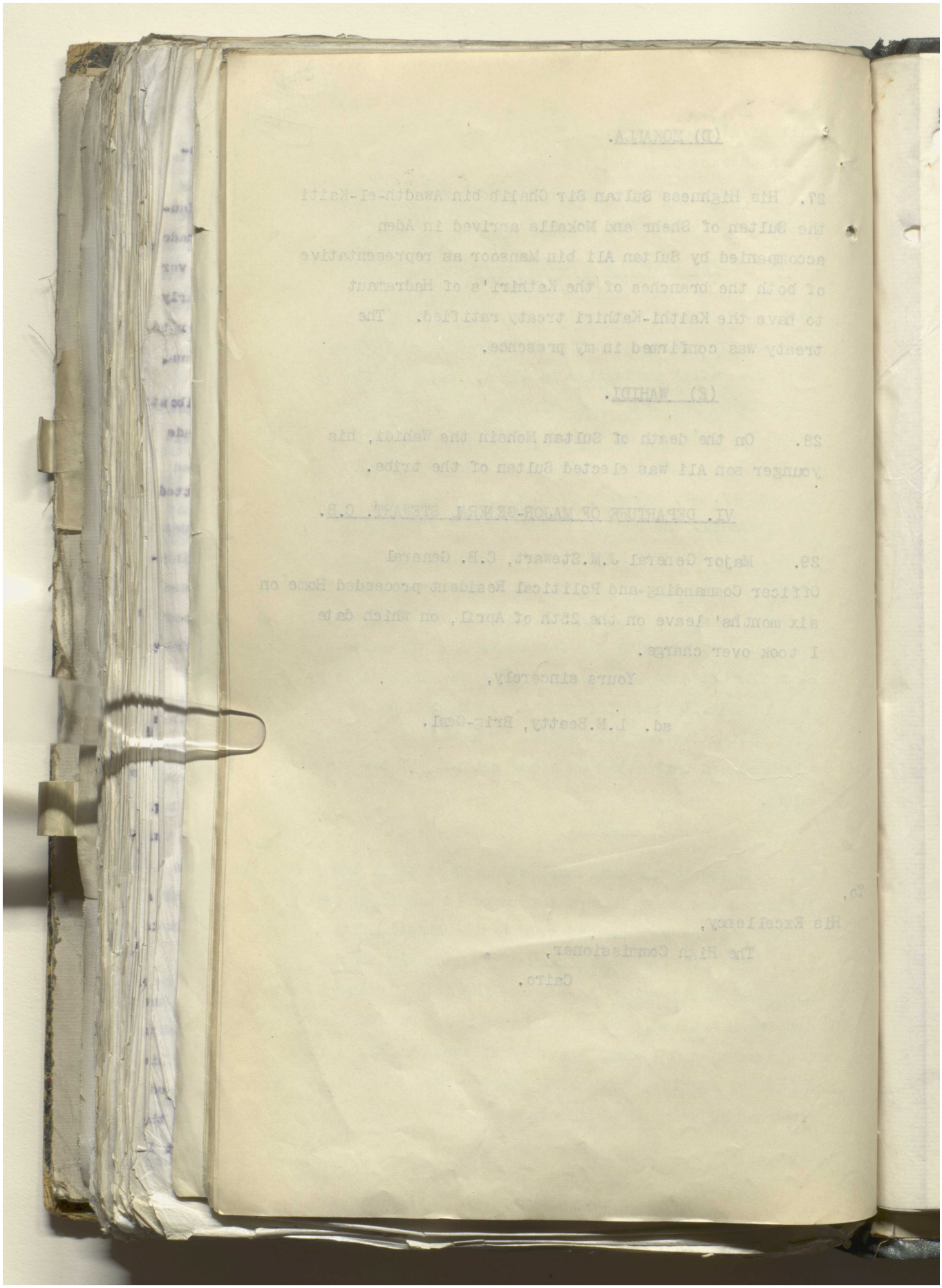

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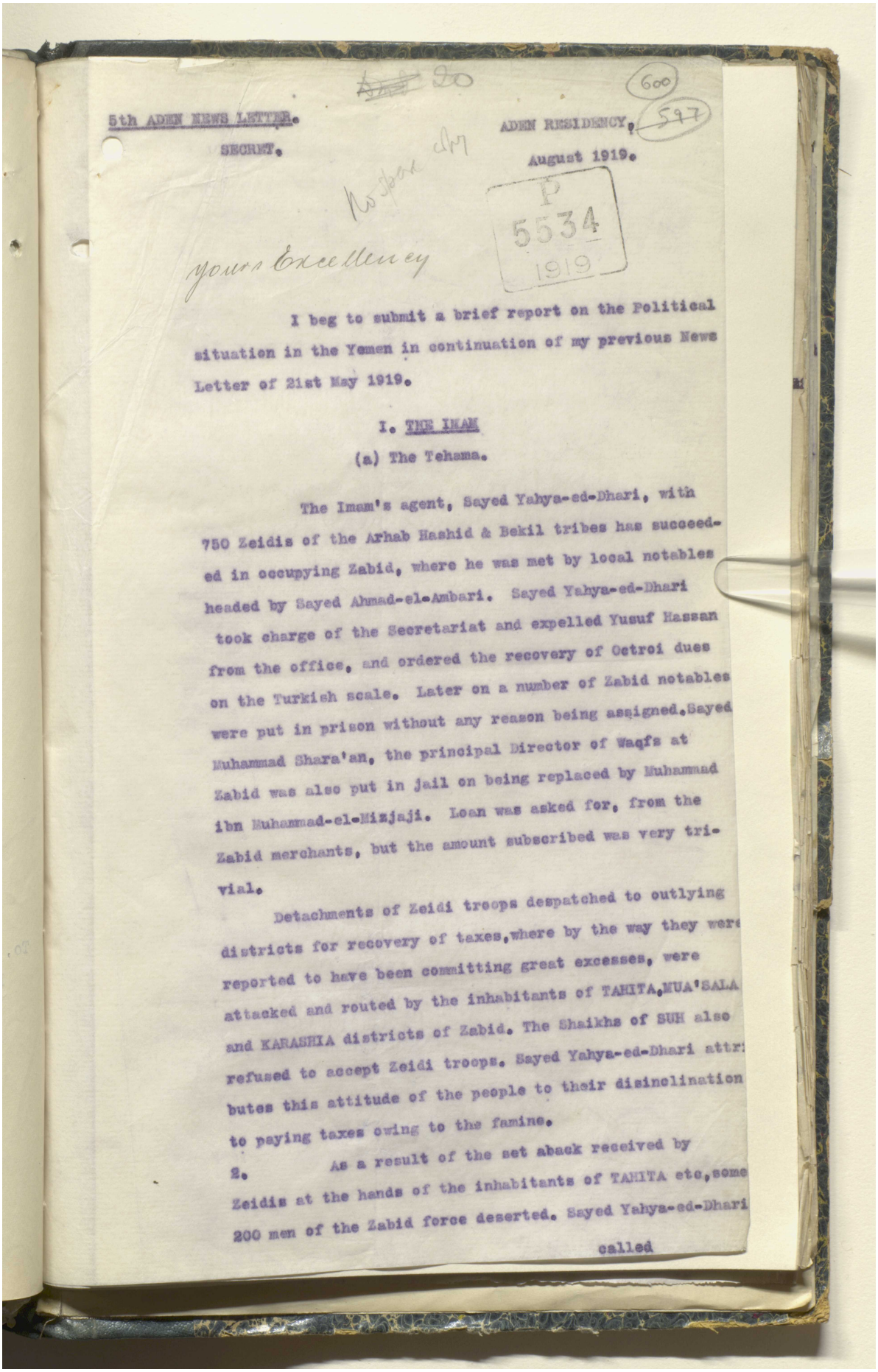

5th ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
August 1919.

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Your Excellency

I beg to submit a brief report on the Political situation in the Yemen in continuation of my previous News Letter of 21st May 1919.

I. THE IMAM

(a) The Tehama.

The Imam's agent, Sayed Yahya-ed-Dhari, with 750 Zeidis of the Arhab Hashid & Bekil tribes has succeeded in occupying Zabid, where he was met by local notables headed by Sayed Ahmad-el-Ambari. Sayed Yahya-ed-Dhari took charge of the Secretariat and expelled Yusuf Hassan from the office, and ordered the recovery of Octroi dues on the Turkish scale. Later on a number of Zabid notables were put in prison without any reason being assigned. Sayed Muhammad Shara'an, the principal Director of Waqfs at Zabid was also put in jail on being replaced by Muhammad ibn Muhammad-el-Mizjaji. Loan was asked for, from the Zabid merchants, but the amount subscribed was very trivial.

Detachments of Zeidi troops despatched to outlying districts for recovery of taxes, where by the way they were reported to have been committing great excesses, were attacked and routed by the inhabitants of TAHITA, MUA'SALA and KARASHIA districts of Zabid. The Shaikhs of SUH also refused to accept Zeidi troops. Sayed Yahya-ed-Dhari attributes this attitude of the people to their disinclination to paying taxes owing to the famine.

2. As a result of the set aback received by Zeidis at the hands of the inhabitants of TAHITA etc, some 200 men of the Zabid force deserted. Sayed Yahya-ed-Dhari called

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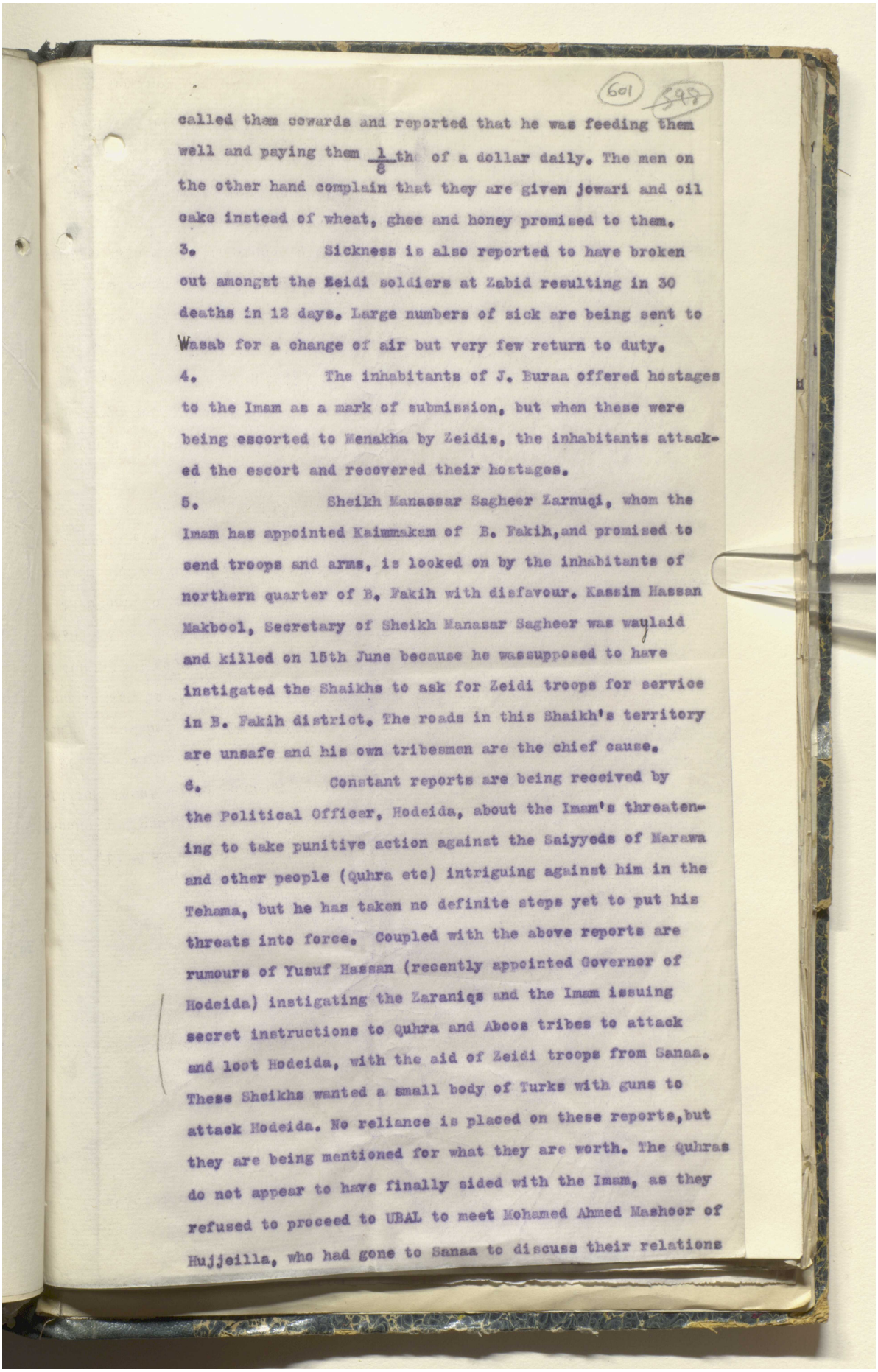

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called them cowards and reported that he was feeding them well and paying them 1/8th of a dollar daily. The men on the other hand complain that they are given jowari and oil cake instead of wheat, ghee and honey promised to them.

3. Sickness is also reported to have broken out amongst the Zeidi soldiers at Zabid resulting in 30 deaths in 12 days. Large numbers of sick are being sent to Wasab for a change of air but very few return to duty.

4. The inhabitants of J. Buraa offered hostages to the Imam as a mark of submission, but when these were being escorted to Menakha by Zeidis, the inhabitants attacked the escort and recovered their hostages.

5. Sheikh Manassar Sagheer Zarnuqi, whom the Imam has appointed Kaimmakam of B. Fakih, and promised to send troops and arms, is looked on by the inhabitants of northern quarter of B. Fakih with disfavour. Kassim Hassan Makbool, Secretary of Sheikh Manasar Sagheer was waylaid and killed on 15th June because he wassupposed to have instigated the Shaikhs to ask for Zeidi troops for service in B. Fakih district. The roads in this Shaikh's territory are unsafe and his own tribesmen are the chief cause.

6. Constant reports are being received by the Political Officer, Hodeida, about the Imam's threatening to take punitive action against the Saiyyeds of Marawa and other people (Quhra etc) intriguing against him in the Tehama, but he has taken no definite steps yet to put his threats into force. Coupled with the above reports are rumours of Yusuf Hassan (recently appointed Governor of Hodeida) instigating the Zaraniqs and the Imam issuing secret instructions to Quhra and Aboos tribes to attack and loot Hodeida, with the aid of Zeidi troops from Sanaa. These Sheikhs wanted a small body of Turks with guns to attack Hodeida. No reliance is placed on these reports, but they are being mentioned for what they are worth. The Quhras do not appear to have finally sided with the Imam, as they refused to proceed to UBAL to meet Mohamed Ahmed Mashoor of Hujjeilla, who had gone to Sanaa to discuss their relations

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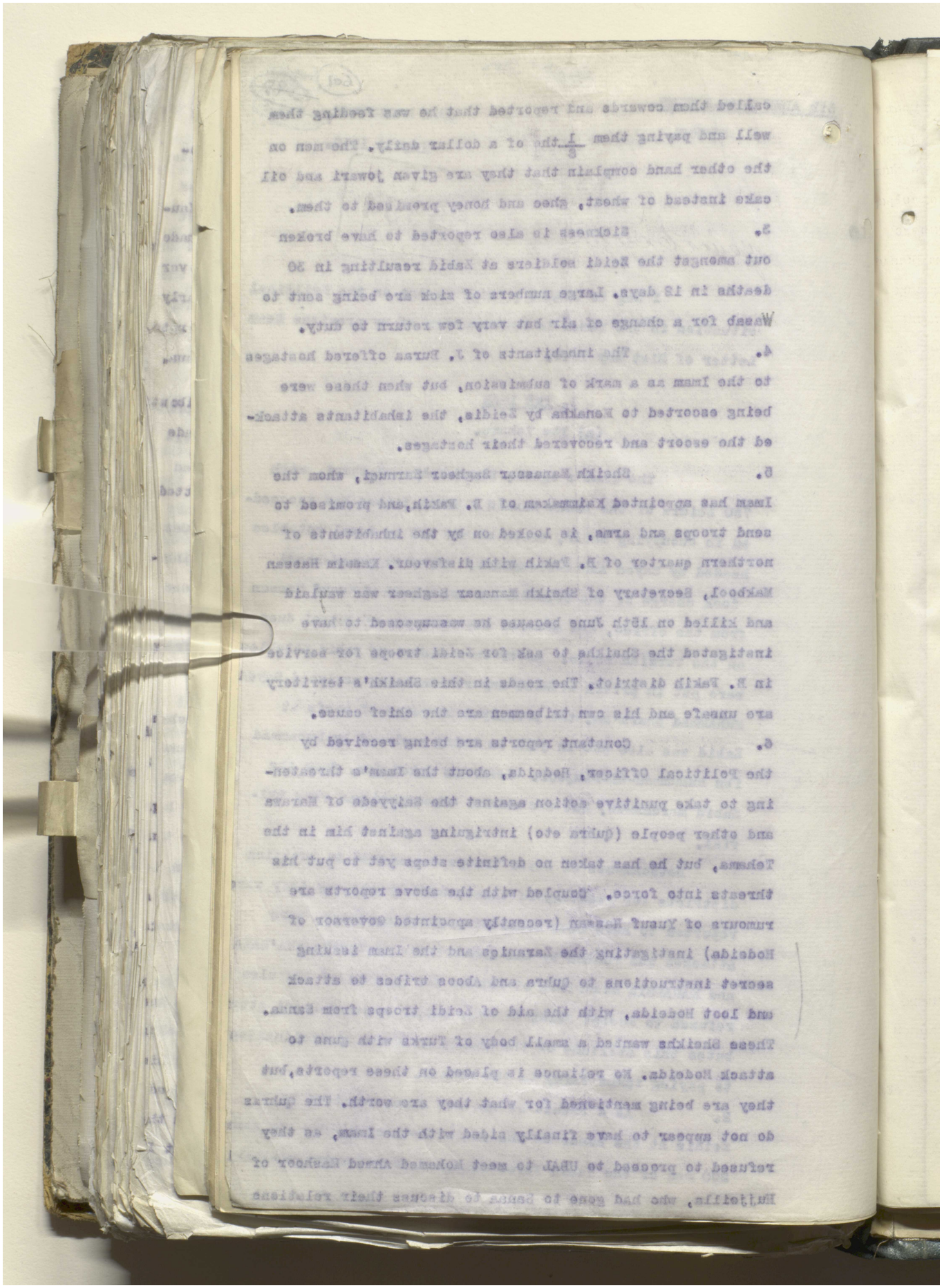

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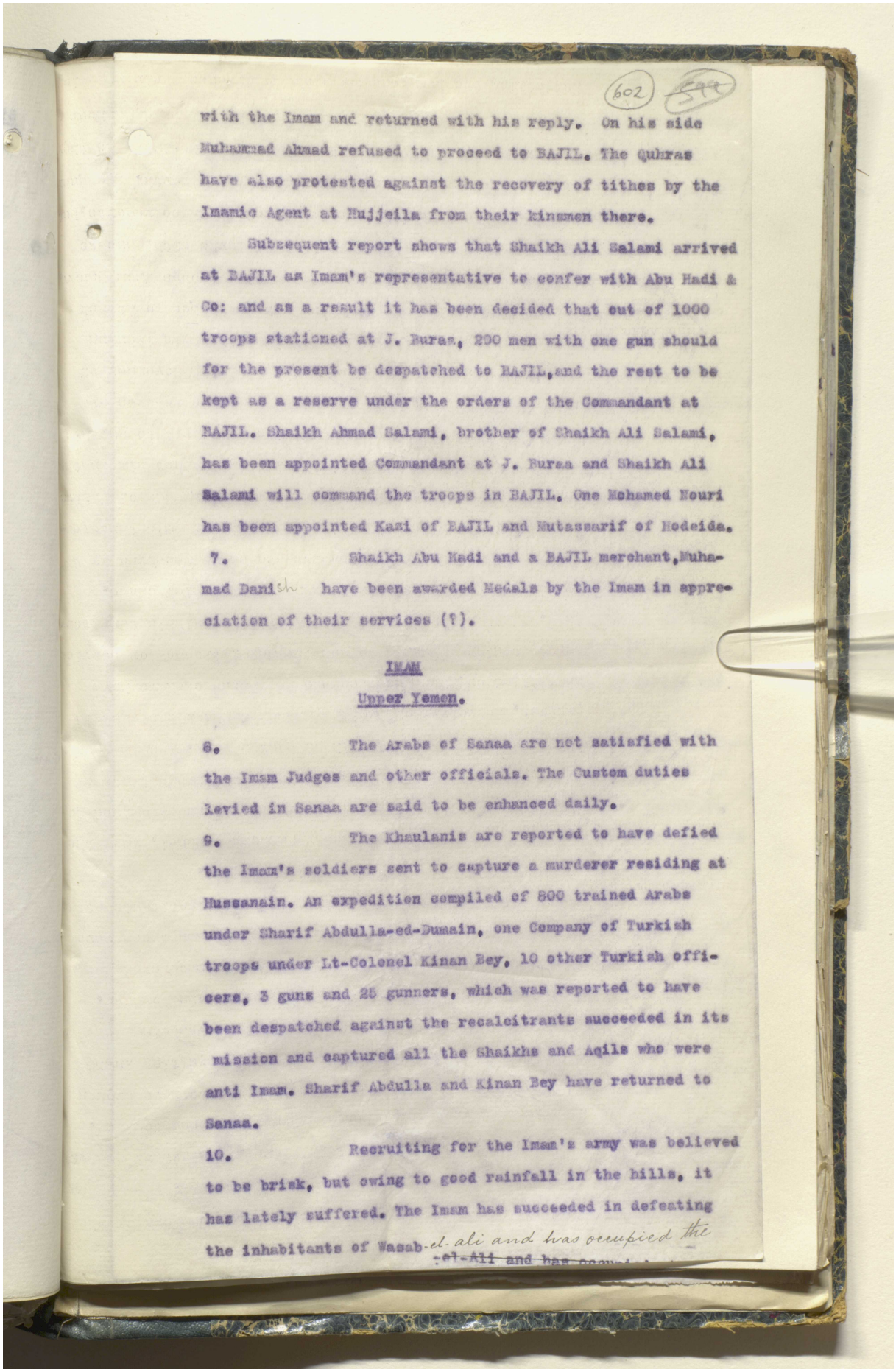

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with the Imam and returned with his reply. On his side Muhammad Ahmad refused to proceed to BAJIL. The Quhras have also protested against the recovery of tithes by the Imamic Agent at Hujjeila from their kinsmen there.

Subsequent report shows that Shaikh Ali Salami arrived at BAJIL as Imam's representative to confer with Abu Hadi & Co: and as a result it has been decided that out of 1000 troops stationed at J. Buraa, 200 men with one gun should for the present be despatched to BAJIL, and the rest to be kept as a reserve under the orders of the Commandant at BAJIL. Shaikh Ahmad Salami, brother of Shaikh Ali Salami, has been appointed Commandant at J. Buraa and Shaikh Ali Salami will command the troops in BAJIL. One Mohamed Nouri has been appointed Kazi of BAJIL and Mutassarif of Hodeida.

7. Shaikh Abu Hadi and a BAJIL merchant, Muhammad Danish have been awarded Medals by the Imam in appreciation of their services (?).

IMAM

Upper Yemen.

6. The Arabs of Sanaa are not satisfied with the Imam Judges and other officials. The Custom duties levied in Sanaa are said to be enhanced daily.

9. The Khaulanis are reported to have defied the Imam's soldiers sent to capture a murderer residing at Hussanain. An expedition compiled of 800 trained Arabs under Sharif Abdulla-ed-Dumain, one Company of Turkish troops under Lt-Colonel Kinan Bey, 10 other Turkish officers, 3 guns and 25 gunners, which was reported to have been despatched against the recalcitrants succeeded in its mission and captured all the Shaikhs and Aqils who were anti Imam. Sharif Abdulla and Kinan Bey have returned to Sanaa.

10. Recruiting for the Imam's army was believed to be brisk, but owing to good rainfall in the hills, it has lately suffered. The Imam has succeeded in defeating the inhabitants of Wasab-el-Ali and has occupied the

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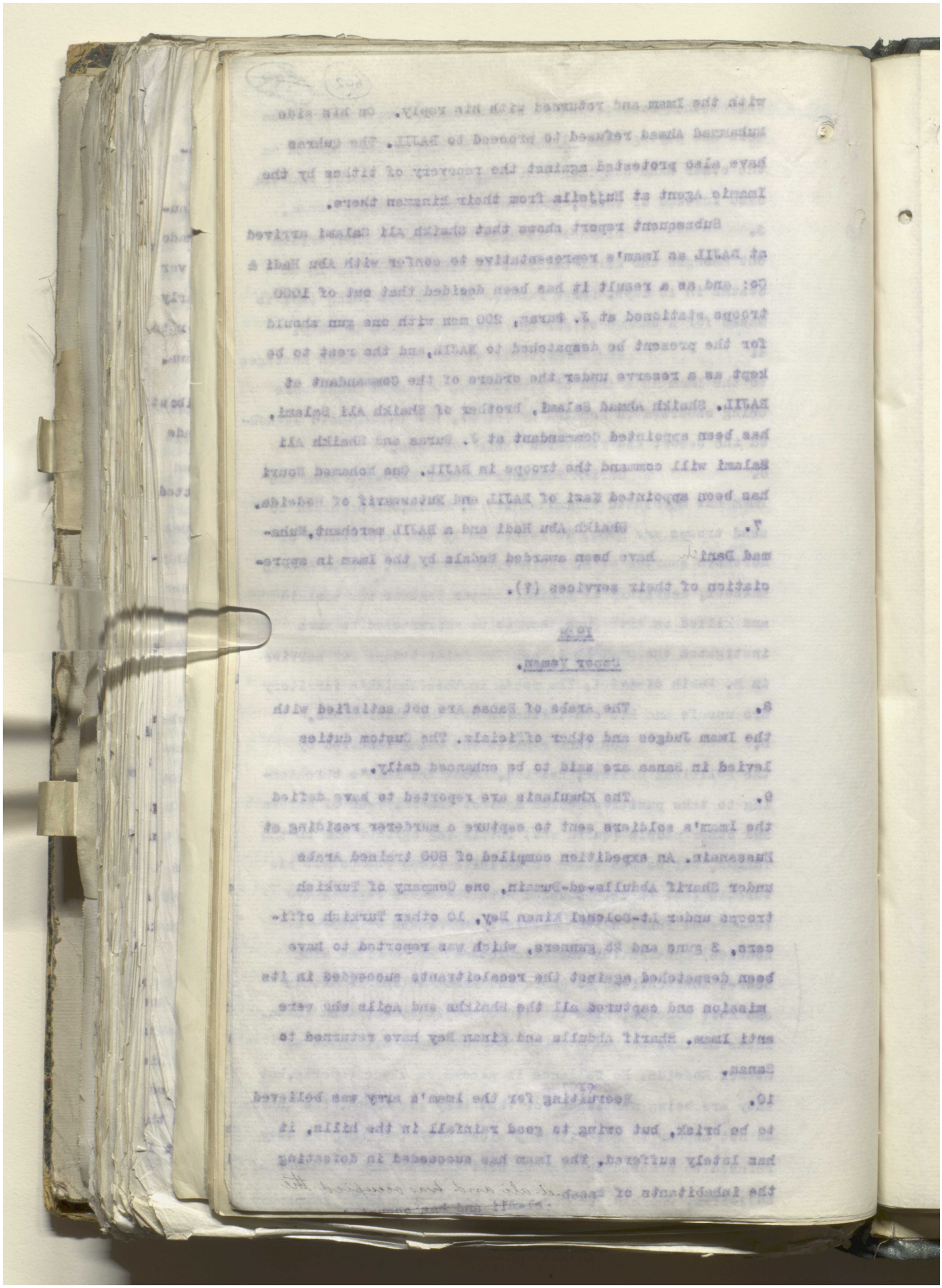

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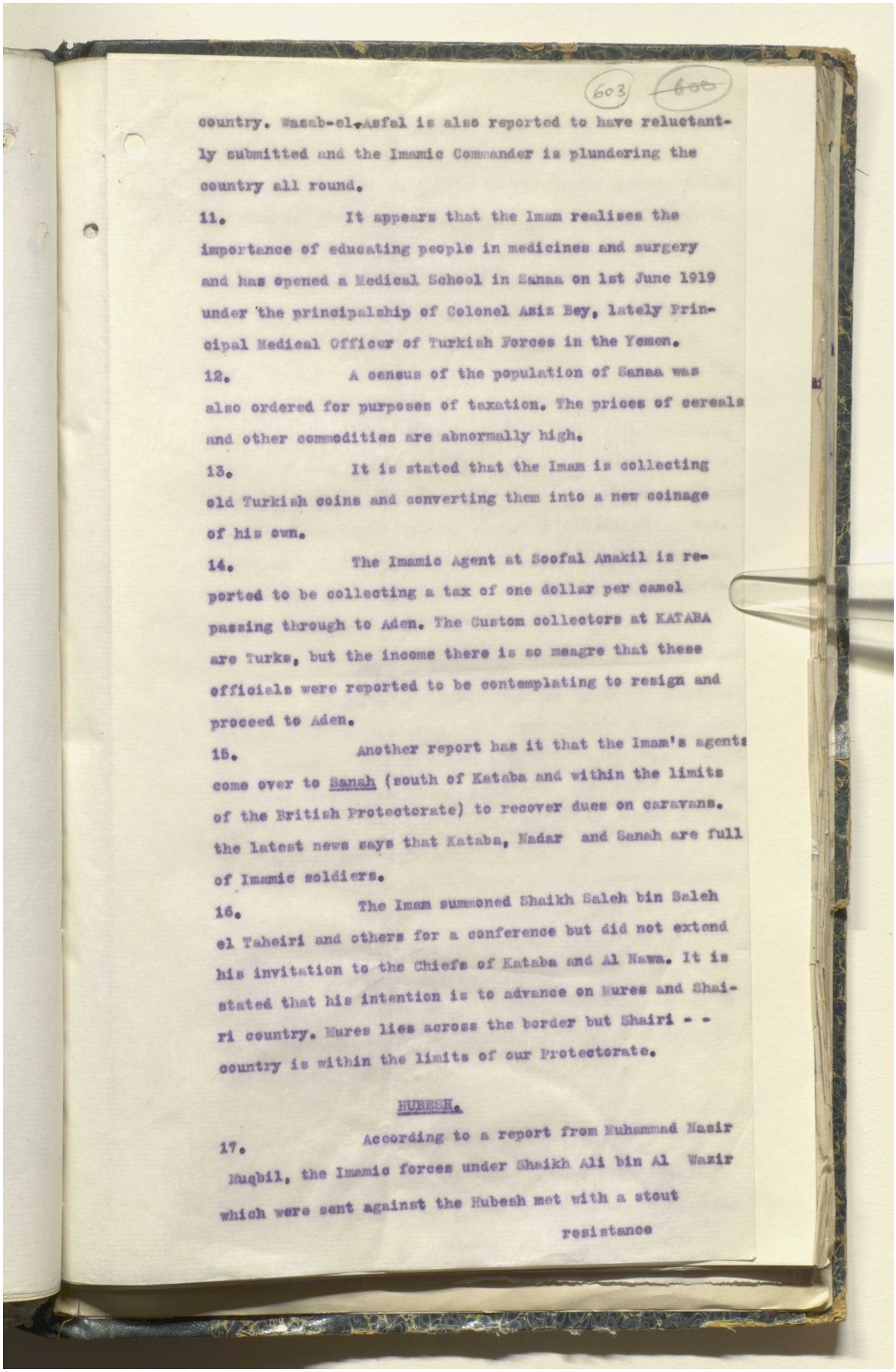

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country. Wasab-el-Asfal is also reported to have reluctantly submitted and the Imamic Commander is plundering the country all round.

11. It appears that the Imam realises the importance of educating people in medicines and surgery and has opened a Medical School in Sanaa on 1st June 1919 under the principalship of Colonel Aziz Bey, lately Principal Medical Officer of Turkish Forces in the Yemen.

12. A census of the population of Sanaa was also ordered for purposes of taxation. The prices of cereals and other commodities are abnormally high.

13. It is stated that the Imam is collecting old Turkish coins and converting them into a new coinage of his own.

14. The Imamic Agent at Soofal Anakil is reported to be collecting a tax of one dollar per camel passing through to Aden. The Custom collectors at KATABA are Turks, but the income there is so meagre that these officials were reported to be contemplating to resign and proceed to Aden.

15. Another report has it that the Imam's agents come over to Sanah (south of Kataba and within the limits of the British Protectorate) to recover dues on caravans. the latest news says that Kataba, Nadar and Sanah are full of Imamic soldiers.

16. The Imam summoned Shaikh Saleh bin Saleh el Taheiri and others for a conference but did not extend his invitation to the Chiefs of Kataba and Al Nawa. It is stated that his intention is to advance on Mures and Shairi country. Mures lies across the border but Shairi - - country is within the limits of our Protectorate.

HUBESH.

17. According to a report from Muhammad Nasir Muqbil, the Imamic forces under Shaikh Ali bin Al Wazir which were sent against the Hubesh met with a stout resistance

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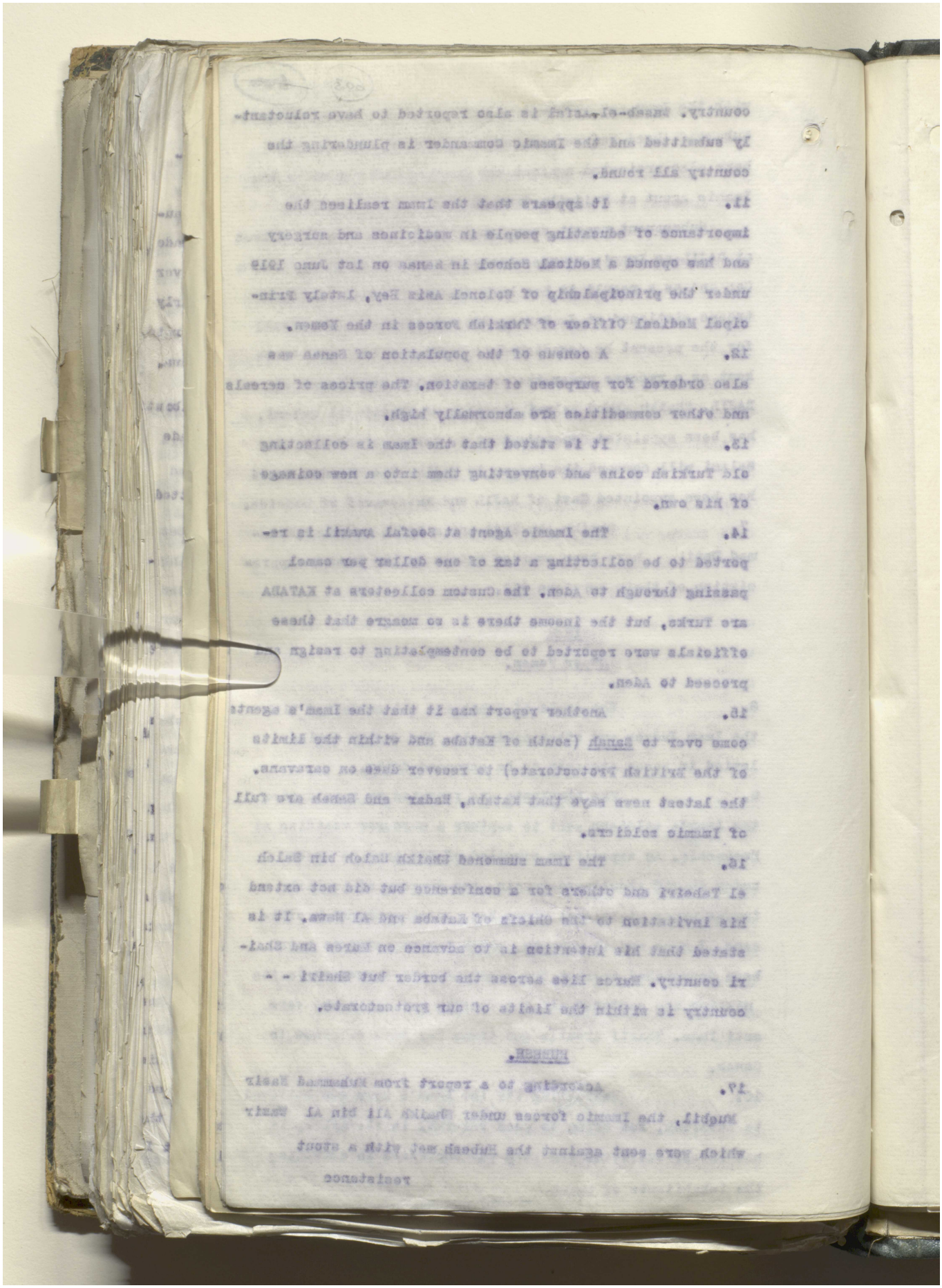

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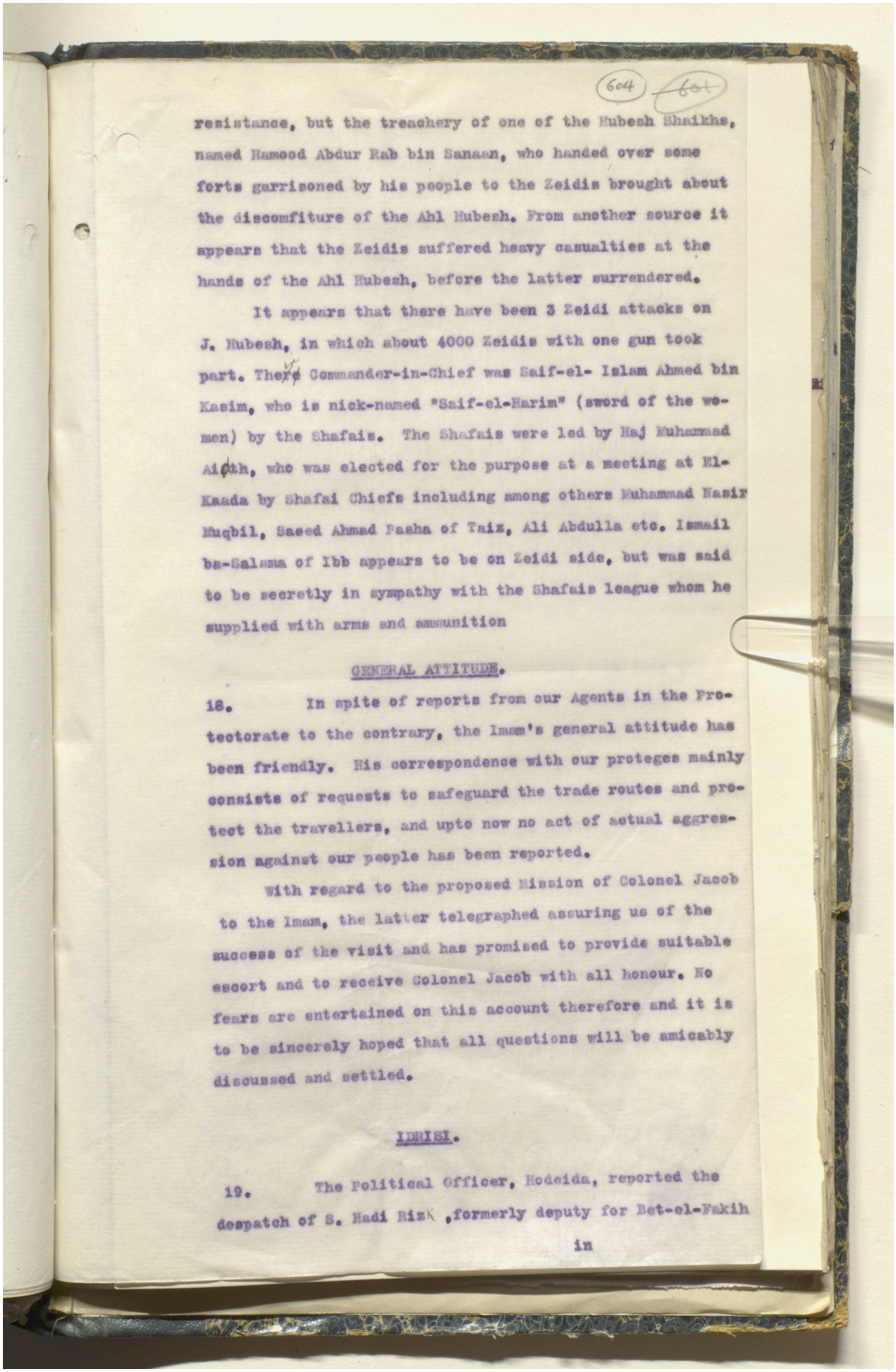

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resistance, but the treachery of one of the Hubesh Shaikhs, named Hamood Abdur Rab bin Sanaan, who handed over some forts garrisoned by his people to the Zeidis brought about the discomfiture of the Ahl Hubesh. From another source it appears that the Zeidis suffered heavy casualties at the hands of the Ahl Hubesh, before the latter surrendered.

It appears that there have been 3 Zeidi attacks on J. Hubesh, in which about 4000 Zeidis with one gun took part. Their Commander-in-Chief was Saif-el- Islam Ahmed bin Kasim, who is nick-named "Saif-el-Harim" (sword of the women) by the Shafais. The Shafais were led by Haj Muhammad Aidh, who was elected for the purpose at a meeting at El-Kaada by Shafai Chiefs including among others Muhammad Nasir Muqbil, Saeed Ahmad Pasha of Taiz, Ali Abdulla etc. Ismail ba-Salama of Ibb appears to be on Zeidi side, but was said to be secretly in sympathy with the Shafais league whom he supplied with arms and ammunition

GENERAL ATTITUDE.

18. In spite of reports from our Agents in the Protectorate to the contrary, the Imam's general attitude has been friendly. His correspondence with our proteges mainly consists of requests to safeguard the trade routes and protect the travellers, and upto now no act of actual aggression against our people has been reported.

With regard to the proposed Mission of Colonel Jacob to the Imam, the latter telegraphed assuring us of the success of the visit and has promised to provide suitable escort and to receive Colonel Jacob with all honour. No fears are entertained on this account therefore and it is to be sincerely hoped that all questions will be amicably discussed and settled.

IDRISI.

19. The Political Officer, Hodeida, reported the despatch of S. Hadi Rizk, formerly deputy for Bet-el-Fakih in

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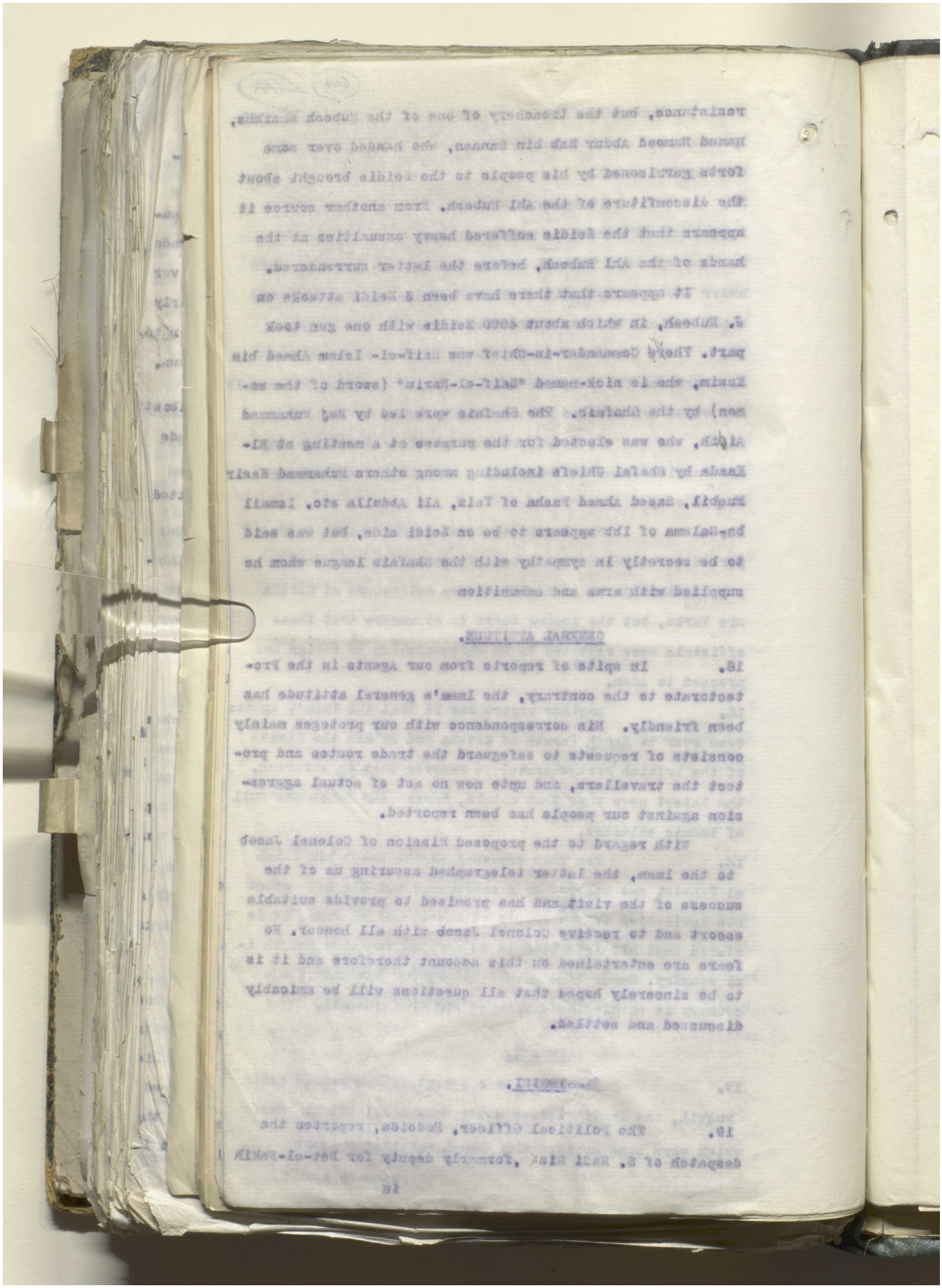

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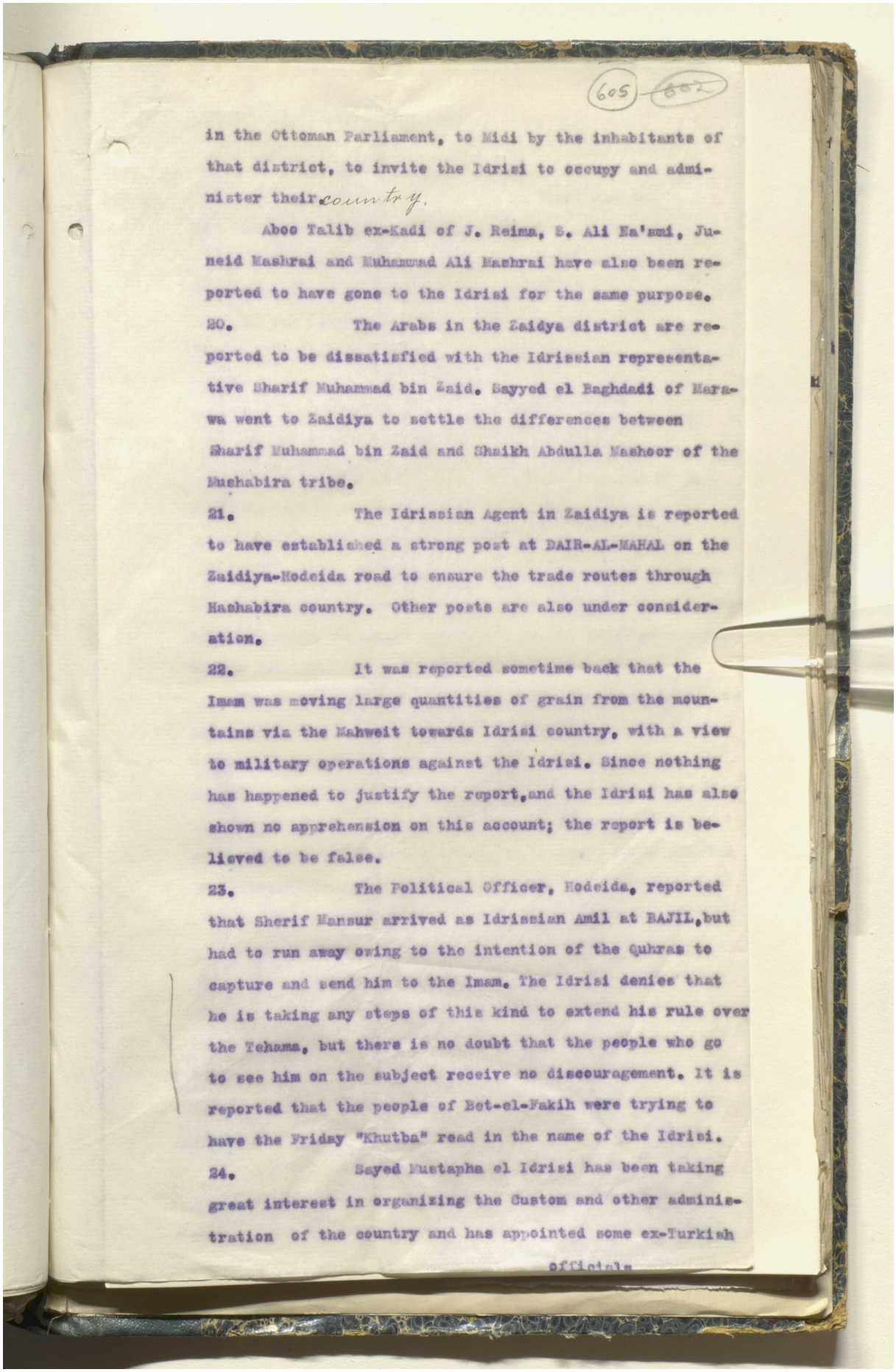

in the Ottoman Parliament, to Midi by the inhabitants of that district, to invite the Idrisi to occupy and administer their country.

Abdo Talib ex-Kadi of J. Reima, S. Ali Na'ami, Juneid Mashrai and Muhammad Ali Mashrai have also been reported to have gone to the Idrisi for the same purpose.

20. The Arabs in the Zaidya district are reported to be dissatisfied with the Idrissian representative Sharif Muhammad bin Zaid. Sayyed el Baghdadi of Marawa went to Zaidiya to settle the differences between Sharif Muhammad bin Zaid and Shaikh Abdulla Mashoor of the Mushabira tribe.

21. The Idrissian Agent in Zaidiya is reported to have established a strong post at DAIR-AL-MAHAL on the Zaidiya-Hodeida road to ensure the trade routes through Mashabira country. Other posts are also under consideration.

22. It was reported sometime back that the Imam was moving large quantities of grain from the mountains via the Mahweit towards Idrisi country, with a view to military operations against the Idrisi. Since nothing has happened to justify the report, and the Idrisi has also shown no apprehension on this account; the report is believed to be false.

23. The Political Officer, Hodeida, reported that Sherif Mansur arrived as Idrissian Amil at BAJIL, but had to run away owing to the intention of the Quhras to capture and send him to the Imam. The Idrisi denies that he is taking any steps of this kind to extend his rule over the Tehama, but there is no doubt that the people who go to see him on the subject receive no discouragement. It is reported that the people of Bet-el-Fakih were trying to have the Friday "Khutba" read in the name of the Idrisi.

24. Sayed Mustapha el Idrisi has been taking great interest in organizing the Custom and other administration of the country and has appointed some ex-Turkish officials

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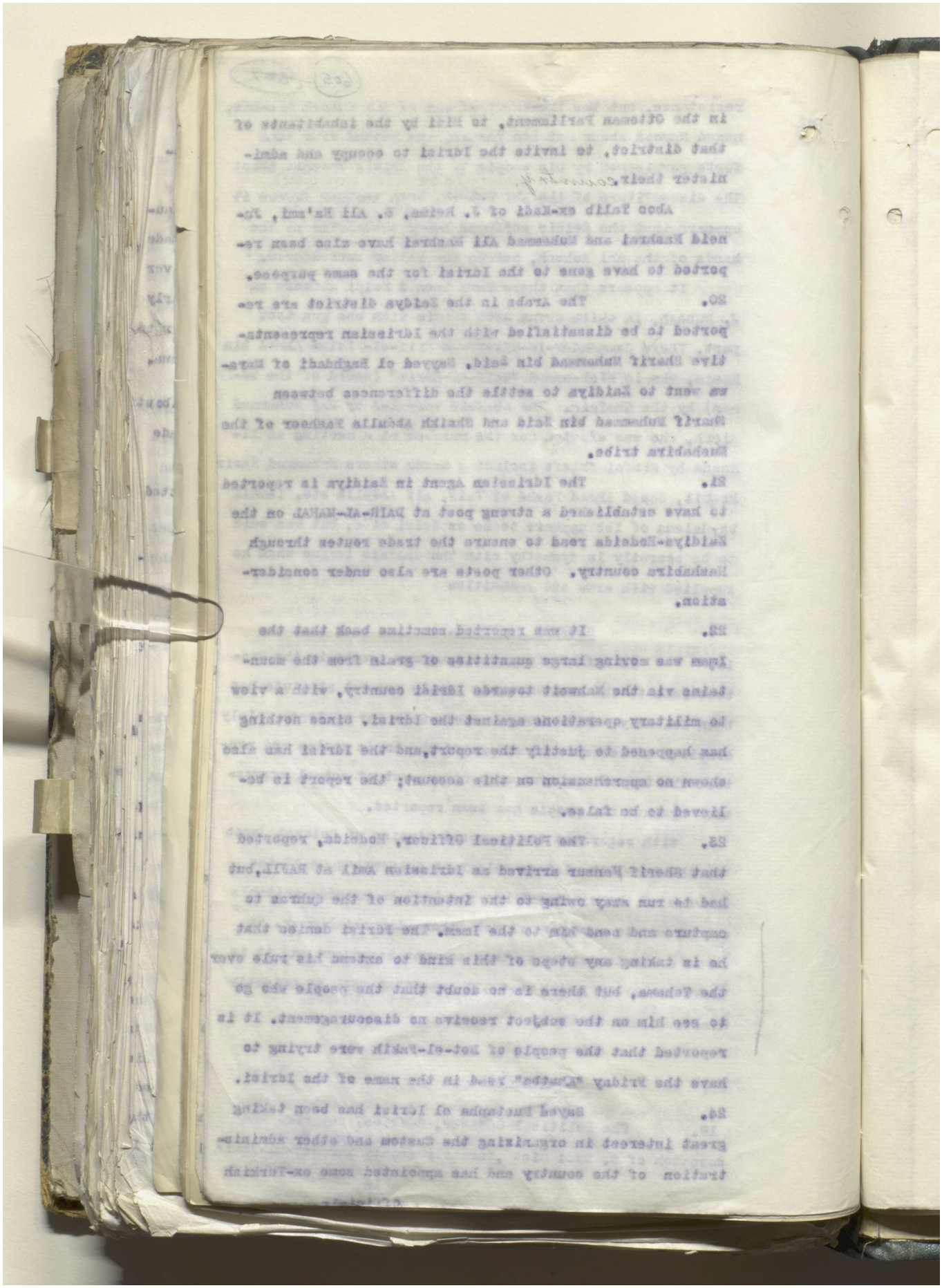

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officials to carry on the work.

(605) (606)

MAHMUD NADIM, Ex-Vali.

25. Mahmud Nadim appears to be still exercising a certain amount of influence and authority as the Tehama people refer to him for orders, assistance, advice or information. Recently he stopped the entry of Newspapers etc sent by the Political Officer, Hodeida, into the Hill Districts, asked Abu Hadi of BAJIL to stop letters from Turkish prisoners of war in Aden and Egypt to their relatives in Sanaa informing them of the good treatment they were receiving at the hands of the British Government; the appointment of Monassir Sagheer to the Kaimakamate of B. Fakih was brought about by him, and various other things. He carries on active propaganda to show the people that the Turks will return to Yemen. Our secret news agent at Sanaa is responsible for the report that the Turkish officers now in Yemen would surrender themselves to the French, but never to the British.

The continuous stay of Mahmud Nedim is rather inexplicable. At first it was believed that the ex.Vali was playing a double game, in the matter of his departure from the Yemen. To us he showed himself powerless and unable to leave Yemen without the Imam's permission, at the same time representing to the Imam his inability to leave Yemen without an authority from the Porte. Steps were taken sometime ago to forward a copy of Grand Vizier's telegram on the subject to the Imam. From a communication of the Imam it appears that it is the Imam who is detaining him. As a private individual the presence of Mahmud Nedim in Yemen does not in any way affect us, in fact he may prove a restraining influence to the excess of the Zeidis, but as a propagandist for Turkish intrigues in the country, he is an undesirable person.

A split has occurred between the Turkish Civil and Military officials now in Sanaa, one party being Mahmud Nedim's and the other of Raghib Bey, ex-Governor of Hodeida, whose

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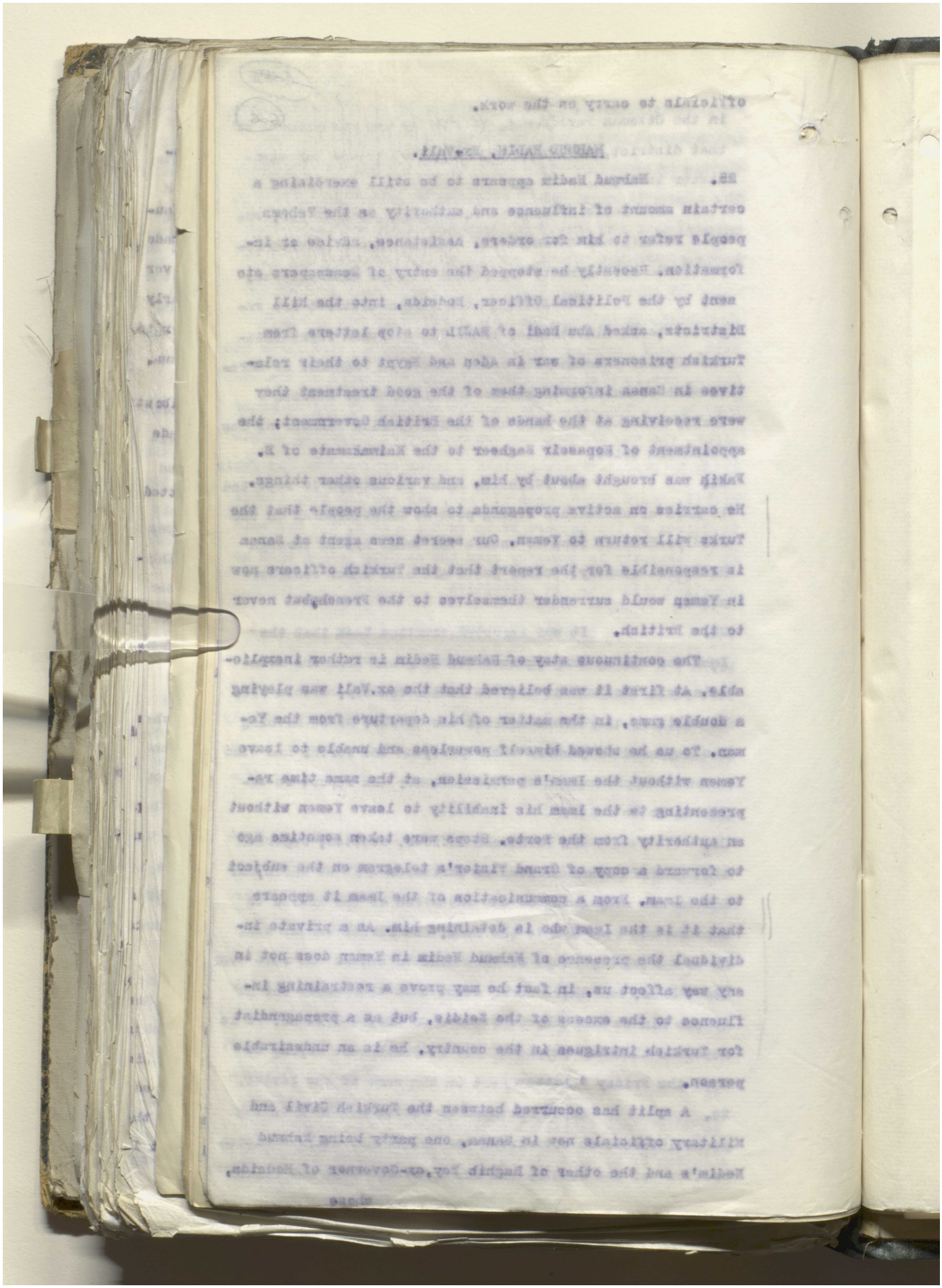

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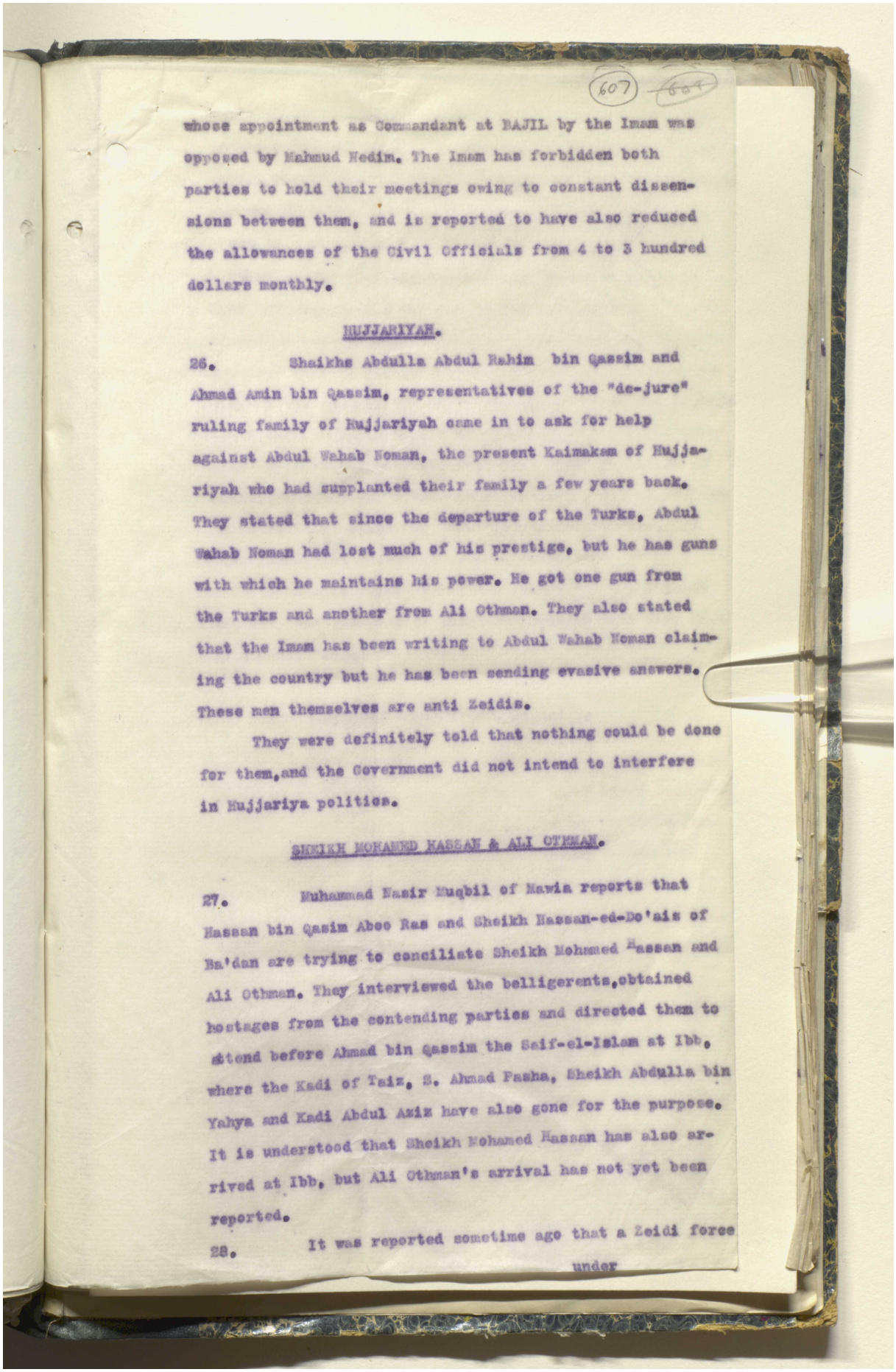

whose appointment as Commandant at HAJIL by the Imam was opposed by Mahmud Hedim. The Imam has forbidden both parties to hold their meetings owing to constant dissensions between them, and is reported to have also reduced the allowances of the Civil Officials from 4 to 3 hundred dollars monthly.

HUJJARIYAH.

26. Shaikhs Abdulla Abdul Rahim bin Qassim and Ahmad Amin bin Qassim, representatives of the "de-jure" ruling family of Hujjariyah came in to ask for help against Abdul Wahab Noman, the present Kaimakam of Hujjariyah who had supplanted their family a few years back. They stated that since the departure of the Turks, Abdul Wahab Noman had lost much of his prestige, but he has guns with which he maintains his power. He got one gun from the Turks and another from Ali Othman. They also stated that the Imam has been writing to Abdul Wahab Noman claiming the country but he has been sending evasive answers. These men themselves are anti Zeidis.

They were definitely told that nothing could be done for them, and the Government did not intend to interfere in Hujjariya politics.

SHEIKH MOHAMED HASSAN & ALI OTHMAN.

27. Muhammad Nasir Muqbil of Mawia reports that Hassan bin Qasim Abeo Ras and Sheikh Hassan-ed-Do'ais of Ba'dan are trying to conciliate Sheikh Mohamed Hassan and Ali Othman. They interviewed the belligerents, obtained hostages from the contending parties and directed them to attend before Ahmad bin Qassim the Saif-el-Islam at Ibb, where the Kadi of Taiz, S. Ahmad Pasha, Sheikh Abdulla bin Yahya and Kadi Abdul Aziz have also gone for the purpose. It is understood that Sheikh Mohamed Hassan has also arrived at Ibb, but Ali Othman's arrival has not yet been reported.

28. It was reported sometime ago that a Zeidi force under

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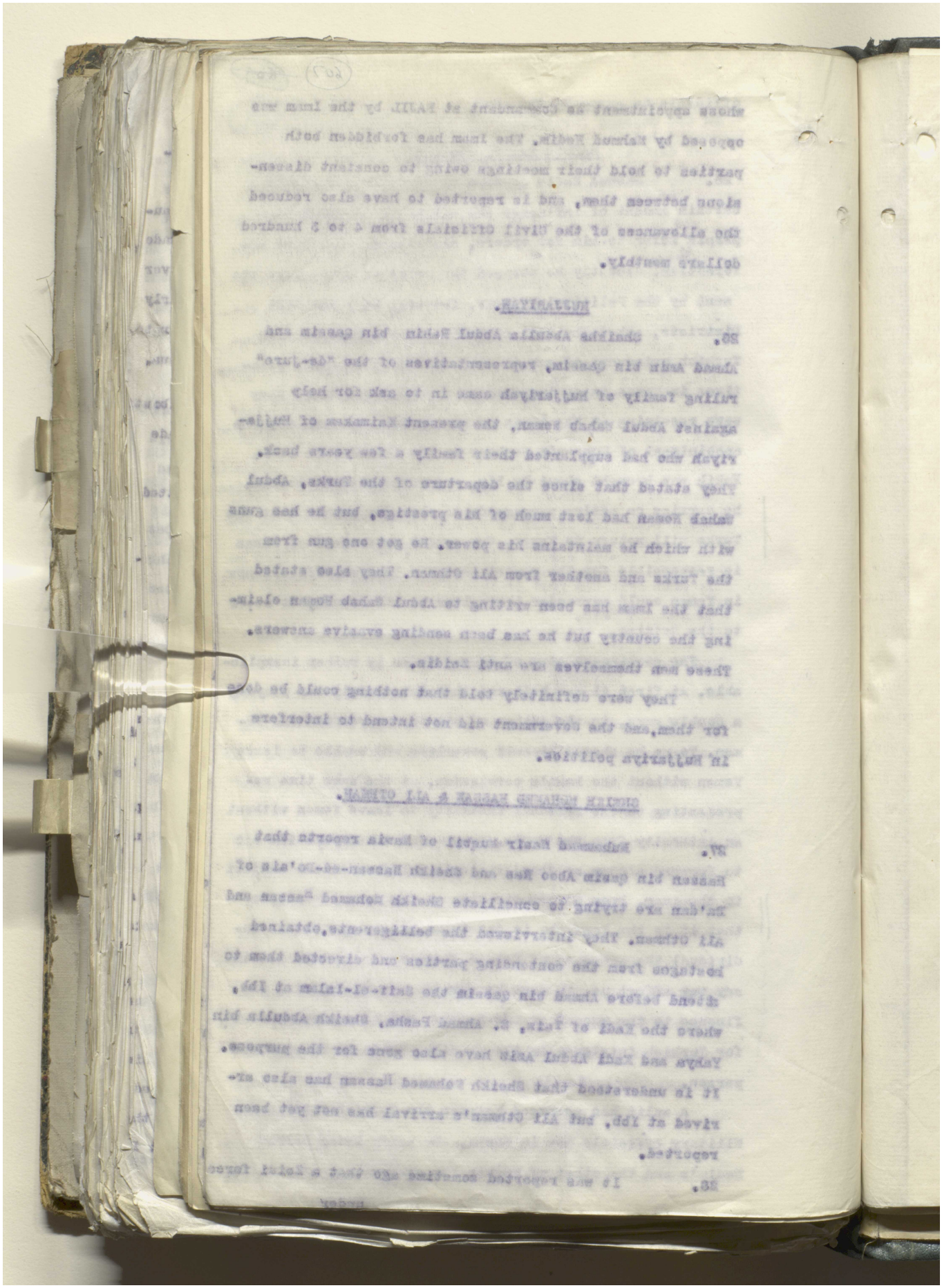

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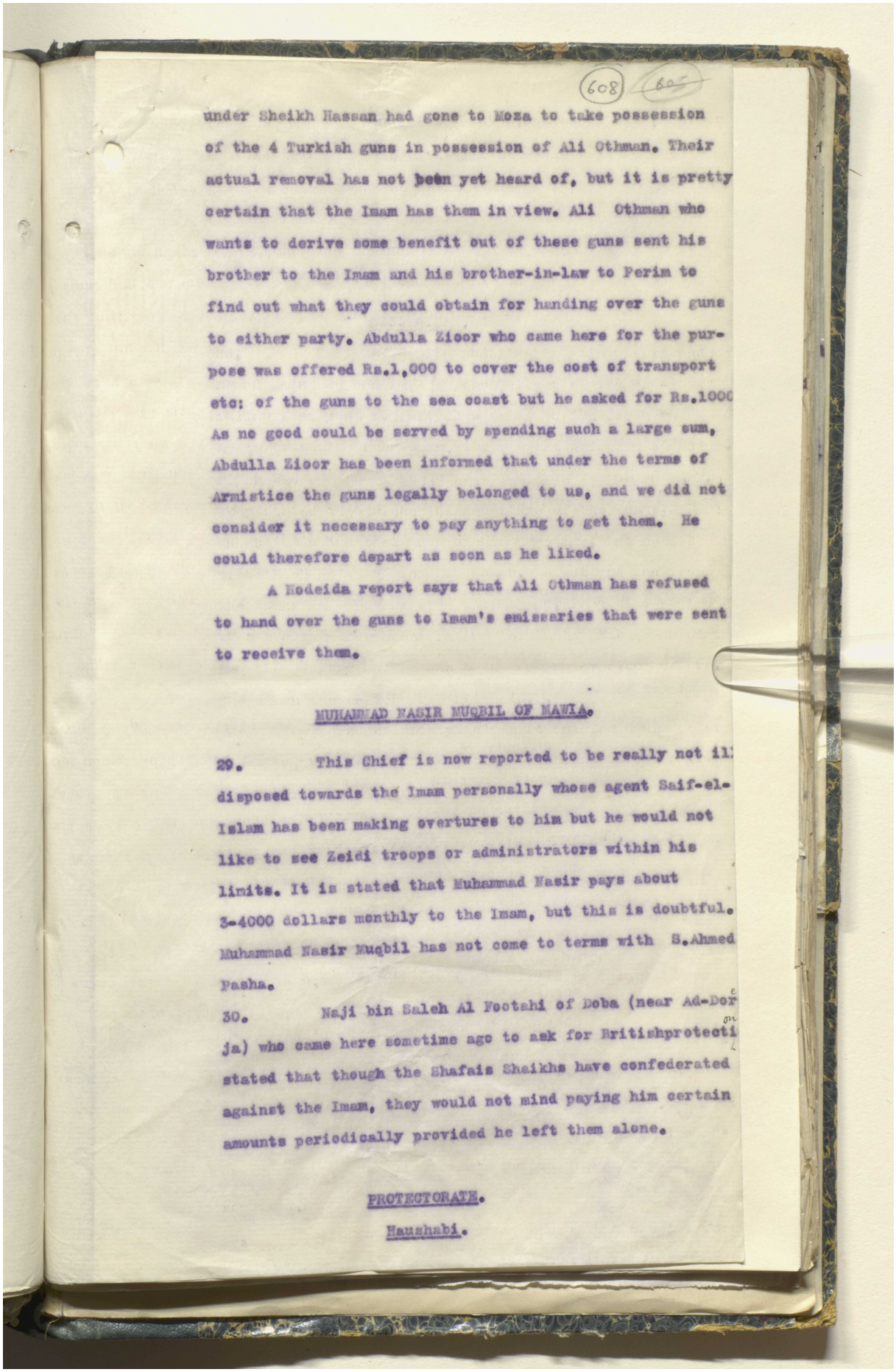

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under Sheikh Hassan had gone to Moza to take possession of the 4 Turkish guns in possession of Ali Othman. Their actual removal has not been yet heard of, but it is pretty certain that the Imam has them in view. Ali Othman who wants to derive some benefit out of these guns sent his brother to the Imam and his brother-in-law to Perim to find out what they could obtain for handing over the guns to either party. Abdulla Zicor who came here for the purpose was offered Rs.1,000 to cover the cost of transport etc: of the guns to the sea coast but he asked for Rs.1000 As no good could be served by spending such a large sum, Abdulla Zicor has been informed that under the terms of Armistice the guns legally belonged to us, and we did not consider it necessary to pay anything to get them. He could therefore depart as soon as he liked.

A Hodeida report says that Ali Othman has refused to hand over the guns to Imam's emissaries that were sent to receive them.

MUHAMMAD NASIR MUQBIL OF MAWIA.

29. This Chief is now reported to be really not ill disposed towards the Imam personally whose agent Saif-el-Islam has been making overtures to him but he would not like to see Zeidi troops or administrators within his limits. It is stated that Muhammad Nasir pays about 3-4000 dollars monthly to the Imam, but this is doubtful. Muhammad Nasir Muqbil has not come to terms with S.Ahmed Pasha.

30. Naji bin Saleh Al Footahi of Doba (near Ad-Dorja) who came here sometime ago to ask for Britishprotection stated that though the Shafais Shaikhs have confederated against the Imam, they would not mind paying him certain amounts periodically provided he left them alone.

PROTECTORATE.

Haushabi.

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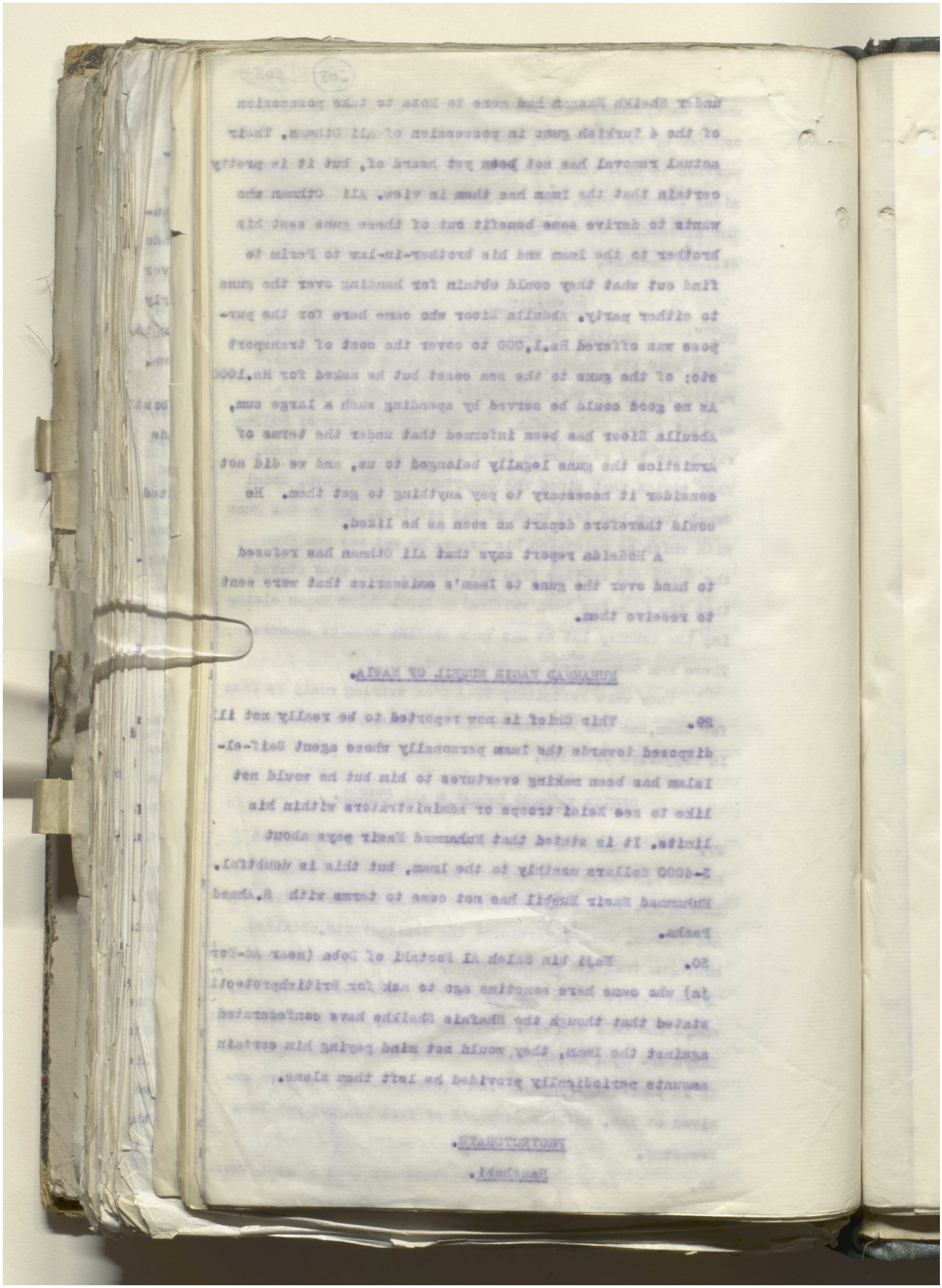

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HAUSHABI.

51. Muhammad Nasir Muqbil lately sent a present of dollars 200 and 100 Kadahs of grain to the Haushabi Sultan, which tends to show the existence of friendly relations between these two chiefs. The Haushabi has paid several visits to Hawia.

AMIRI.

32. The Amir of Dala is building a "DAR" at Ras-al-Haid, and he has been presented with 60 Kadahs of grain worth about 350 dollars, and the Dala people, Ahl Bilad Ashraf and others have also given him assistance in grain, money and goats.

33. Shairis raided a caravan composed of Ahl Mur[illegible] and Belad-el-Ashraf, and carried away the loot. Casualti[illegible] occurred on both sides.

A few days later the Ahl Mures retaliated by waylayin[illegible] and robbing a Shairi caravan from the Yemen.

34. Muqbil Abdulla el Koteibi a nephew of the Koteibi Shaikh whose conduct during the war has not been satisfactory and who has now been trying to gain favour of this Residency has announced that he will guarantee the safety of caravans using the Nashwara Pass but that he could not be responsible for those using the Hardaba Pass. The Haushabi Sultan has on the other hand notified the merchants and camelmen that he ceases to be responsible for the caravans who use the Nashwara route and get robbed. Both have an eye on the dues, however, and taken as a whole, the routes cannot be called safe.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mecca.

35. A report was spread in the Tehama on 2nd May 1919 by the Sayyeds of Zaidiya on the authority of one S. Murtaza (who had arrived there from Jeddah) of severe fighting at Mecca, and of Jeddah having been invested by Ibn Saood's men.

36.

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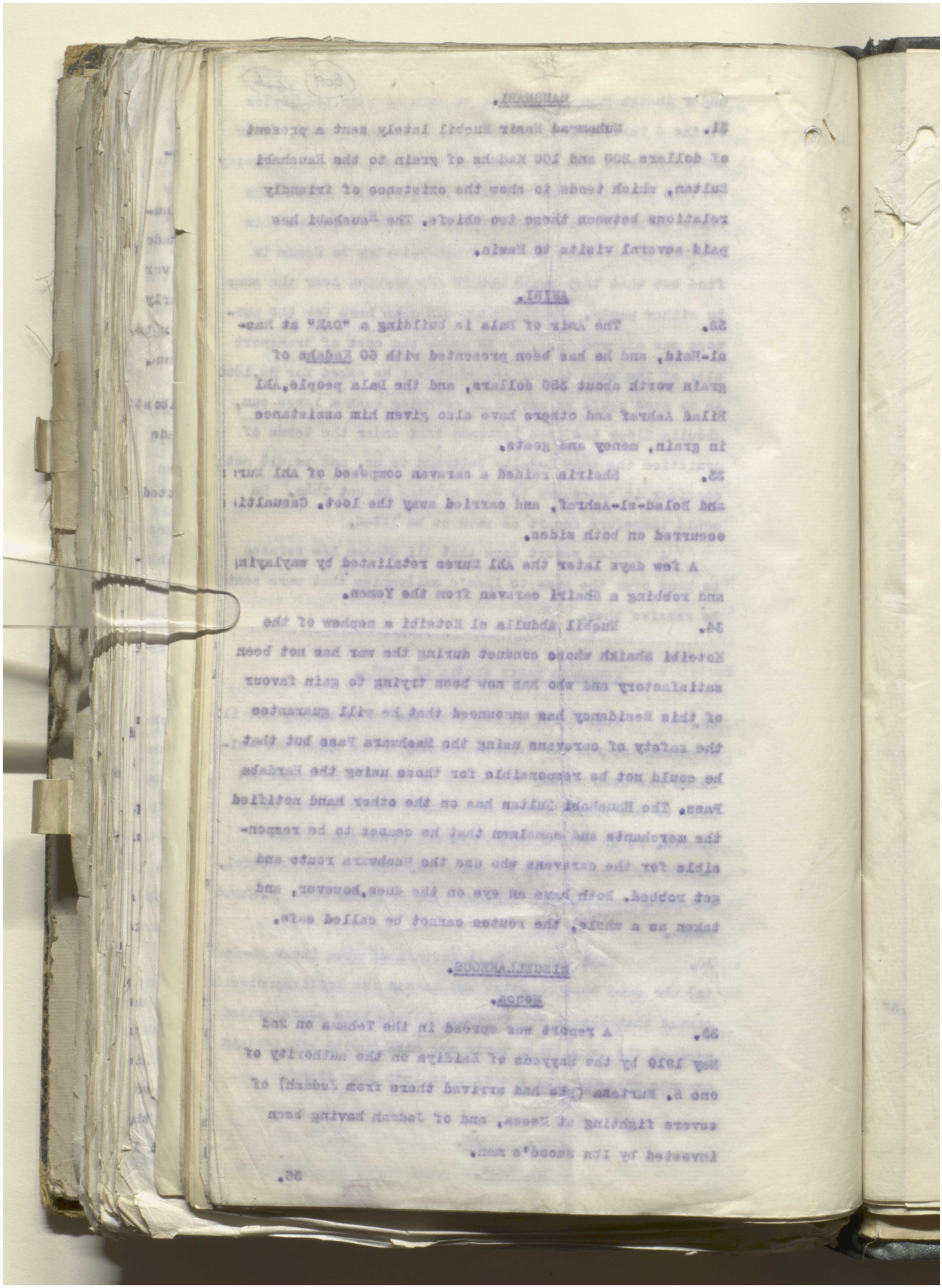

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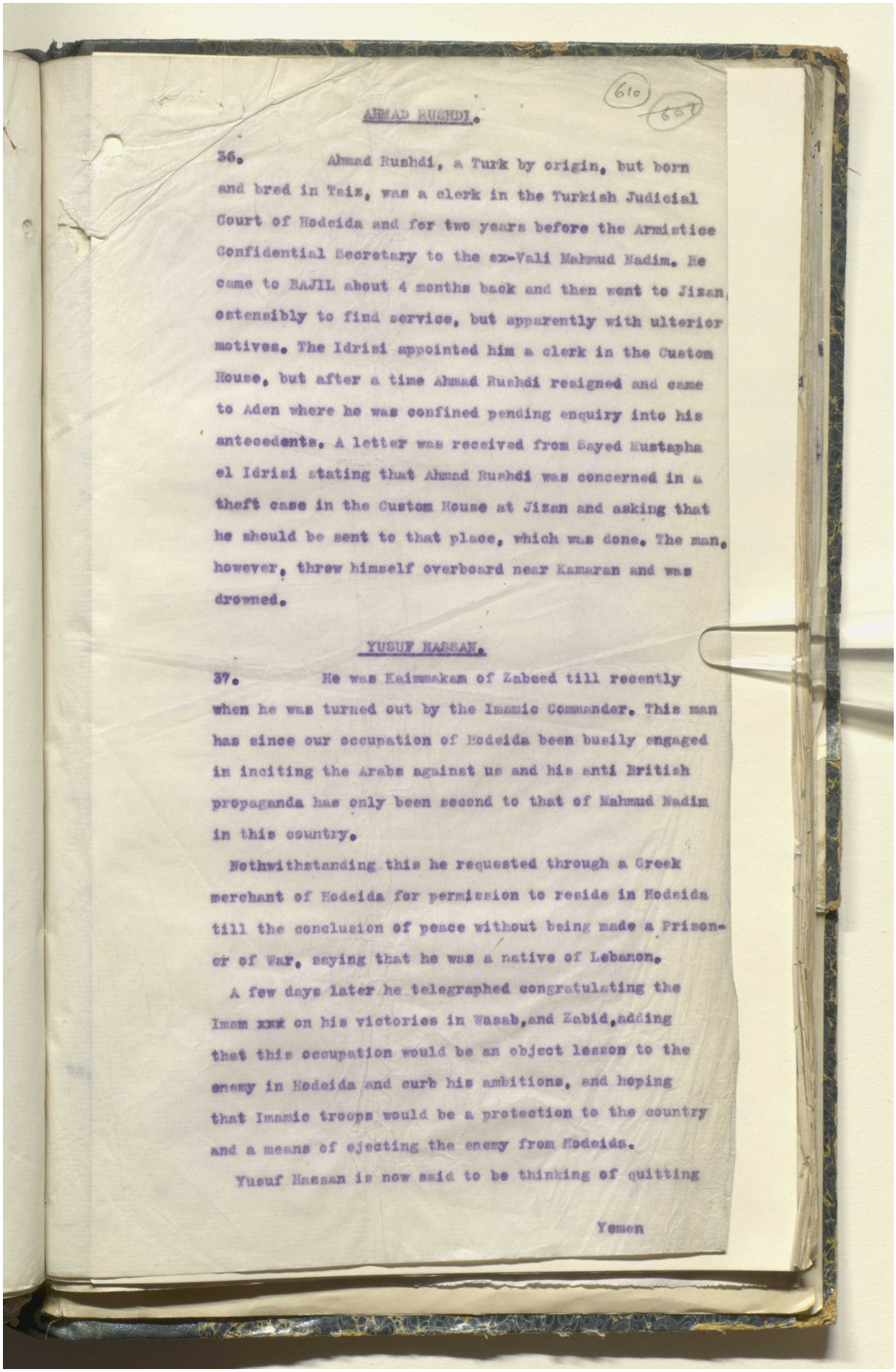

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AHMAD RUSHDI.

36. Ahmad Rushdi, a Turk by origin, but born and bred in Taiz, was a clerk in the Turkish Judicial Court of Hodeida and for two years before the Armistice Confidential Secretary to the ex-Vali Mahmud Nadim. He came to HAJIL about 4 months back and then went to Jizan, ostensibly to find service, but apparently with ulterior motives. The Idrisi appointed him a clerk in the Custom House, but after a time Ahmad Rushdi resigned and came to Aden where he was confined pending enquiry into his antecedents. A letter was received from Sayed Mustapha el Idrisi stating that Ahmad Rushdi was concerned in a theft case in the Custom House at Jizan and asking that he should be sent to that place, which was done. The man, however, threw himself overboard near Kamaran and was drowned.

YUSUF HASSAN.

37. He was Kaimmakam of Zabeed till recently when he was turned out by the Imamic Commander. This man has since our occupation of Hodeida been busily engaged in inciting the Arabs against us and his anti British propaganda has only been second to that of Mahmud Nadim in this country.

Nothwithstanding this he requested through a Greek merchant of Hodeida for permission to reside in Hodeida till the conclusion of peace without being made a Prisoner of War, saying that he was a native of Lebanon.

A few days later he telegraphed congratulating the Imam xxx on his victories in Wasab, and Zabid, adding that this occupation would be an object lesson to the enemy in Hodeida and curb his ambitions, and hoping that Imamic troops would be a protection to the country and a means of ejecting the enemy from Hodeida.

Yusuf Hassan is now said to be thinking of quitting

Yemen

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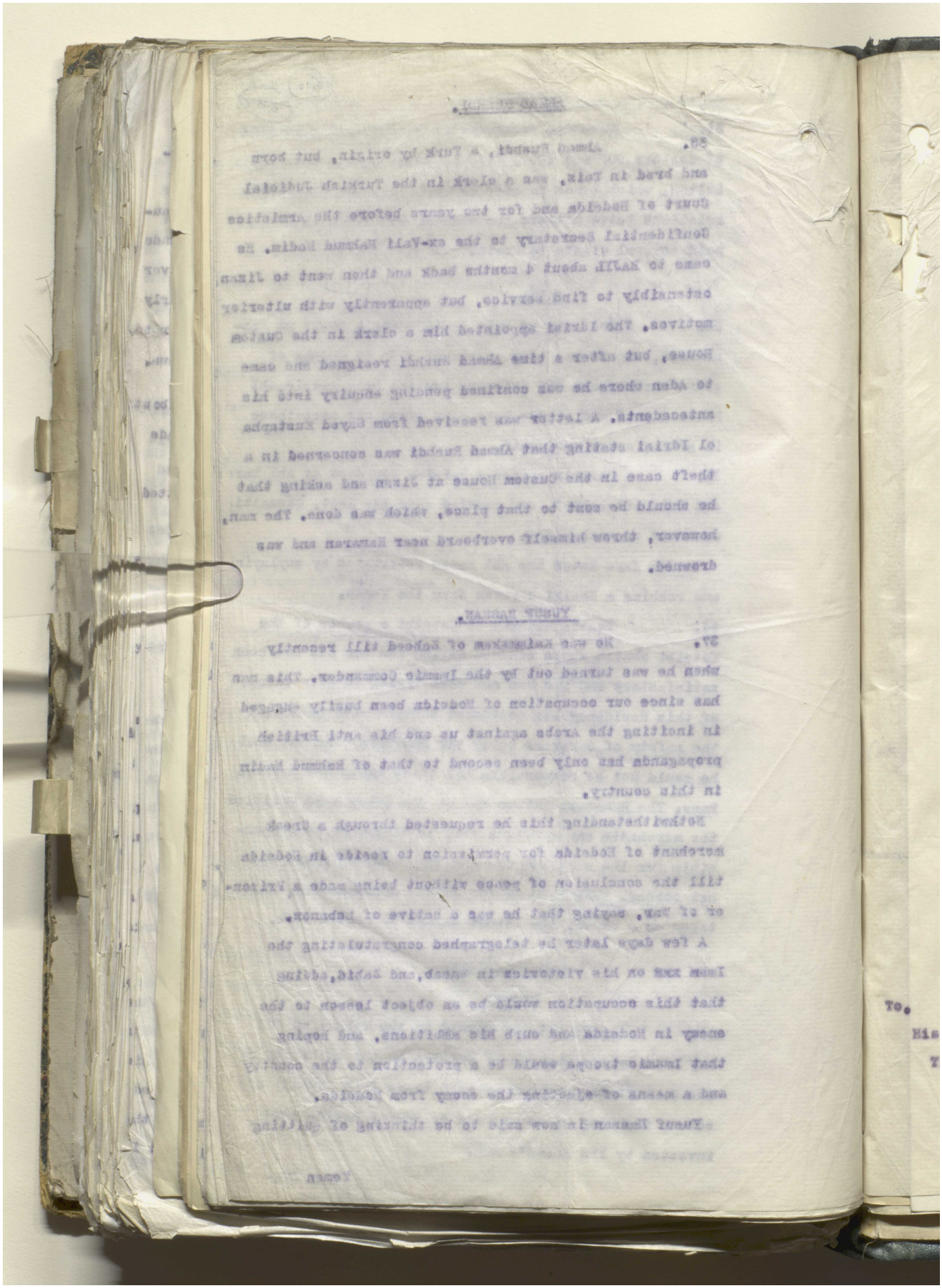

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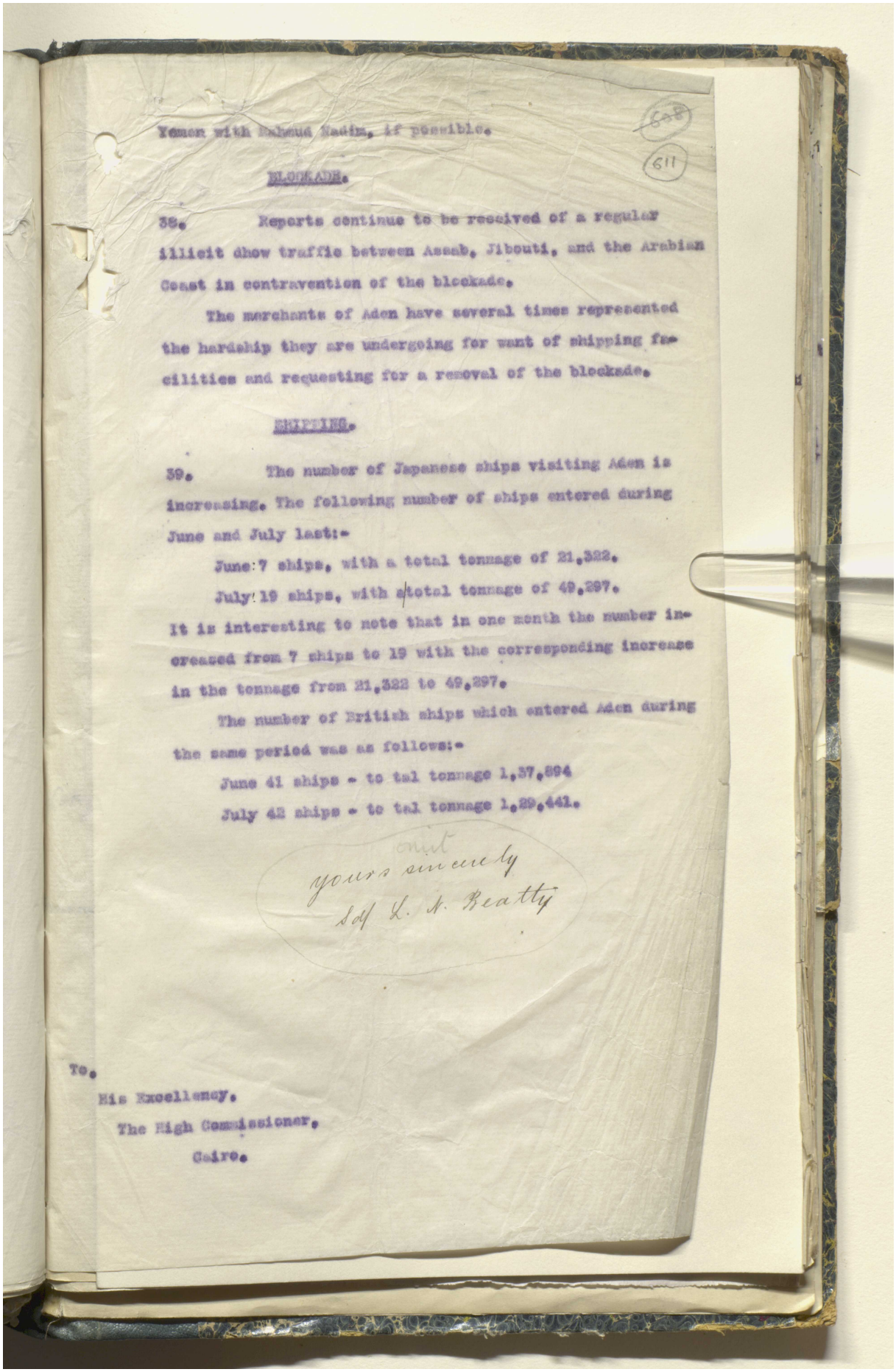

Yemen with Mahmud Nadim, if possible.

(611)

BLOCKADE.

38. Reports continue to be received of a regular illicit dhow traffic between Assab, Jibouti, and the Arabian Coast in contravention of the blockade.

The merchants of Aden have several times represented the hardship they are undergoing for want of shipping facilities and requesting for a removal of the blockade.

SHIPPING.

39. The number of Japanese ships visiting Aden is increasing. The following number of ships entered during June and July last:-

June: 7 ships, with a total tonnage of 21,322.

July: 19 ships, with a total tonnage of 49,297.

It is interesting to note that in one month the number increased from 7 ships to 19 with the corresponding increase in the tonnage from 21,322 to 49,297.

The number of British ships which entered Aden during the same period was as follows:-

June 41 ships - to tal tonnage 1,37,894

July 42 ships - to tal tonnage 1,29,441.

I am
yours sincerely
Sd/ L. N. Beatty

To,
His Excellency,
The High Commissioner,
Cairo.

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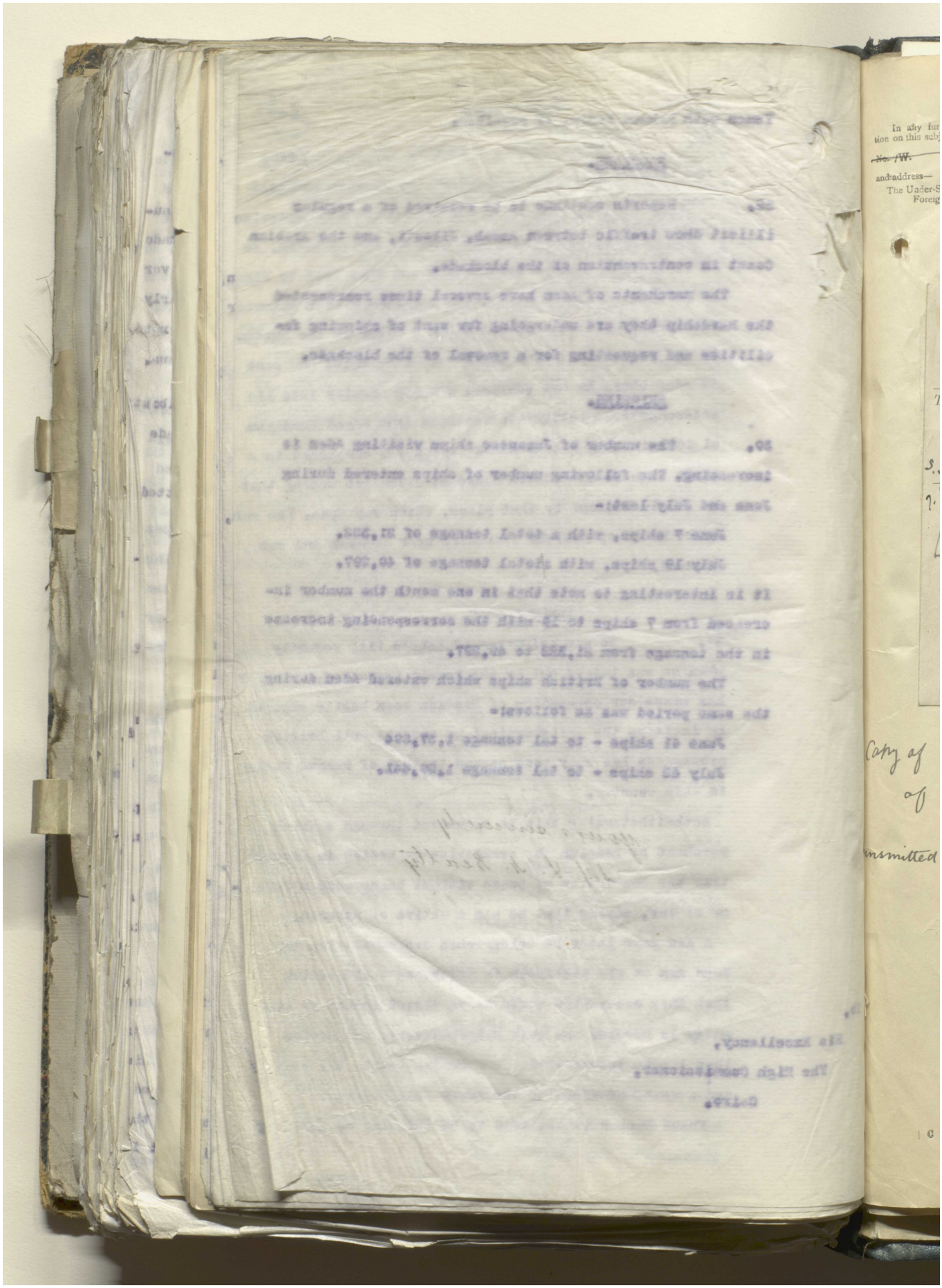

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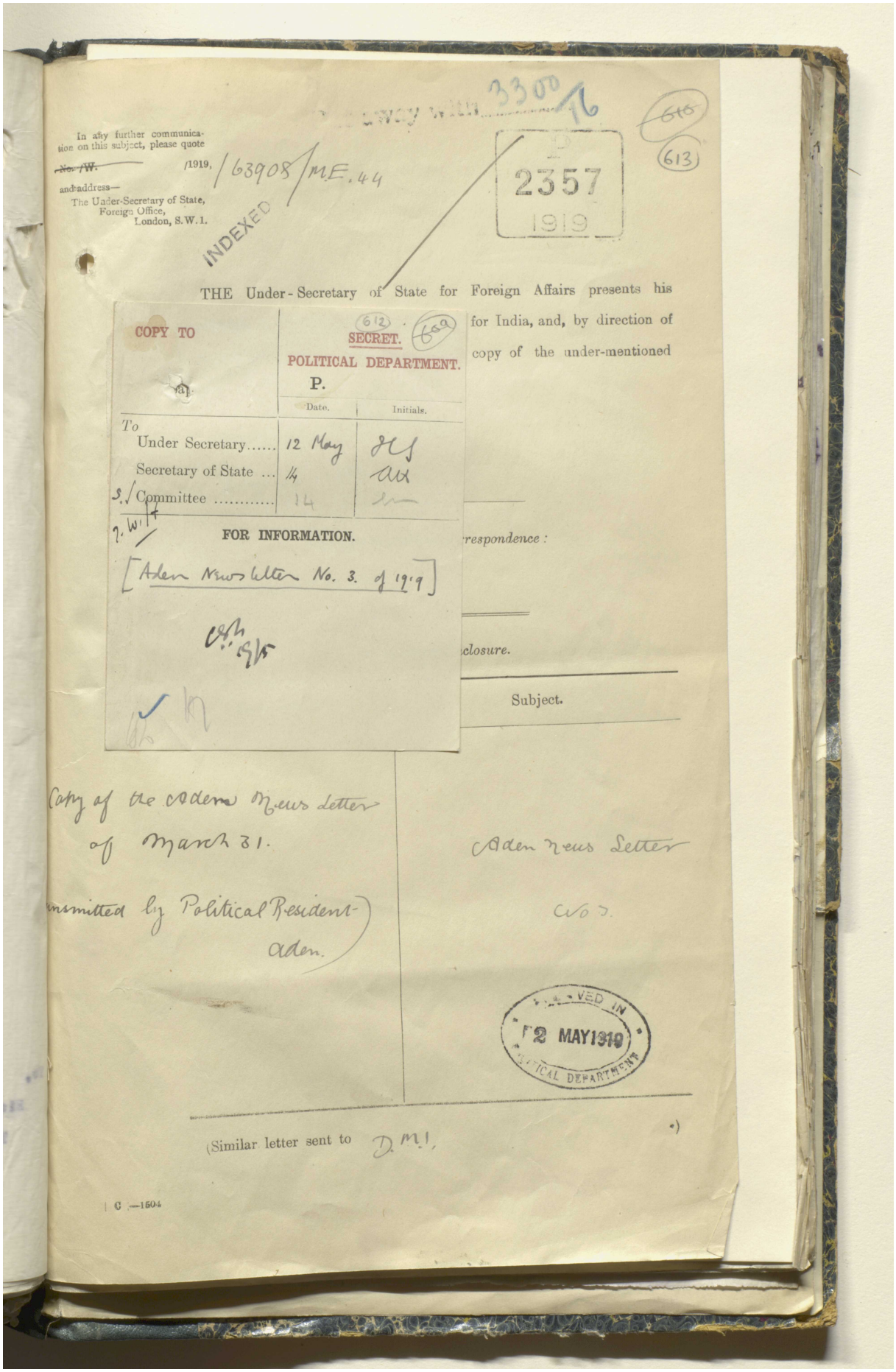

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and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

INDEXED

P 2357 1919

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his ... for India, and, by direction of ... copy of the under-mentioned ...

COPY TO

612
SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P.

	Date.	Initials.
To Under Secretary.....	12 May	JCS
Secretary of State ...	14	AM
S./ Committee	14	

7. W.I.

FOR INFORMATION.

[Aden News Letter No. 3. of 1919]

...respondence :

...closure.

Subject.

Copy of the Aden News Letter of March 31.

Aden News Letter

C/o 7.

Transmitted by Political Resident Aden.

RECEIVED IN
12 MAY 1919
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

(Similar letter sent to D.M.I.)

C —1504

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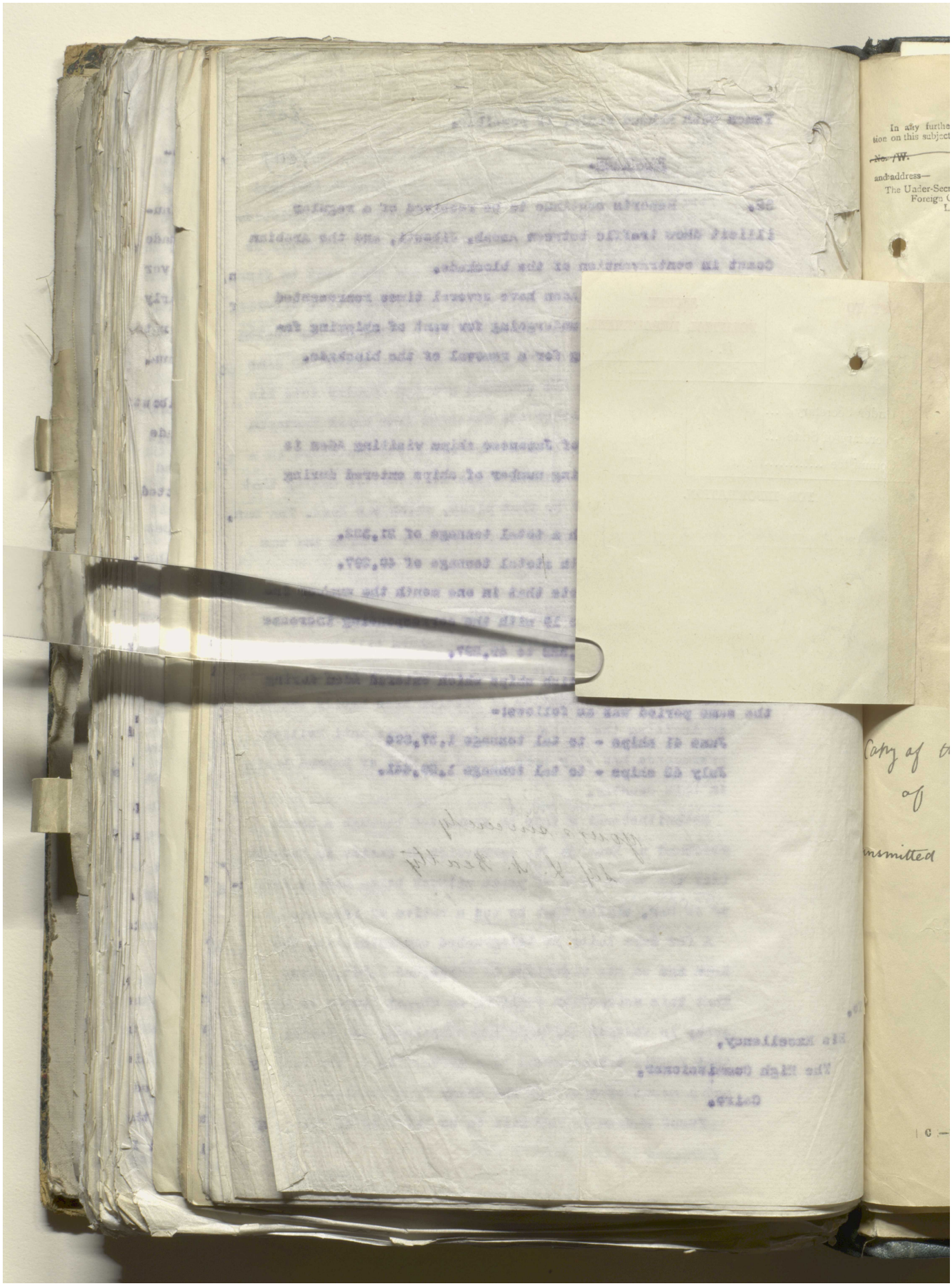

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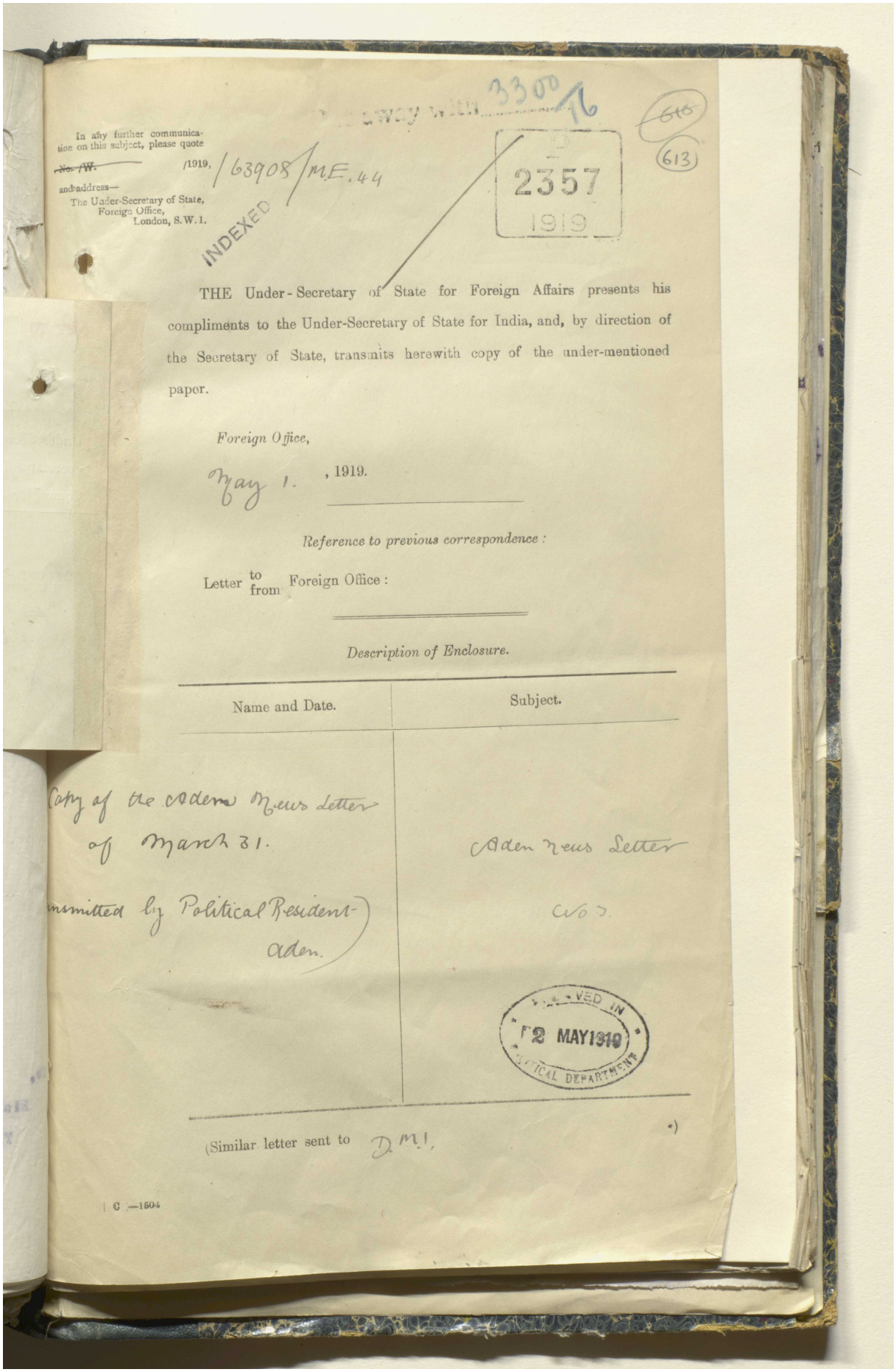

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The Under-Secretary of State,
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London, S.W.1.

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2357
1919

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

May 1. , 1919.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of the Aden News Letter of March 31. transmitted by Political Resident Aden.	Aden News Letter No 7.

RECEIVED IN
12 MAY 1919
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

(Similar letter sent to D.M.I.)

C —1504

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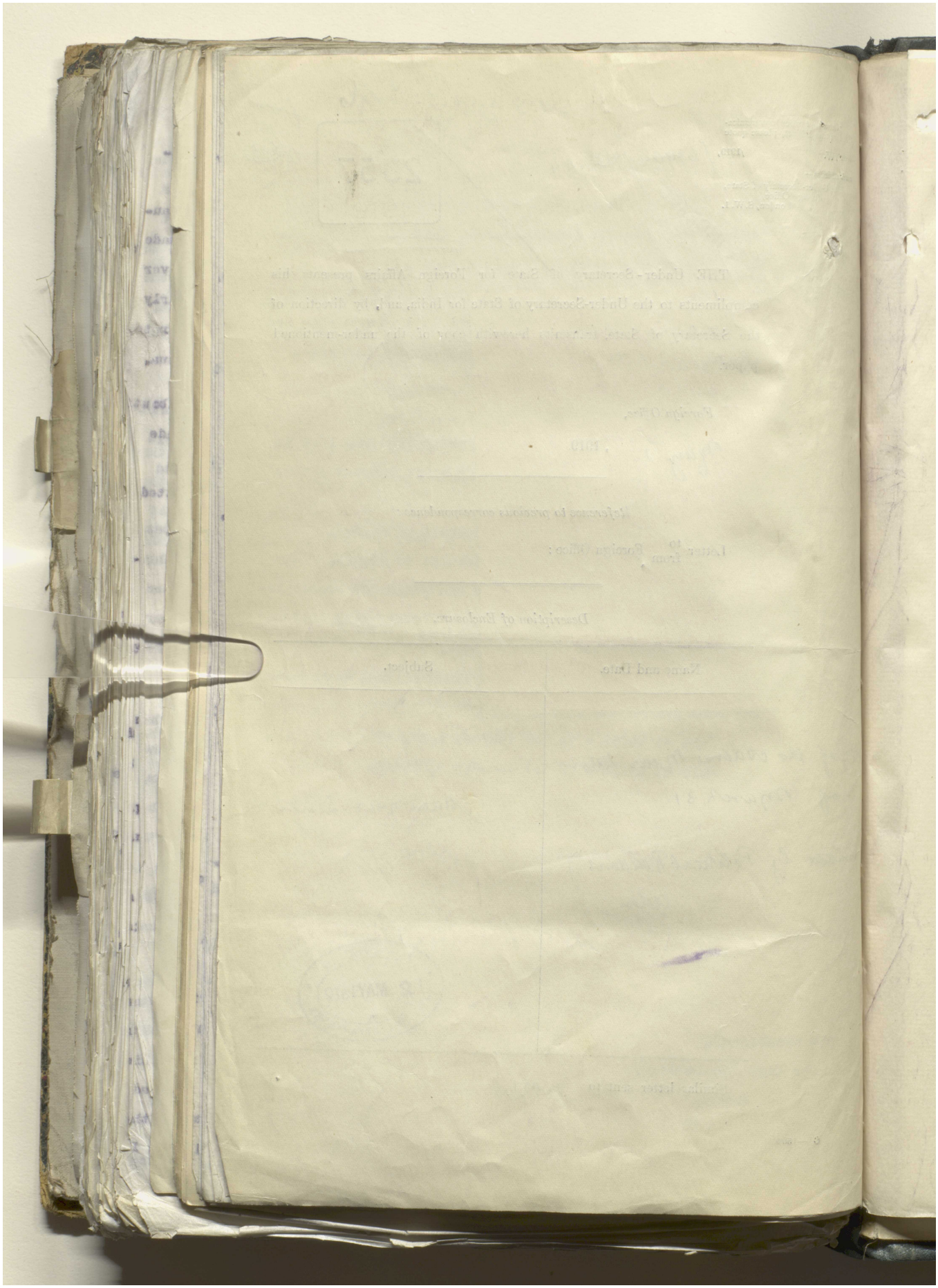

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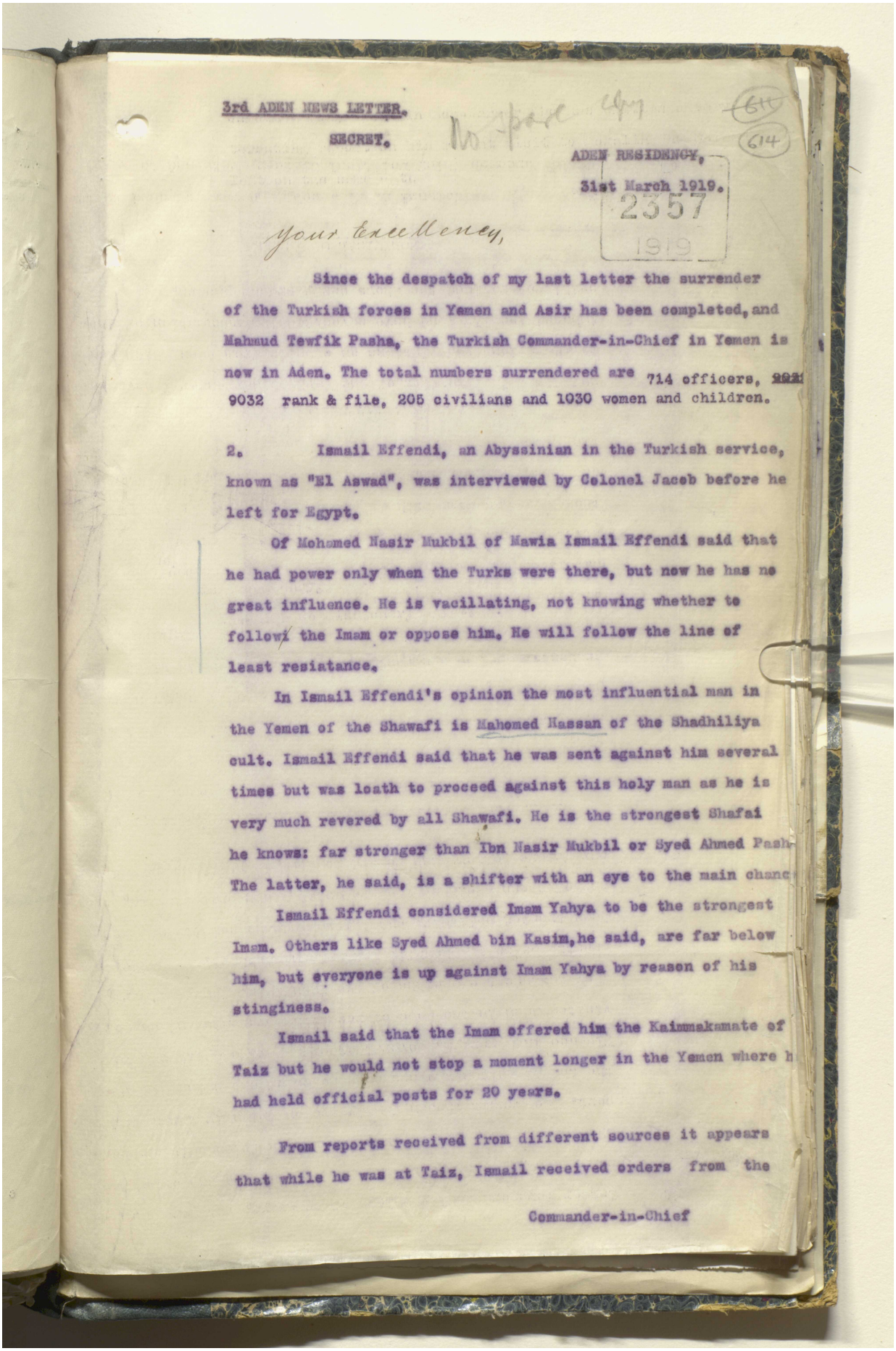

3rd ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

No spare copy

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ADEN RESIDENCY,

31st March 1919.

2357
1919

Your Excellency,

Since the despatch of my last letter the surrender of the Turkish forces in Yemen and Asir has been completed, and Mahmud Tewfik Pasha, the Turkish Commander-in-Chief in Yemen is now in Aden. The total numbers surrendered are 714 officers, 9032 rank & file, 205 civilians and 1030 women and children.

2. Ismail Effendi, an Abyssinian in the Turkish service, known as "El Aswad", was interviewed by Colonel Jacob before he left for Egypt.

Of Mohamed Nasir Mukbil of Mawia Ismail Effendi said that he had power only when the Turks were there, but now he has no great influence. He is vacillating, not knowing whether to follow the Imam or oppose him. He will follow the line of least resistance.

In Ismail Effendi's opinion the most influential man in the Yemen of the Shawafi is Mahomed Hassan of the Shadhiliya cult. Ismail Effendi said that he was sent against him several times but was loath to proceed against this holy man as he is very much revered by all Shawafi. He is the strongest Shafai he knows: far stronger than Ibn Nasir Mukbil or Syed Ahmed Pash The latter, he said, is a shifter with an eye to the main chanc

Ismail Effendi considered Imam Yahya to be the strongest Imam. Others like Syed Ahmed bin Kasim, he said, are far below him, but everyone is up against Imam Yahya by reason of his stinginess.

Ismail said that the Imam offered him the Kaimmakamate of Taiz but he would not stop a moment longer in the Yemen where h had held official posts for 20 years.

From reports received from different sources it appears that while he was at Taiz, Ismail received orders from the

Commander-in-Chief

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Commander-in-Chief in the Yemen to proceed to Mokha with his men but he came to Lahej and surrendered. He also refused to hand over his arms and ammunition to the Sef-el-Islam Ahmed bin Kassim, who was deputed by the Imam for the purpose. He gave some arms to Syed Ahmed Pasha of Taiz and the Sheikhs of Jabel Saber. An Abdali correspondent reports that after the departure of the Turks under Ismail Effendi, the Arabs of Saber cut off the water supply from the town of Taiz on account of the misdeeds of Zeidi soldiers there and that in consequence Syed Ahmed Pasha and Sef-el-Islam were compelled to remove the soldiers to Al Genadia.

ATTITUDE OF THE IMAM.

3. I have received a letter from the Imam dated 8th Jomad Awal 1337 (9th February 1919), a copy of which has been sent to you, in which he deprecated the treatment received by this Envoys in Aden and endeavoured to justify his action in addressing other powers. He renewed his overtures for an understanding with the British Government.

4. Mahomed al Umairi reports that the Imam is following a conciliatory policy towards Lower Yemen and intends to retain the chiefs in their present positions provided the latter pay him tithes. Al Umairi says that having no one on whom to depend for support, the Shafai Sheikhs are now showing signs of submission to the Imam.

5. Syed Mahomed Taha of Jabel Jihaf reports that with the exception of 50 men all the Zeidis have left Kataba for An-Nadra.

6. Haj Lutf, a merchant from Sana, who has come down with recommendatory letter from the Imam, says he left Sana about a month ago. The Turkish troops were then all leaving; there were 200-250 civilians, some of whom meant to leave and others to remain. Mahmud Nedim intended to remain. Mahmud Nedim has much influence over the Imam, who believes him to have much knowledge of the state of affairs in all countries. The Imam's principal advisers are Abdulla el Amri,

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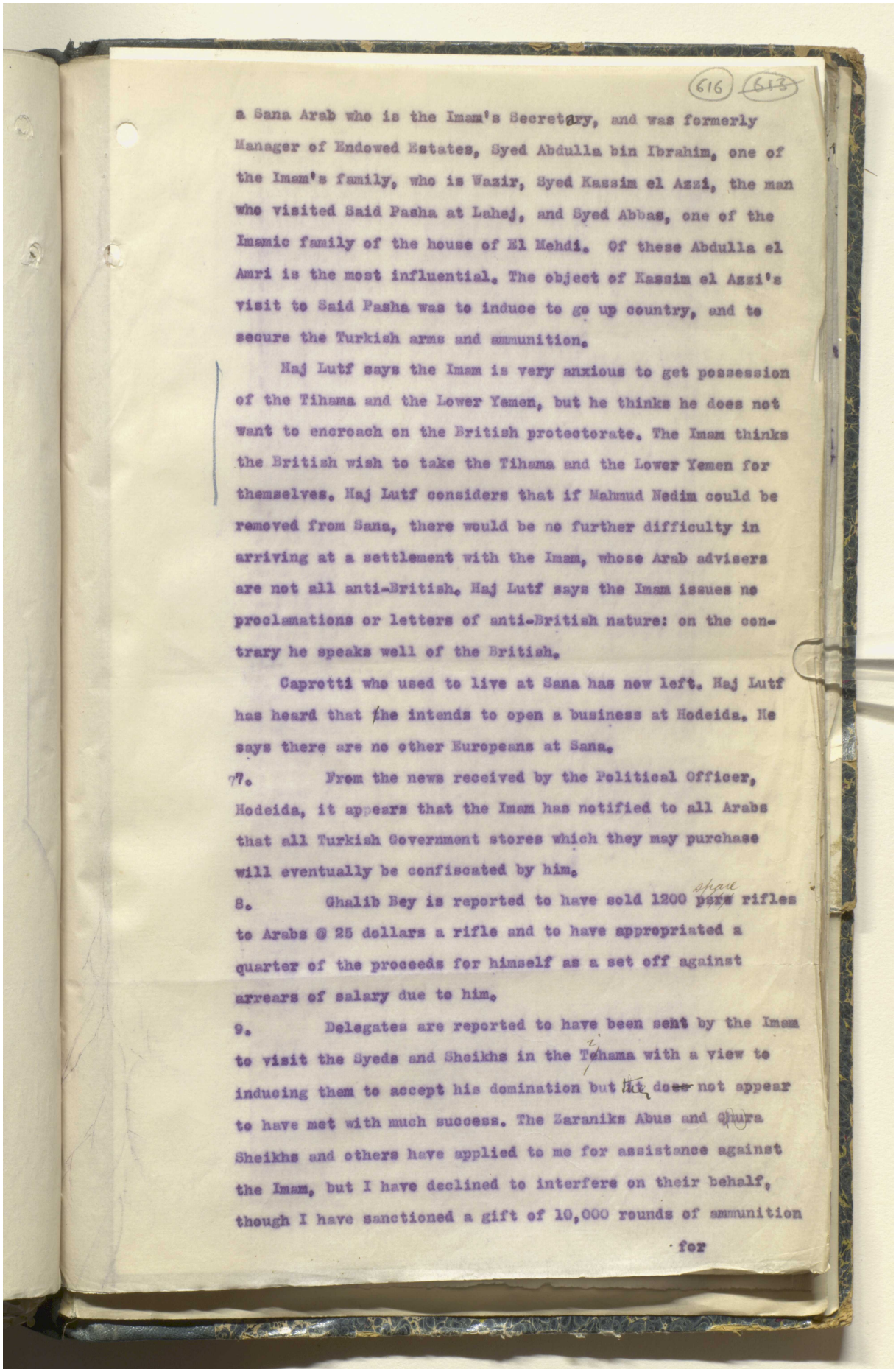

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a Sana Arab who is the Imam's Secretary, and was formerly Manager of Endowed Estates, Syed Abdulla bin Ibrahim, one of the Imam's family, who is Wazir, Syed Kassim el Azzi, the man who visited Said Pasha at Lahej, and Syed Abbas, one of the Imamic family of the house of El Mehdi. Of these Abdulla el Amri is the most influential. The object of Kassim el Azzi's visit to Said Pasha was to induce to go up country, and to secure the Turkish arms and ammunition.

Haj Lutf says the Imam is very anxious to get possession of the Tihama and the Lower Yemen, but he thinks he does not want to encroach on the British protectorate. The Imam thinks the British wish to take the Tihama and the Lower Yemen for themselves. Haj Lutf considers that if Mahmud Nedim could be removed from Sana, there would be no further difficulty in arriving at a settlement with the Imam, whose Arab advisers are not all anti-British. Haj Lutf says the Imam issues no proclamations or letters of anti-British nature: on the contrary he speaks well of the British.

Caprotti who used to live at Sana has now left. Haj Lutf has heard that he intends to open a business at Hodeida. He says there are no other Europeans at Sana.

7. From the news received by the Political Officer, Hodeida, it appears that the Imam has notified to all Arabs that all Turkish Government stores which they may purchase will eventually be confiscated by him.

8. Ghalib Bey is reported to have sold 1200 ~~pure~~ share rifles to Arabs @ 25 dollars a rifle and to have appropriated a quarter of the proceeds for himself as a set off against arrears of salary due to him.

9. Delegates are reported to have been sent by the Imam to visit the Syeds and Sheikhs in the Tehama with a view to inducing them to accept his domination but ~~he~~ it does not appear to have met with much success. The Zaraniks Abus and Qhura Sheikhs and others have applied to me for assistance against the Imam, but I have declined to interfere on their behalf, though I have sanctioned a gift of 10,000 rounds of ammunition for

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for the Zaraniks and Abus for purely defensive purposes. I have told the Officer Commanding, Hodeida, that our policy is to discourage fighting.

10. The Imam appears to be endeavouring to extend his rule over the Lower Yemen and the Tihama by pacific means and propaganda. We have had no information as yet of his using force against any of the tribes in these districts. He has occupied Kataba on the border of our protectorate, but, in spite of constant rumours of a Zeidi advance ~~over~~ on Dala he has so far abstained from interfering in any way with places inside our protectorate.

11. Further north he is met by the influence of the Idrisi, who has occupied Zeidiya and the surrounding district. I am sending under a separate cover letters which the Imam and Mahmud Nedim have addressed to the ~~Sheikh~~ head of Munira in the Zeidiya district. The letters are strongly anti-British and anti-Idrisi, and their tenor is used by the Idrisi to assist him in justifying his own advance southwards.

12. I see no objection to the Idrisi extending his influence as far south as Salif, but I am impressing on his cousin Syed Mustafa, who is now on a visit to Aden, the undesirability of the Idrisi extending his claims further pending the general settlement of boundaries which we have promised to undertake. The activities of the Imam and the Idrisi in the evacuated Turkish districts in the Tihama make it very desirable that this settlement should be made with as little delay as possible.

13. Meanwhile it is evident that the departure of the Turks has to some extent weakened the position of the Imam in the Zeidi districts, where many of the people have been made discontented by his parsimony. A fight is reported between Saleh bin Saleh el Tairi, Sheikh of Rada and one of the Imam's mukadams who was collecting tithes in Juban and Na'wa.

14. A letter has been received from Syed Ahmed Yehia el Kibsi, formerly member of the Ottoman Parliament for the Yemen advocating the claims of Sef-el-Islam Mohammed Mohsen, which

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which he says are supported by the Hashid and Bakil and the Sheikhs of Ibb and Udein, and also by the Idrisi. It is evident that this scheme is being promoted by the Idrisi, and I hear that Mohammed Mohsen's son is going to pay the Idrisi a visit. This Sef-el-Islam made overtures to me a few months ago, sending down a letter by Sheikh Musaid Allao, but I gave him no encouragement; nor do I propose to do so on this occasion. One of this Sef-el-Islam's daughters is married to the Imam Yahia, and another to the Imam' son, while he himself is married to a daughter of the Bakil Sheikh Nasir Mabkhut.

THE IDRISI.

15. The Idrisi and Syed Mustafa gave valuable assistance in facilitating the evacuation of the Turks from Asir, and I have thanked them for their help. The Idrisi has been allowed to retain the arms of the Turks who were on his borders, and has furnished me with lists of what he has taken. He appears to have established his influence in the Ebha district and to have obtained the adherence of Hassan ibn Ali ibn Aidh, while Sherif Hamud has been sent to Ebha in the Idrisi's interest.

16. In the south the Idrisi has occupied Loheiya, Zohra, Mur, Zeidiya and other places. The Idrisi recognizes that his stipend of £10,000/- should now cease, but has asked for a continuance of some assistance to cover the period necessary to re-establish ordinary conditions of trade. I have recommended £7,000/- a month for three months.

17. Captain Clayton returned to Egypt on 22nd February. Captain Fazluddin, I.M.S., is still Medical Officer with the Idrisi, and as he has been doing useful work and the Idrisi has asked that he should be allowed to remain, I am recommending a continuation of his appointment for a year.

ABDALI AFFAIRS.

18. British troops with the exception of a post at Hubil, have been withdrawn from Abdali territory. Dar-el-Amir and Halwan have been restored to the Abdali Sultan.

19. With the exception of one or two families, all the Abdali refugees have now returned to Lahej. 20.

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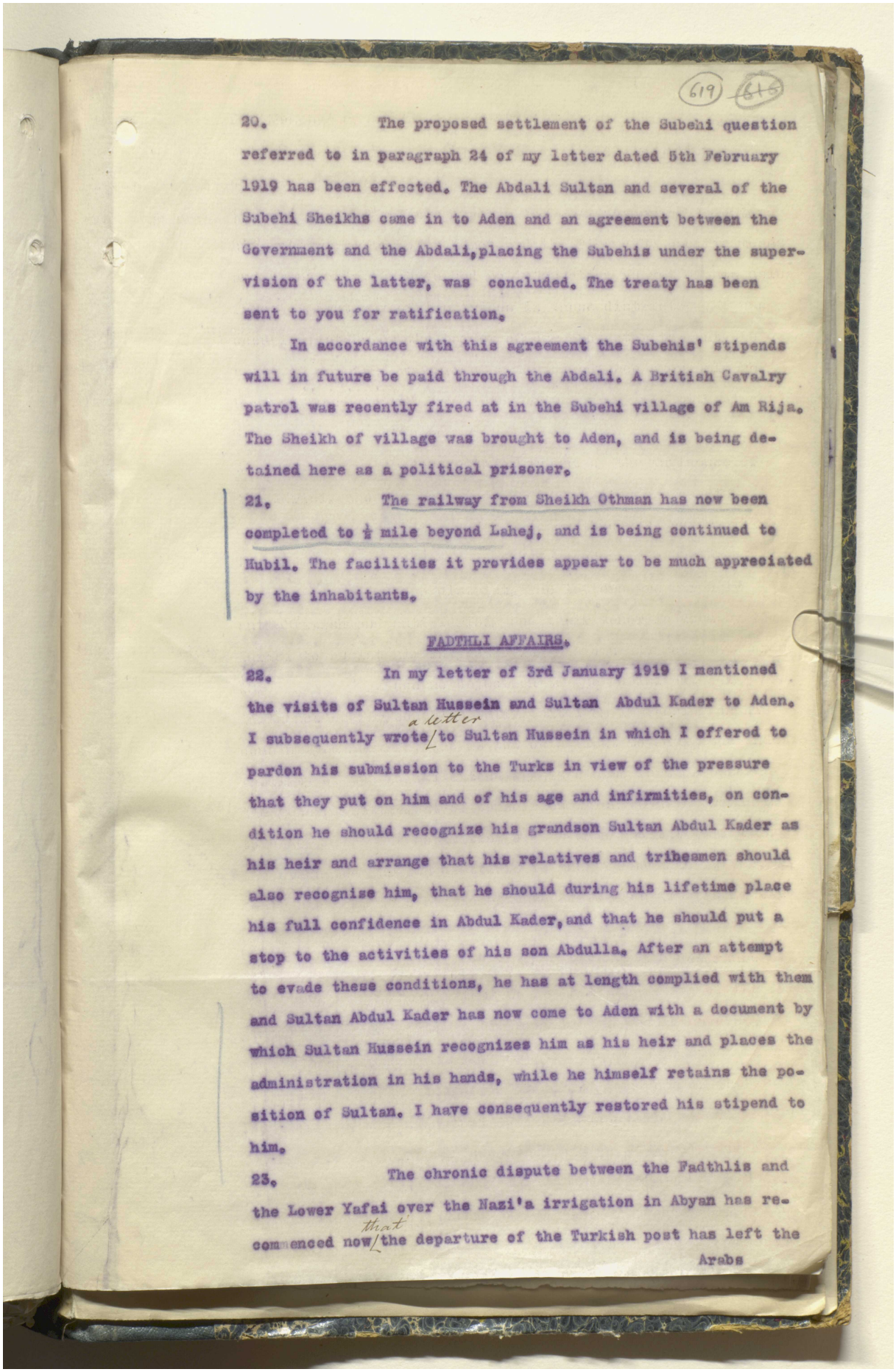

(619) (618)

20. The proposed settlement of the Subehi question referred to in paragraph 24 of my letter dated 5th February 1919 has been effected. The Abdali Sultan and several of the Subehi Sheikhs came in to Aden and an agreement between the Government and the Abdali, placing the Subehis under the supervision of the latter, was concluded. The treaty has been sent to you for ratification.

In accordance with this agreement the Subehis' stipends will in future be paid through the Abdali. A British Cavalry patrol was recently fired at in the Subehi village of Am Rija. The Sheikh of village was brought to Aden, and is being detained here as a political prisoner.

21. The railway from Sheikh Othman has now been completed to ½ mile beyond Lahej, and is being continued to Hubil. The facilities it provides appear to be much appreciated by the inhabitants.

FADTHLI AFFAIRS.

22. In my letter of 3rd January 1919 I mentioned the visits of Sultan Hussein and Sultan Abdul Kader to Aden. I subsequently wrote a letter to Sultan Hussein in which I offered to pardon his submission to the Turks in view of the pressure that they put on him and of his age and infirmities, on condition he should recognize his grandson Sultan Abdul Kader as his heir and arrange that his relatives and trihesmen should also recognise him, that he should during his lifetime place his full confidence in Abdul Kader, and that he should put a stop to the activities of his son Abdulla. After an attempt to evade these conditions, he has at length complied with them and Sultan Abdul Kader has now come to Aden with a document by which Sultan Hussein recognizes him as his heir and places the administration in his hands, while he himself retains the position of Sultan. I have consequently restored his stipend to him.

23. The chronic dispute between the Fadthlis and the Lower Yafai over the Nazi'a irrigation in Abyan has recommenced now that the departure of the Turkish post has left the Arabs

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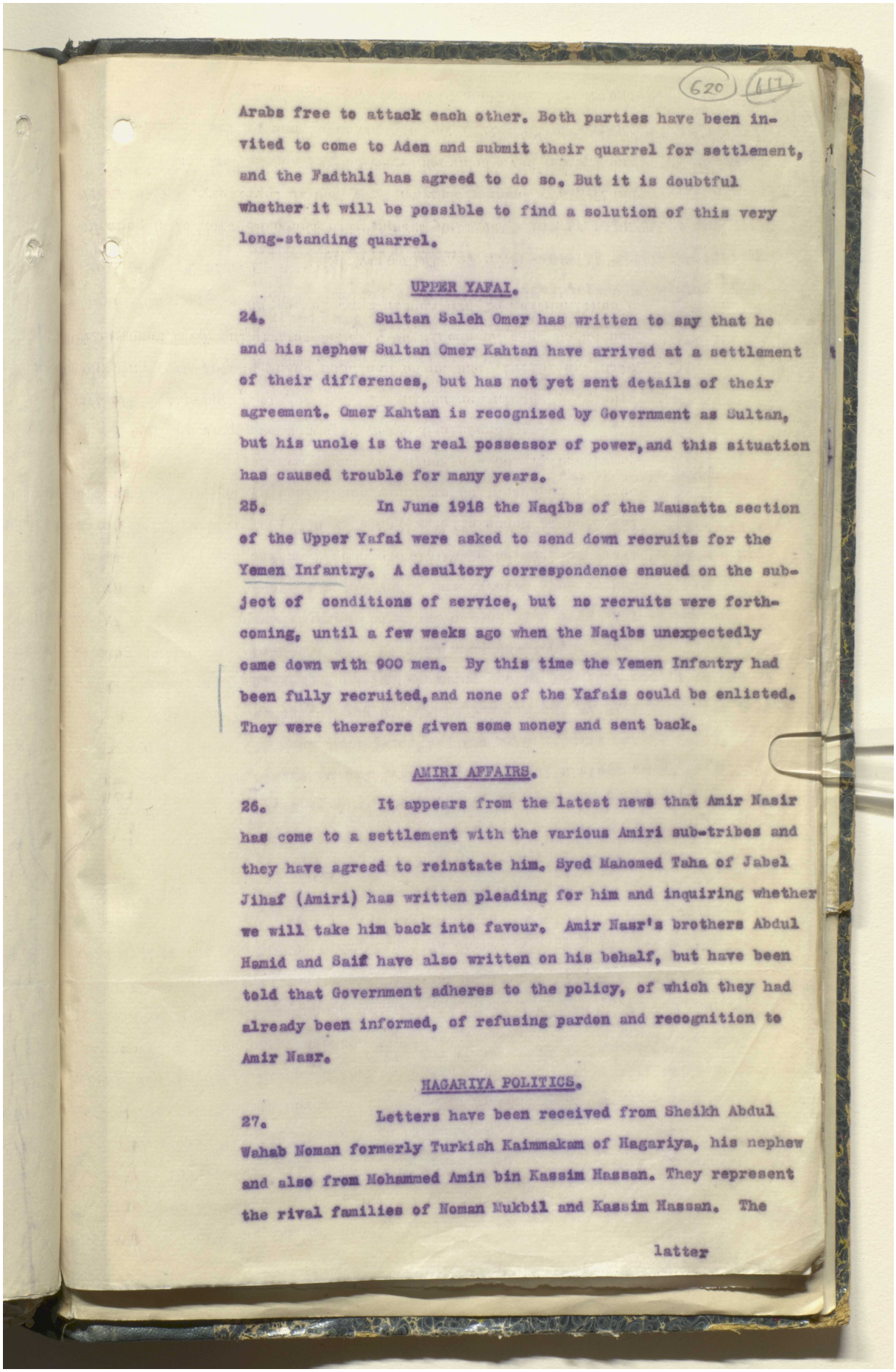

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Arabs free to attack each other. Both parties have been invited to come to Aden and submit their quarrel for settlement, and the Fadthli has agreed to do so. But it is doubtful whether it will be possible to find a solution of this very long-standing quarrel.

UPPER YAFAI.

24. Sultan Saleh Omer has written to say that he and his nephew Sultan Omer Kahtan have arrived at a settlement of their differences, but has not yet sent details of their agreement. Omer Kahtan is recognized by Government as Sultan, but his uncle is the real possessor of power, and this situation has caused trouble for many years.

25. In June 1918 the Naqibs of the Mausatta section of the Upper Yafai were asked to send down recruits for the Yemen Infantry. A desultory correspondence ensued on the subject of conditions of service, but no recruits were forthcoming, until a few weeks ago when the Naqibs unexpectedly came down with 900 men. By this time the Yemen Infantry had been fully recruited, and none of the Yafais could be enlisted. They were therefore given some money and sent back.

AMIRI AFFAIRS.

26. It appears from the latest news that Amir Nasir has come to a settlement with the various Amiri sub-tribes and they have agreed to reinstate him. Syed Mahomed Taha of Jabel Jihaf (Amiri) has written pleading for him and inquiring whether we will take him back into favour. Amir Nasr's brothers Abdul Hamid and Saif have also written on his behalf, but have been told that Government adheres to the policy, of which they had already been informed, of refusing pardon and recognition to Amir Nasr.

HAGARIYA POLITICS.

27. Letters have been received from Sheikh Abdul Wahab Noman formerly Turkish Kaimmakam of Hagariya, his nephew and also from Mohammed Amin bin Kassim Hassan. They represent the rival families of Noman Mukbil and Kassim Hassan. The

latter

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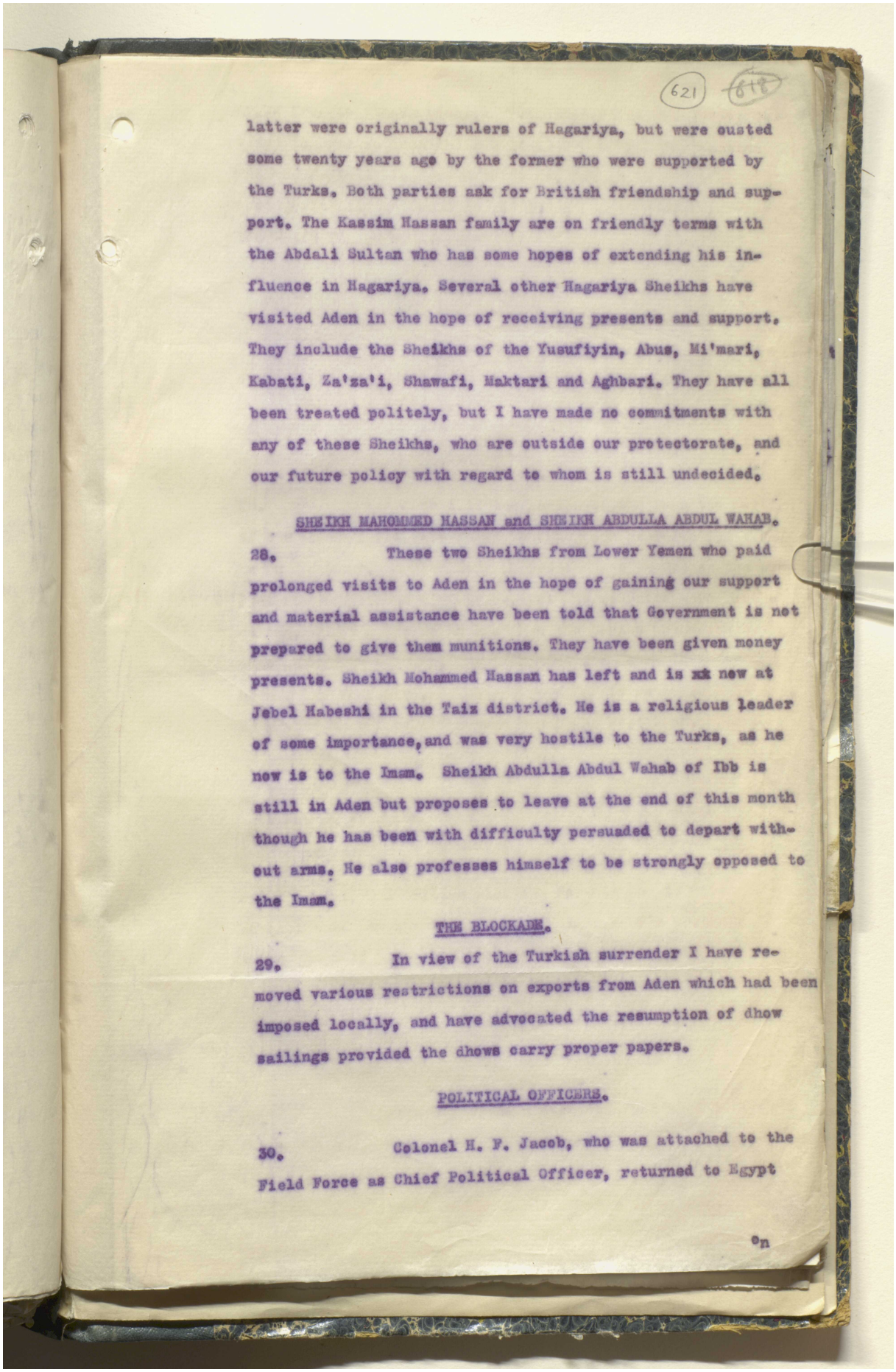

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latter were originally rulers of Hagariya, but were ousted some twenty years ago by the former who were supported by the Turks. Both parties ask for British friendship and support. The Kassim Hassan family are on friendly terms with the Abdali Sultan who has some hopes of extending his influence in Hagariya. Several other Hagariya Sheikhs have visited Aden in the hope of receiving presents and support. They include the Sheikhs of the Yusufiyin, Abus, Mi'mari, Kabati, Za'za'i, Shawafi, Maktari and Aghbari. They have all been treated politely, but I have made no commitments with any of these Sheikhs, who are outside our protectorate, and our future policy with regard to whom is still undecided.

SHEIKH MAHOMMED HASSAN and SHEIKH ABDULLA ABDUL WAHAB.

28. These two Sheikhs from Lower Yemen who paid prolonged visits to Aden in the hope of gaining our support and material assistance have been told that Government is not prepared to give them munitions. They have been given money presents. Sheikh Mohammed Hassan has left and is now at Jebel Habeshi in the Taiz district. He is a religious leader of some importance, and was very hostile to the Turks, as he now is to the Imam. Sheikh Abdulla Abdul Wahab of Ibb is still in Aden but proposes to leave at the end of this month though he has been with difficulty persuaded to depart without arms. He also professes himself to be strongly opposed to the Imam.

THE BLOCKADE.

29. In view of the Turkish surrender I have removed various restrictions on exports from Aden which had been imposed locally, and have advocated the resumption of dhow sailings provided the dhows carry proper papers.

POLITICAL OFFICERS.

30. Colonel H. F. Jacob, who was attached to the Field Force as Chief Political Officer, returned to Egypt

on

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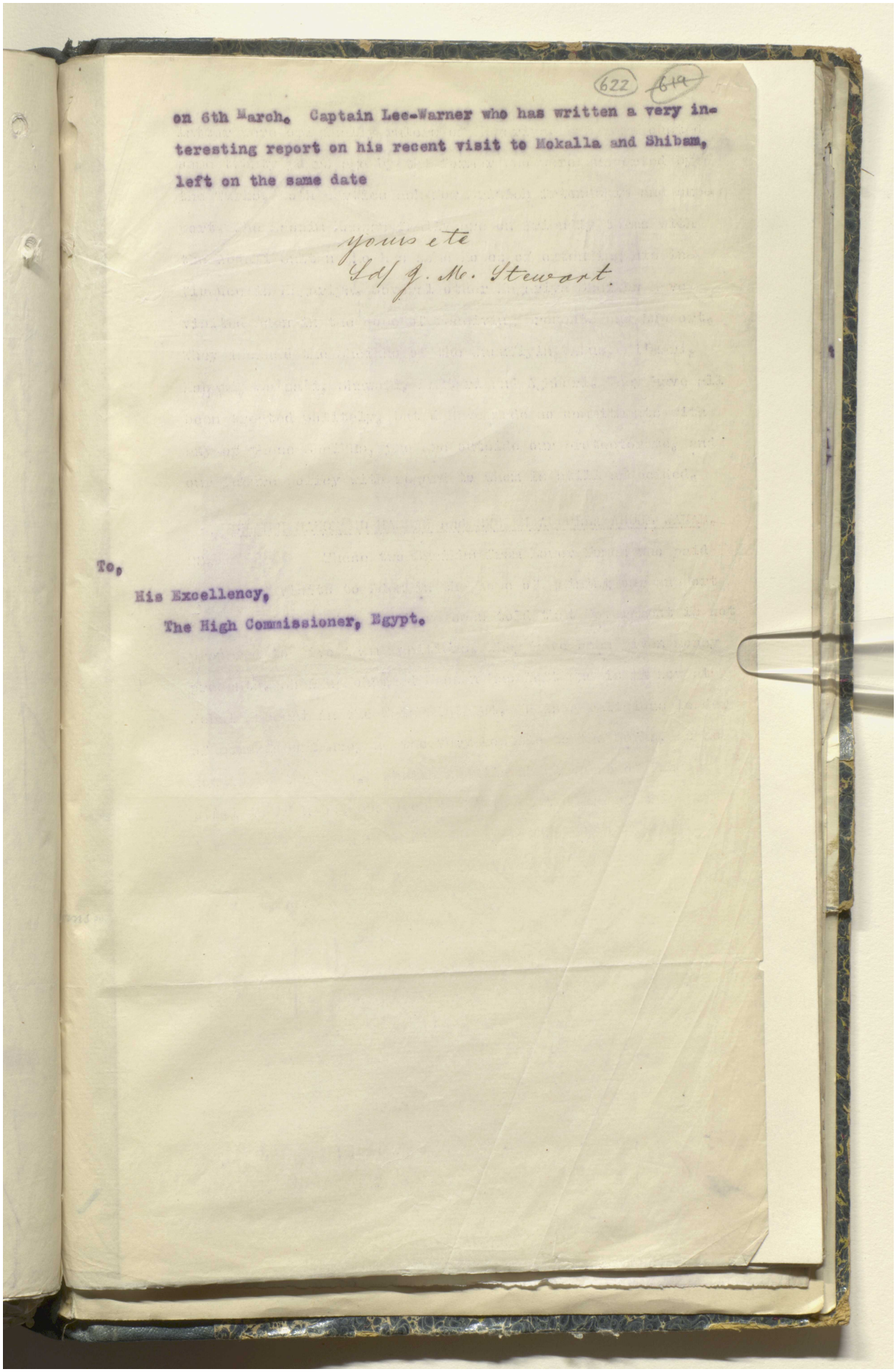

622 619

on 6th March. Captain Lee-Warner who has written a very interesting report on his recent visit to Mokalla and Shibam, left on the same date

yours etc
Sd/ G. Mc. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency,
The High Commissioner, Egypt.

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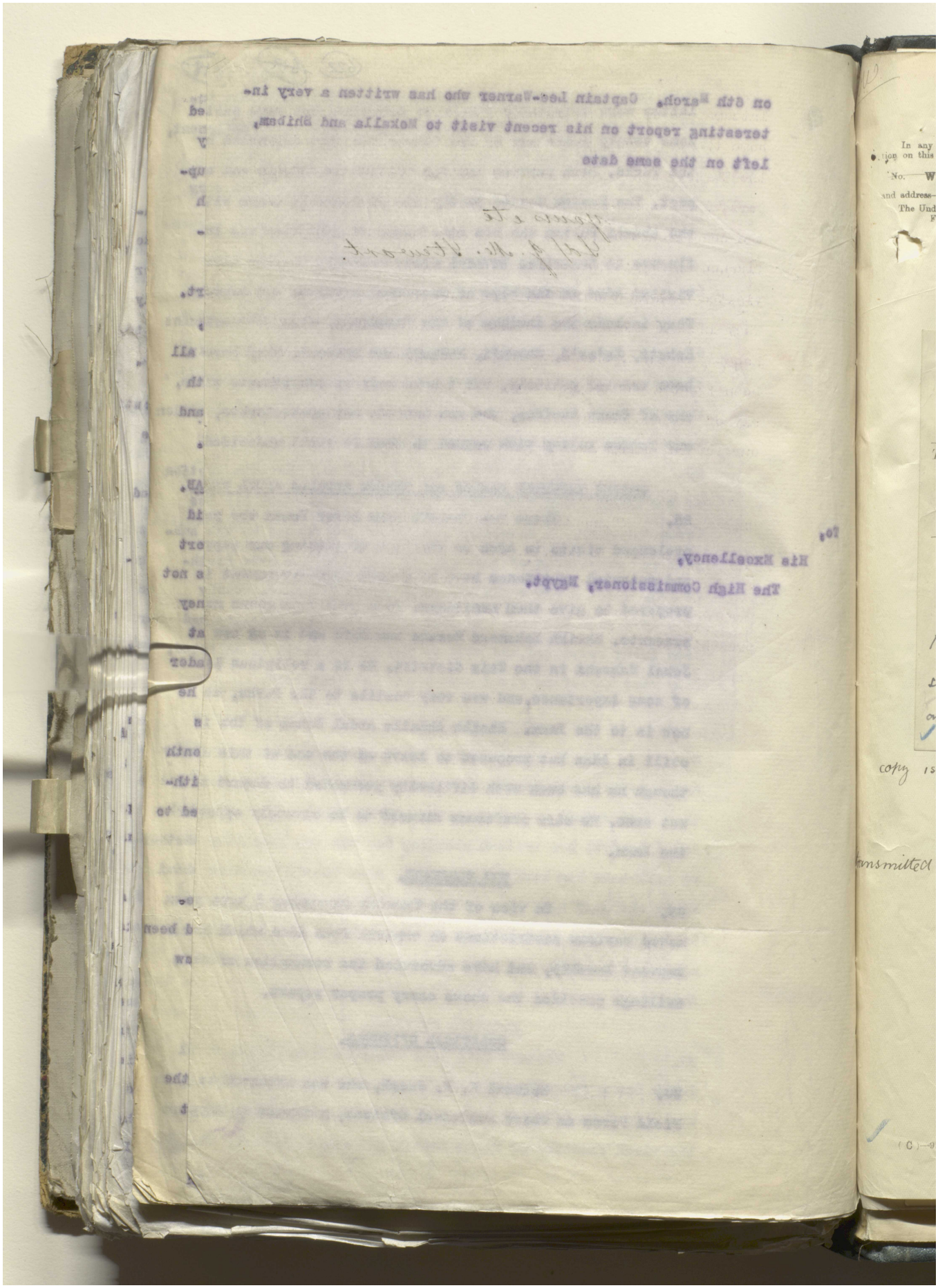

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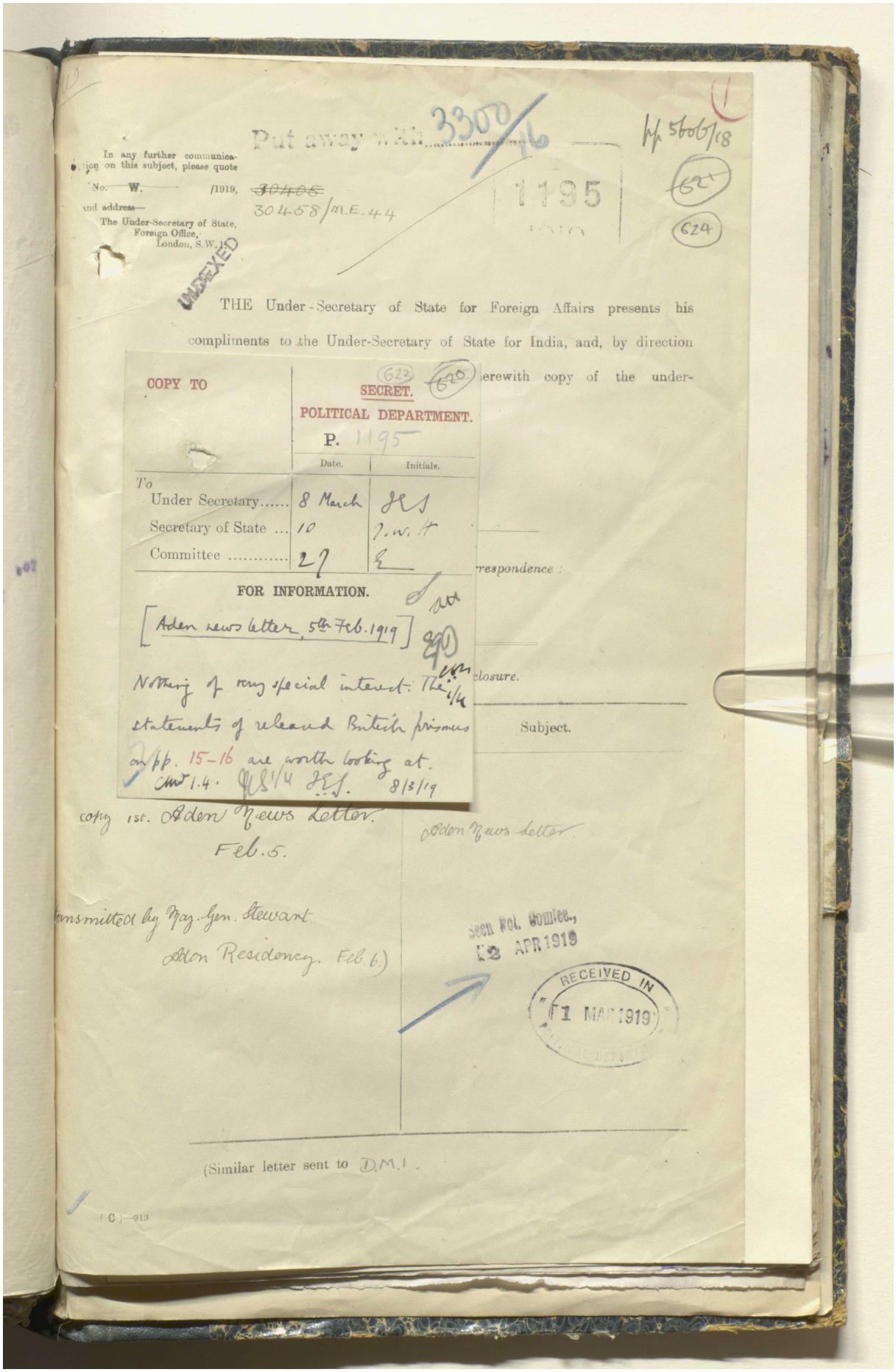

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1195

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INDEXED

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction herewith copy of the under-

COPY TO

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
P. 1195

To	Date.	Initials.
Under Secretary.....	8 March	JRS
Secretary of State ...	10	J.W.H.
Committee	27	E

FOR INFORMATION.

[Aden news letter, 5th Feb. 1919]

Nothing of any special interest. The statements of released British prisoners on pp. 15–16 are worth looking at. MWT 1.4. JRS 1/4 JRS. 8/3/19

respondence :

closure.

Subject.

copy 1st. Aden News Letter. Feb. 5.

Aden News letter.

transmitted by Maj.-Gen. Stewart (Aden Residency. Feb. 6.)

Seen Pol. Office, 12 APR 1919

RECEIVED IN 11 MAR 1919 POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

(Similar letter sent to D.M.I.

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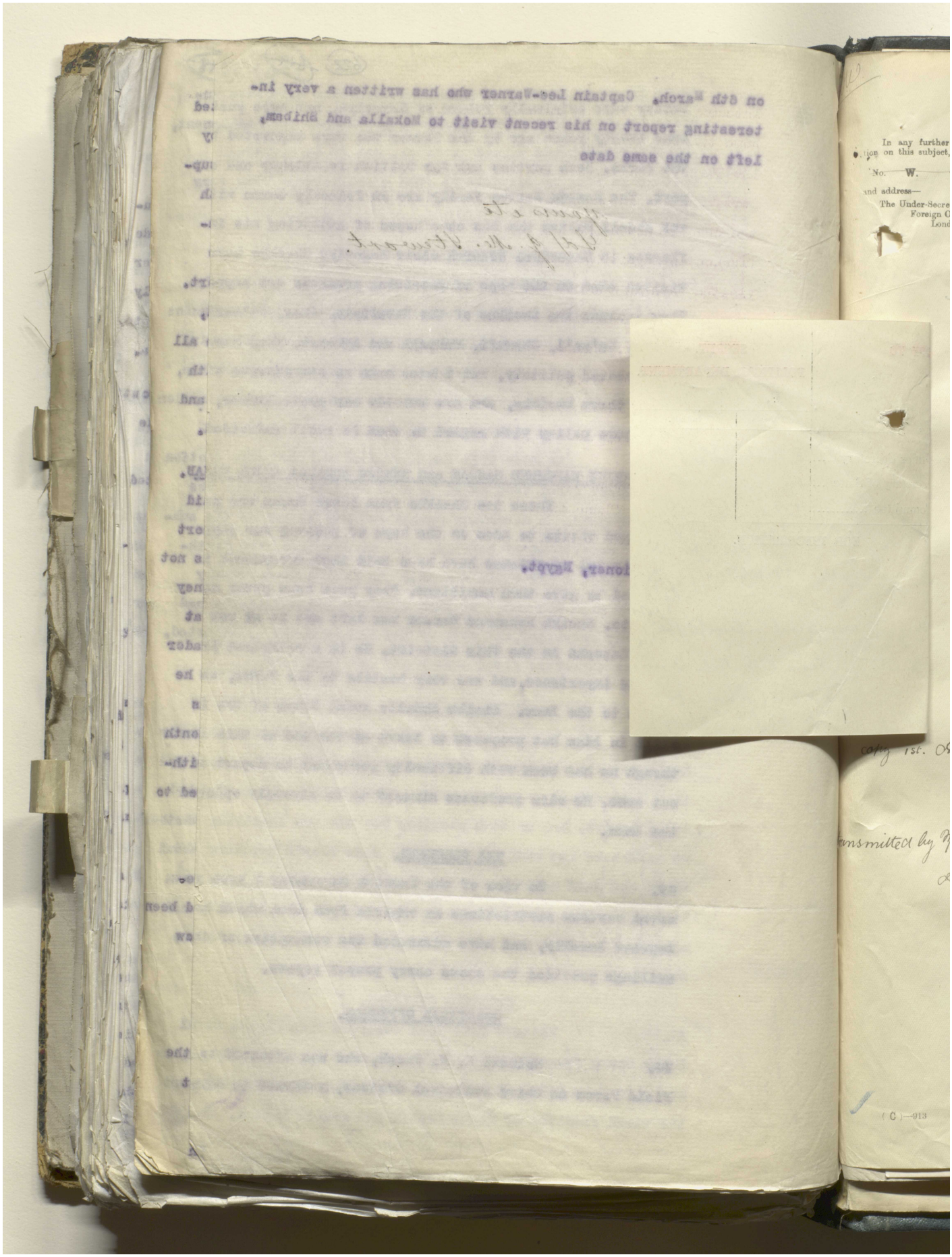

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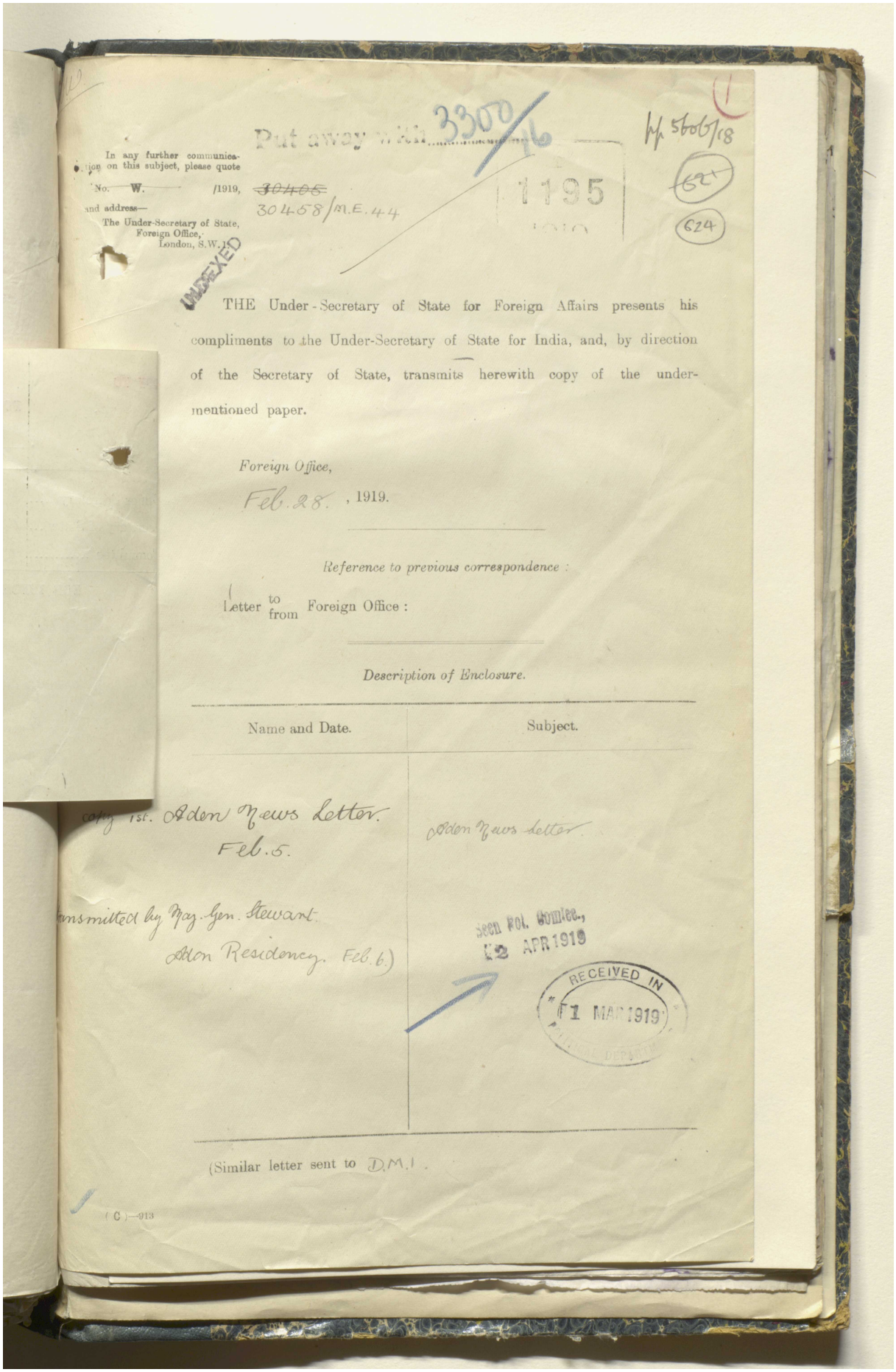

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Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
Feb. 28. , 1919.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter to / from Foreign Office :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
copy 1st. Aden News Letter. Feb. 5. transmitted by Maj.-Gen. Stewart. Aden Residency. Feb. 6.)	Aden News letter.

Seen Pol. Office,
12 APR 1919

RECEIVED IN
11 MAR 1919
INDIAN DEPARTMENT

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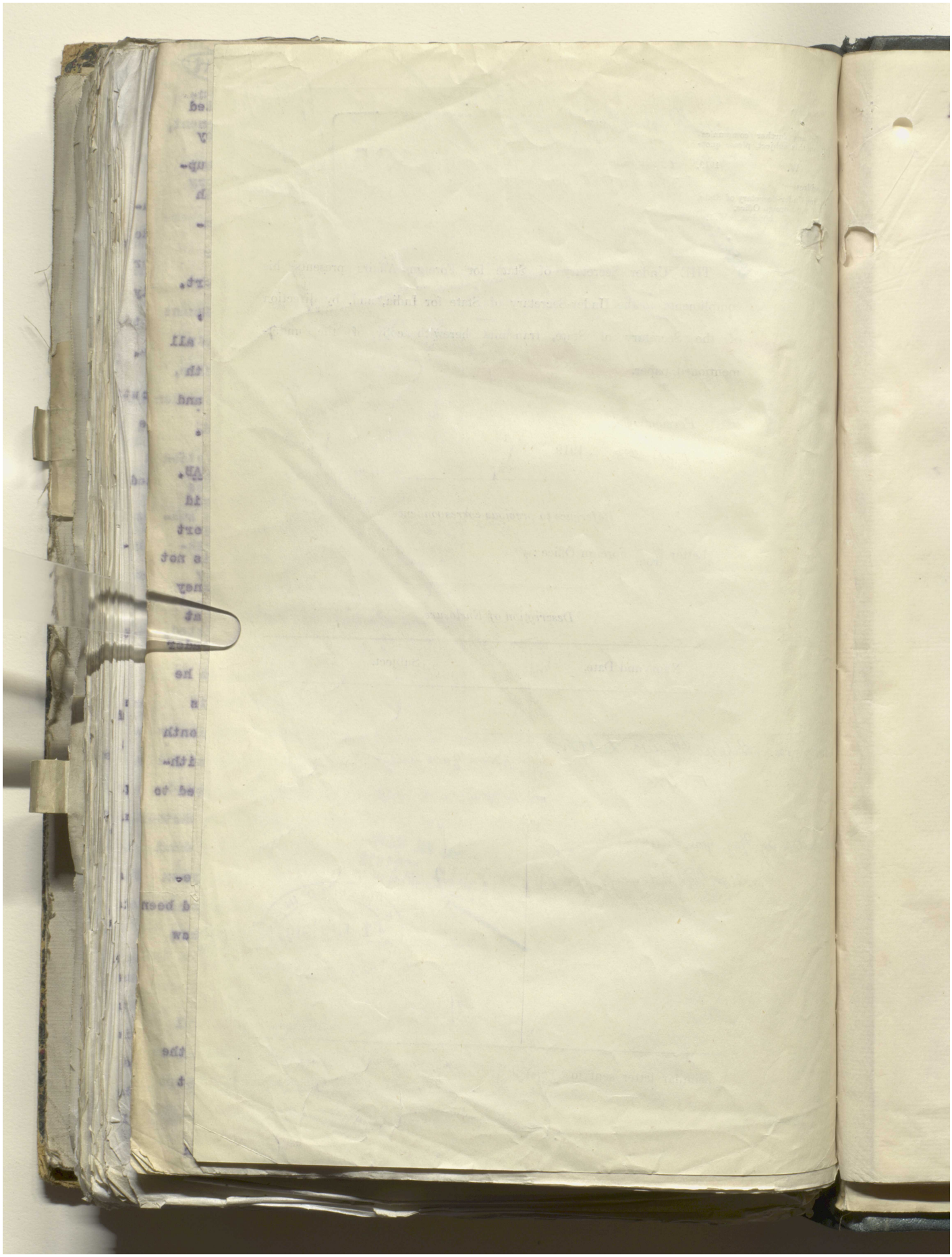

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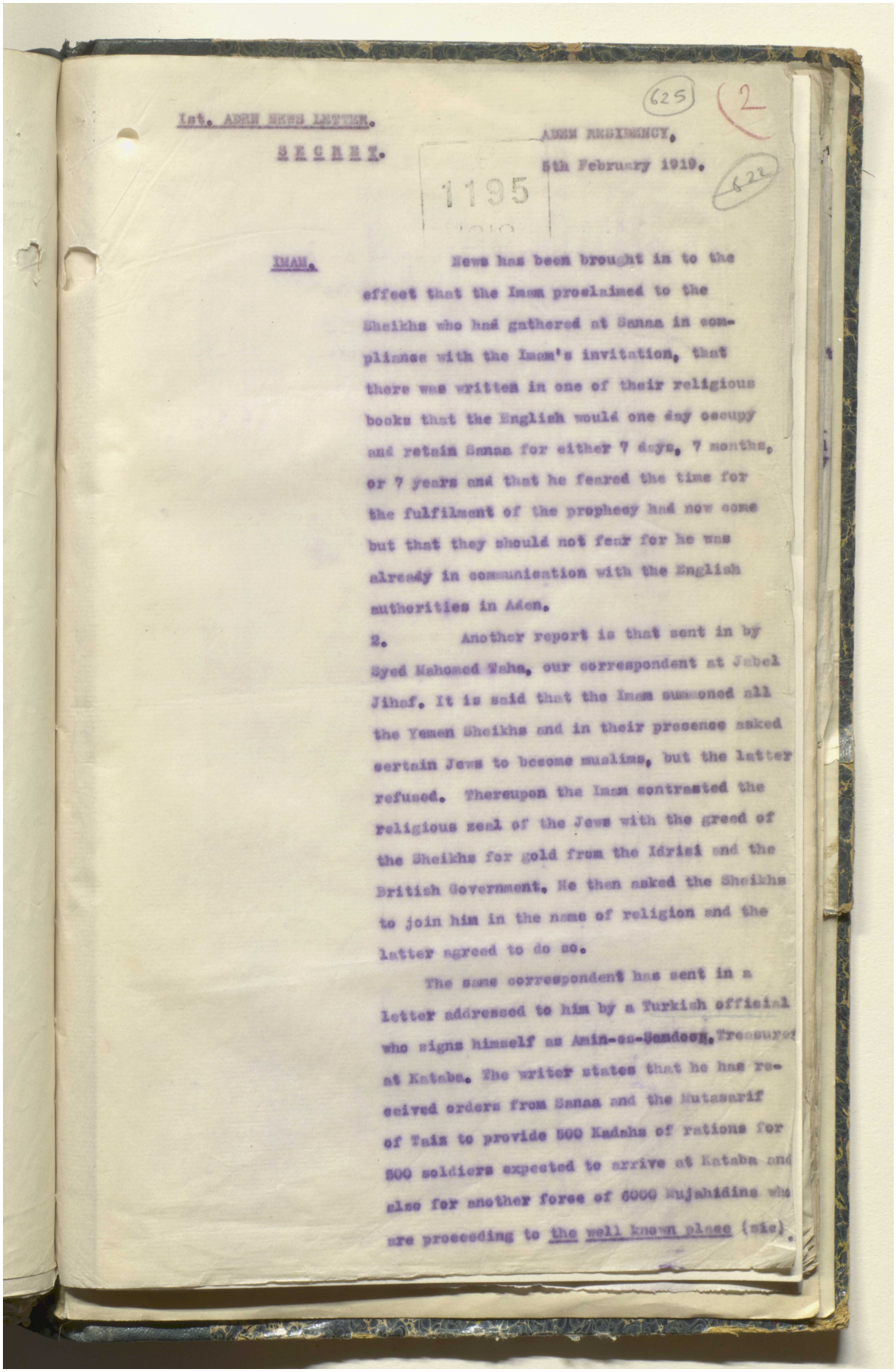

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1st. ADEN NEWS LETTER.

SECRET.

ADEN RESIDENCY,
5th February 1919.

1195
1919

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IMAM. News has been brought in to the effect that the Imam proclaimed to the Sheikhs who had gathered at Sanaa in compliance with the Imam's invitation, that there was written in one of their religious books that the English would one day occupy and retain Sanaa for either 7 days, 7 months, or 7 years and that he feared the time for the fulfilment of the prophecy had now come but that they should not fear for he was already in communication with the English authorities in Aden.

2. Another report is that sent in by Syed Mahomed Taha, our correspondent at Jebel Jihaf. It is said that the Imam summoned all the Yemen Sheikhs and in their presence asked certain Jews to become muslims, but the latter refused. Thereupon the Imam contrasted the religious zeal of the Jews with the greed of the Sheikhs for gold from the Idrisi and the British Government. He then asked the Sheikhs to join him in the name of religion and the latter agreed to do so.

The same correspondent has sent in a letter addressed to him by a Turkish official who signs himself as Amin-es-Sandoon, Treasurer at Kataba. The writer states that he has received orders from Sanaa and the Mutasarif of Taiz to provide 500 Kadahs of rations for 500 soldiers expected to arrive at Kataba and also for another force of 6000 Mujahidins who are proceeding to the well known place (sic).

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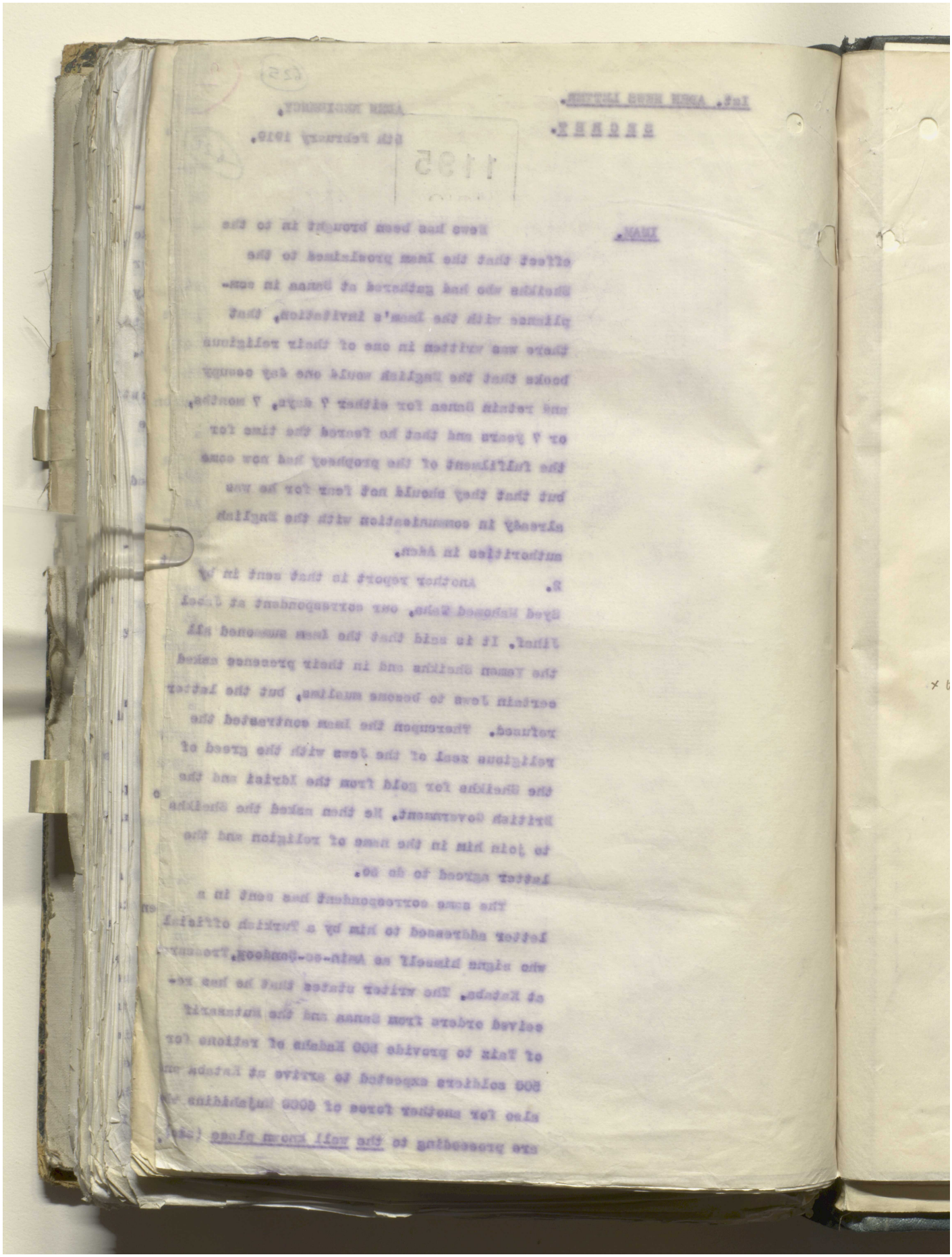

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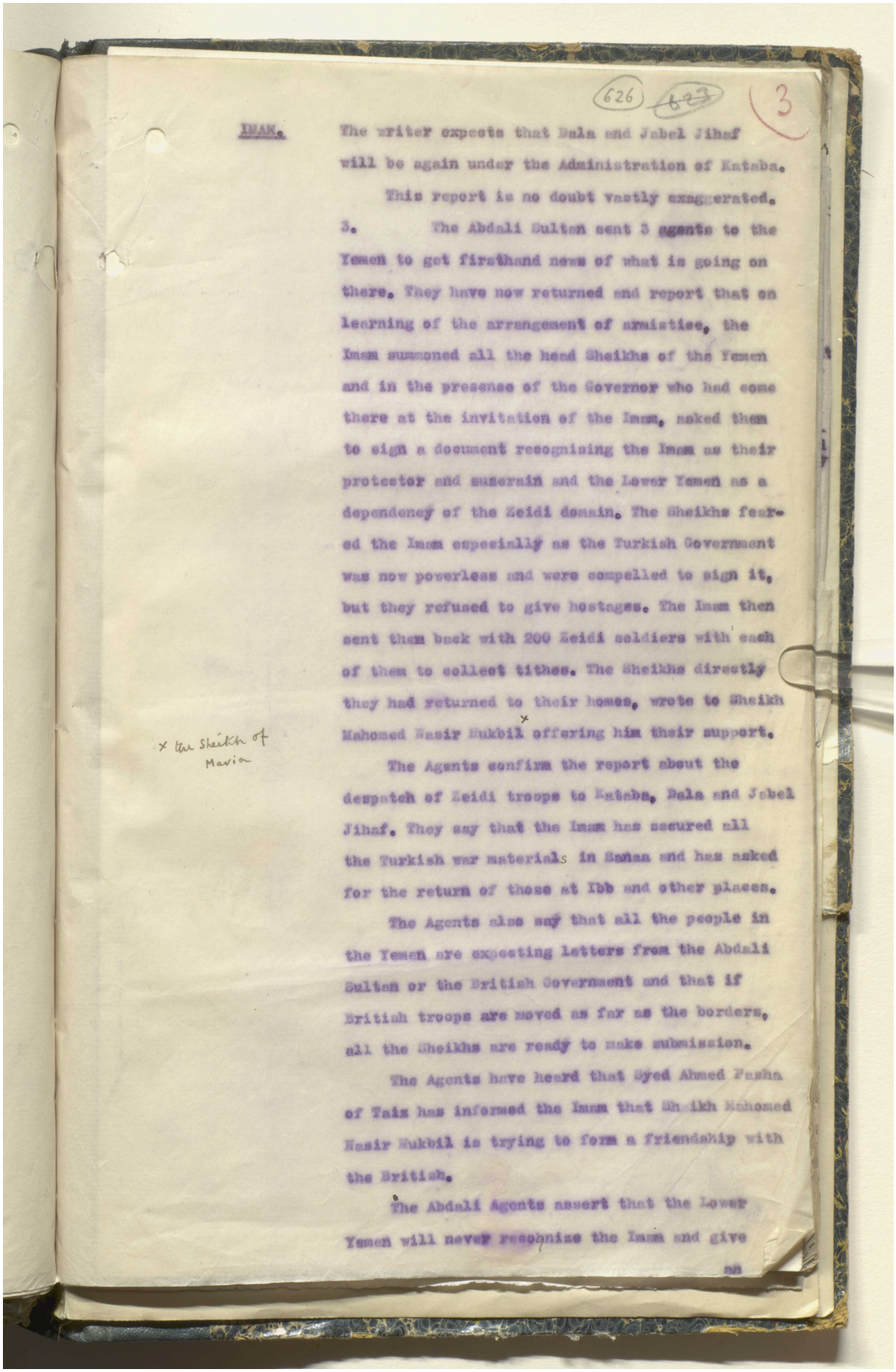

626 3

IMAM.

The writer expects that Dala and Jabel Jihaf will be again under the Administration of Kataba.

This report is no doubt vastly exaggerated.

3. The Abdali Sultan sent 3 agents to the Yemen to get firsthand news of what is going on there. They have now returned and report that on learning of the arrangement of armistice, the Imam summoned all the head Sheikhs of the Yemen and in the presence of the Governor who had come there at the invitation of the Imam, asked them to sign a document recognising the Imam as their protector and suzerain and the Lower Yemen as a dependency of the Zeidi domain. The Sheikhs feared the Imam especially as the Turkish Government was now powerless and were compelled to sign it, but they refused to give hostages. The Imam then sent them back with 200 Zeidi soldiers with each of them to collect tithes. The Sheikhs directly they had returned to their homes, wrote to Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Hukbil × offering him their support.

× the Sheikh of Mavia

The Agents confirm the report about the despatch of Zeidi troops to Kataba, Dala and Jabel Jihaf. They say that the Imam has secured all the Turkish war materials in Sanaa and has asked for the return of those at Ibb and other places.

The Agents also say that all the people in the Yemen are expecting letters from the Abdali Sultan or the British Government and that if British troops are moved as far as the borders, all the Sheikhs are ready to make submission.

The Agents have heard that Syed Ahmed Pasha of Taiz has informed the Imam that Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Hukbil is trying to form a friendship with the British.

The Abdali Agents assert that the Lower Yemen will never recognize the Imam and give

an

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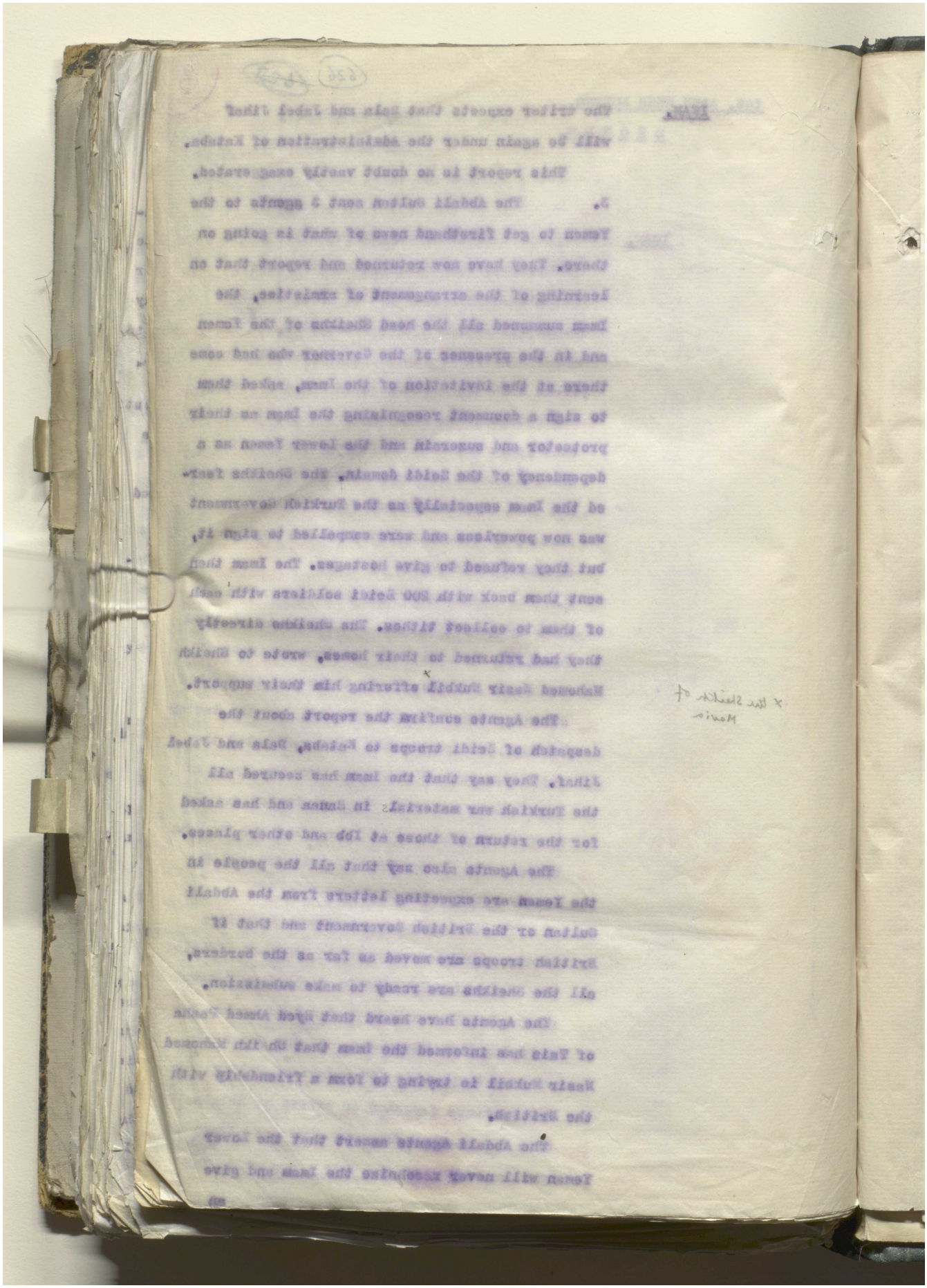

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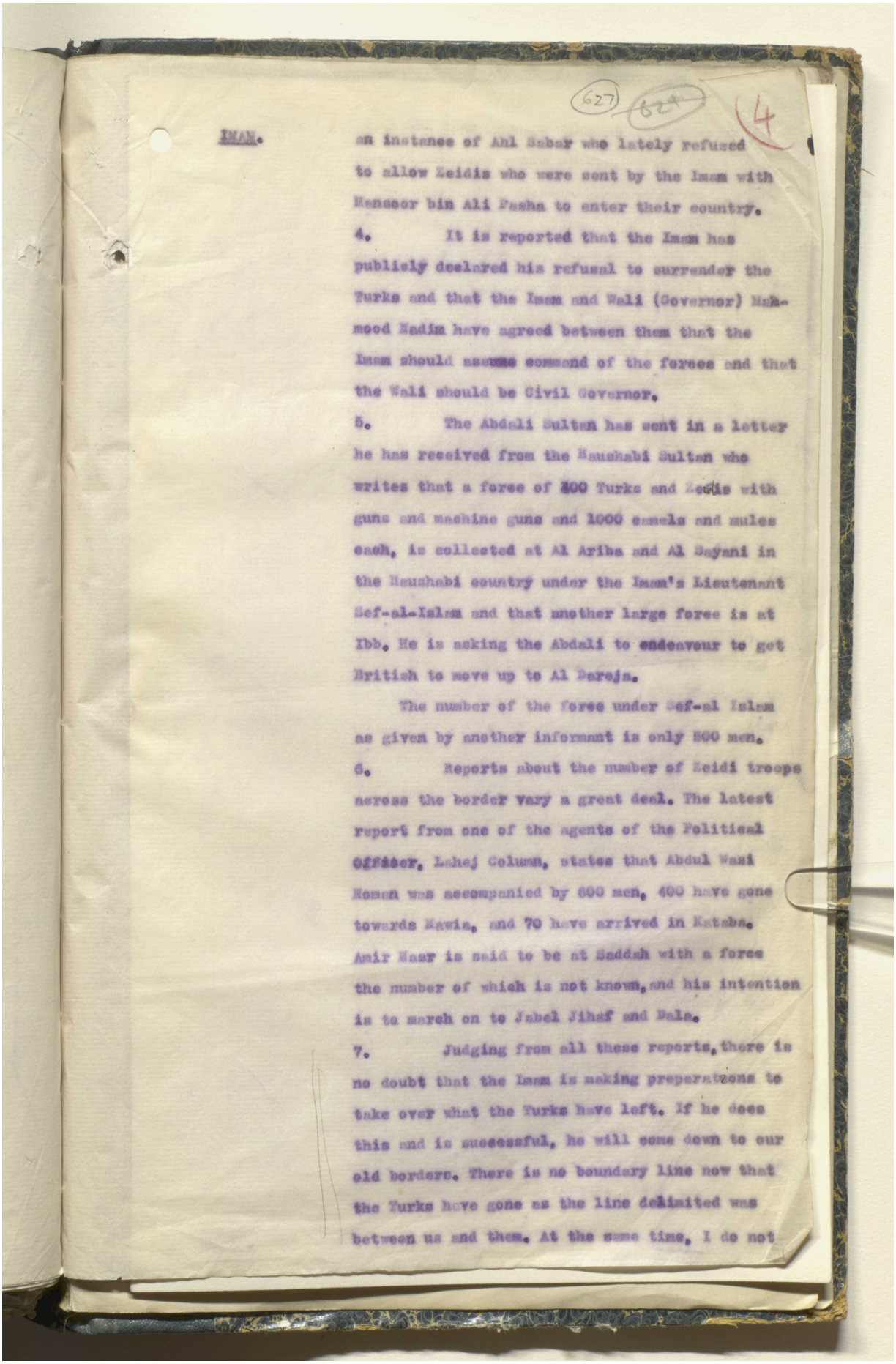

627 627 4

IMAM.

an instance of Ahl Sabar who lately refused to allow Zeidis who were sent by the Imam with Mansoor bin Ali Pasha to enter their country.

4. It is reported that the Imam has publicly declared his refusal to surrender the Turks and that the Imam and Wali (Governor) Mahmood Nadim have agreed between them that the Imam should assume command of the forces and that the Wali should be Civil Governor.

5. The Abdali Sultan has sent in a letter he has received from the Naushabi Sultan who writes that a force of 800 Turks and Zeidis with guns and machine guns and 1000 camels and mules each, is collected at Al Ariba and Al Sayani in the Naushabi country under the Imam's Lieutenant Sef-al-Islam and that another large force is at Ibb. He is asking the Abdali to endeavour to get British to move up to Al Dareja.

The number of the force under Sef-al Islam as given by another informant is only 800 men.

6. Reports about the number of Zeidi troops across the border vary a great deal. The latest report from one of the agents of the Political Officer, Lahej Column, states that Abdul Wasi Hasan was accompanied by 600 men, 400 have gone towards Mawia, and 70 have arrived in Kataba. Amir Nasr is said to be at Saddah with a force the number of which is not known, and his intention is to march on to Jabel Jihaf and Dala.

7. Judging from all these reports, there is no doubt that the Imam is making preparations to take over what the Turks have left. If he does this and is successful, he will come down to our old borders. There is no boundary line now that the Turks have gone as the line delimited was between us and them. At the same time, I do not

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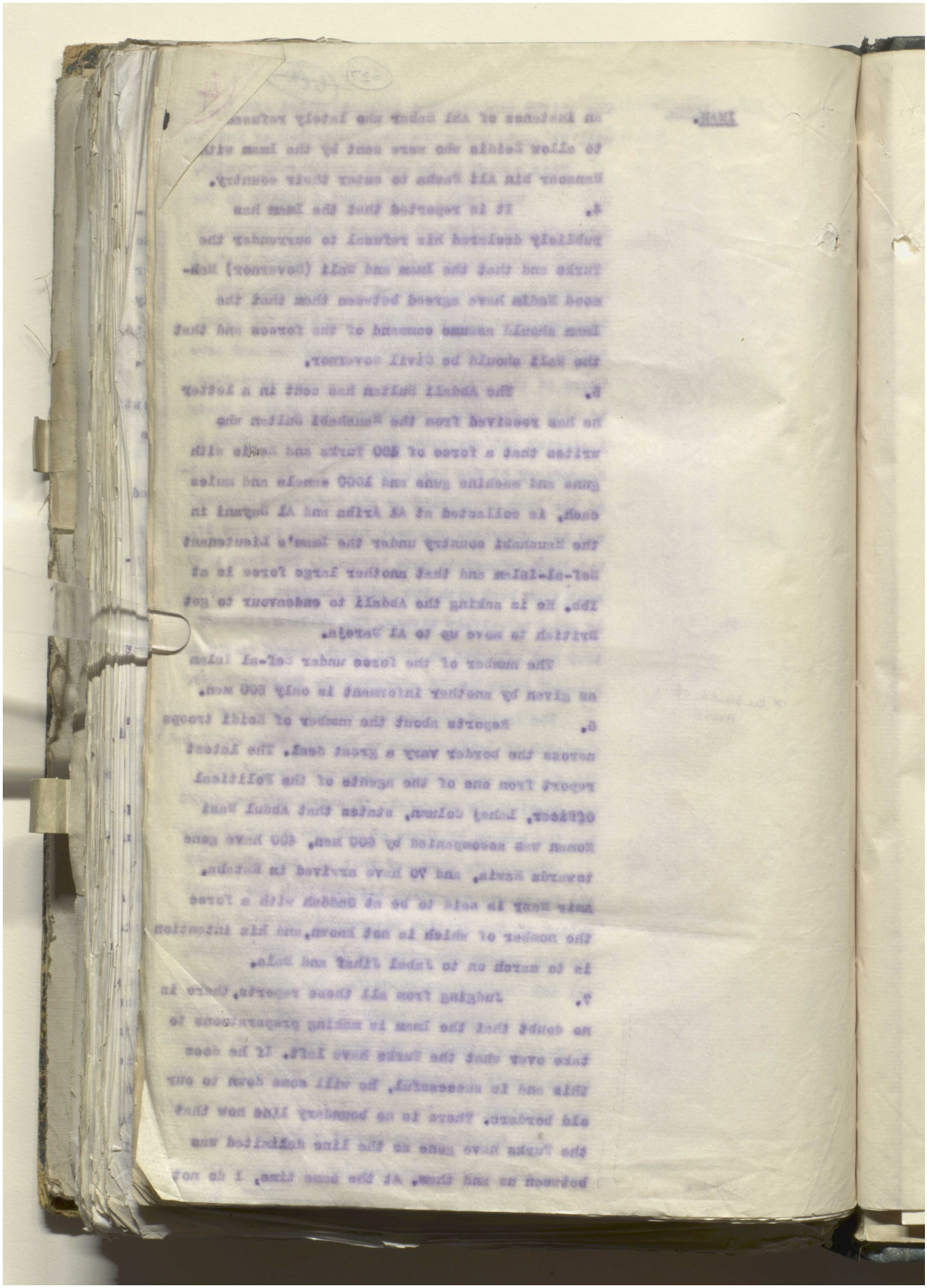

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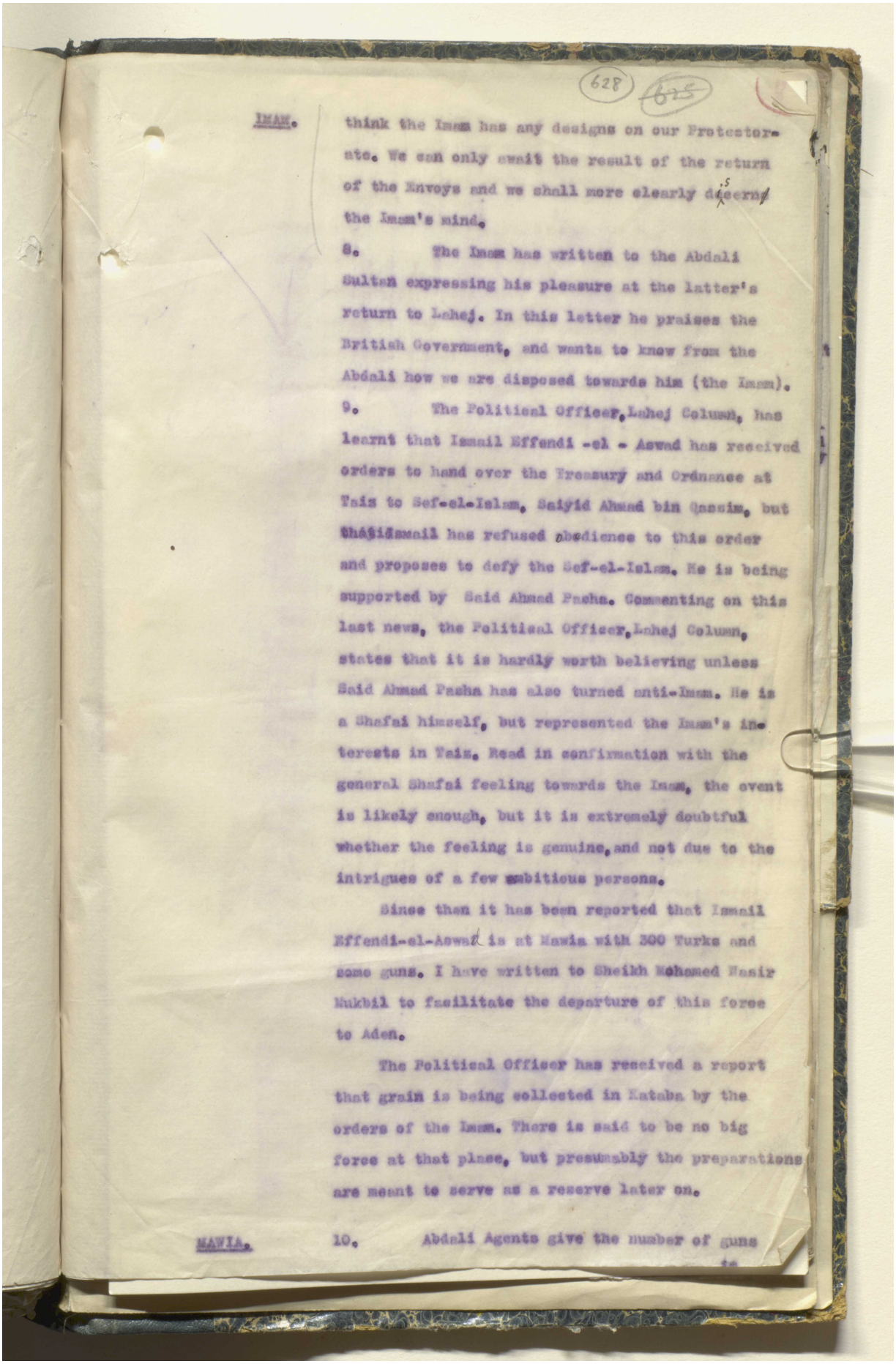

628 625

IMAM. think the Imam has any designs on our Protectorate. We can only await the result of the return of the Envoys and we shall more clearly discern the Imam's mind.

8. The Imam has written to the Abdali Sultan expressing his pleasure at the latter's return to Lahej. In this letter he praises the British Government, and wants to know from the Abdali how we are disposed towards him (the Imam).

9. The Political Officer, Lahej Column, has learnt that Ismail Effendi -el - Aswad has received orders to hand over the Treasury and Ordnance at Taiz to Sef-el-Islam, Saiyid Ahmad bin Qassim, but Ismail has refused obedience to this order and proposes to defy the Sef-el-Islam. He is being supported by Said Ahmad Pasha. Commenting on this last news, the Political Officer, Lahej Column, states that it is hardly worth believing unless Said Ahmad Pasha has also turned anti-Imam. He is a Shafai himself, but represented the Imam's interests in Taiz. Read in confirmation with the general Shafai feeling towards the Imam, the event is likely enough, but it is extremely doubtful whether the feeling is genuine, and not due to the intrigues of a few ambitious persons.

Since then it has been reported that Ismail Effendi-el-Aswad is at Mawia with 300 Turks and some guns. I have written to Sheikh Mohamed Nasir Mukbil to facilitate the departure of this force to Aden.

The Political Officer has received a report that grain is being collected in Kataba by the orders of the Imam. There is said to be no big force at that place, but presumably the preparations are meant to serve as a reserve later on.

MAWIA. 10. Abdali Agents give the number of guns to

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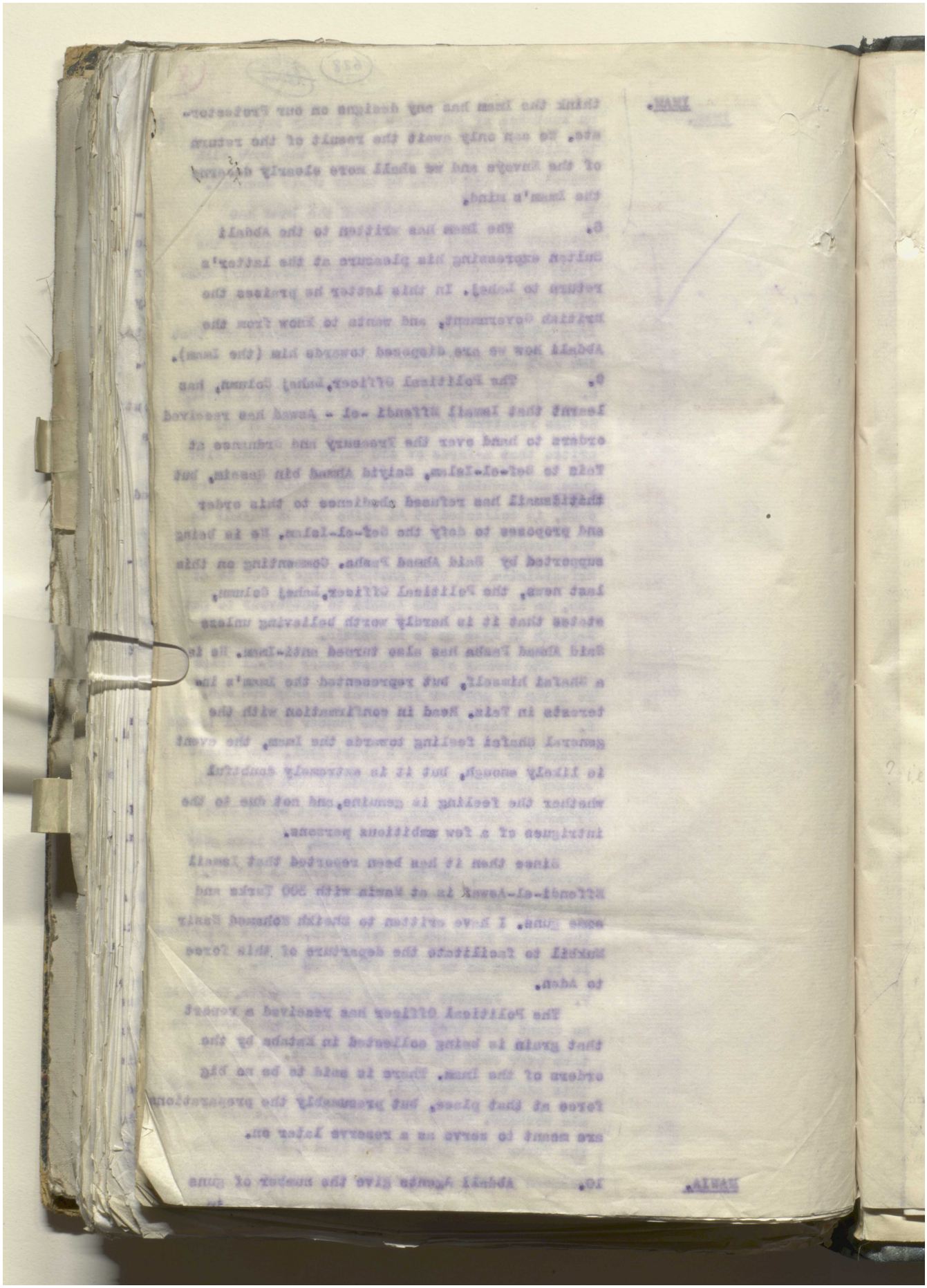

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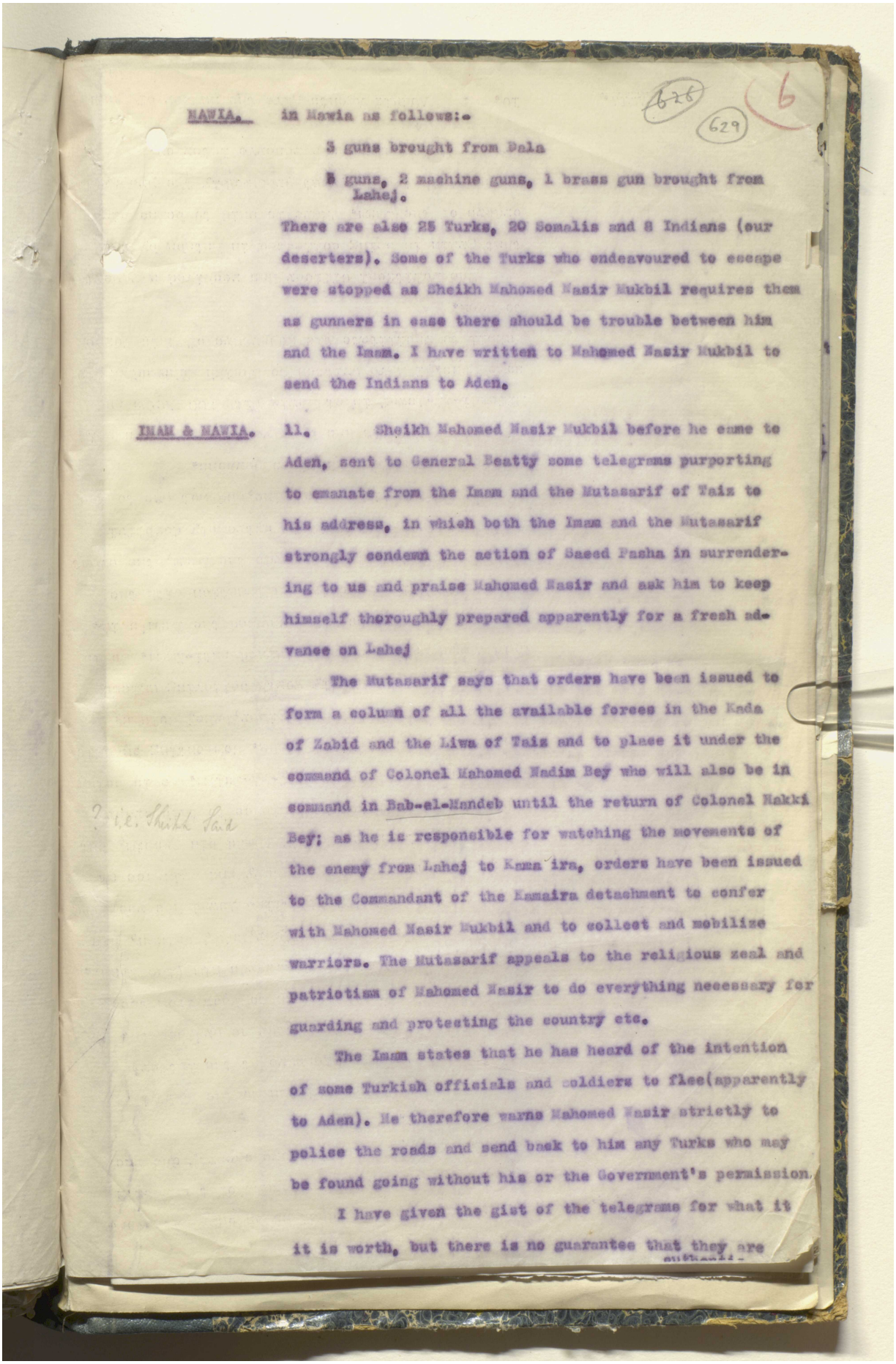

NAWIA. in Nawia as follows:-

3 guns brought from Bala

8 guns, 2 machine guns, 1 brass gun brought from Lahej.

There are also 25 Turks, 20 Somalis and 8 Indians (our deserters). Some of the Turks who endeavoured to escape were stopped as Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil requires them as gunners in case there should be trouble between him and the Imam. I have written to Mahomed Nasir Mukbil to send the Indians to Aden.

IMAM & NAWIA. 11. Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil before he came to Aden, sent to General Beatty some telegrams purporting to emanate from the Imam and the Mutasarif of Taiz to his address, in which both the Imam and the Mutasarif strongly condemn the action of Saeed Pasha in surrendering to us and praise Mahomed Nasir and ask him to keep himself thoroughly prepared apparently for a fresh advance on Lahej

The Mutasarif says that orders have been issued to form a column of all the available forces in the Kada of Zabid and the Liwa of Taiz and to place it under the command of Colonel Mahomed Nadim Bey who will also be in command in Bab-el-Mandeb until the return of Colonel Nakki Bey; as he is responsible for watching the movements of the enemy from Lahej to Kamaira, orders have been issued to the Commandant of the Kamaira detachment to confer with Mahomed Nasir Mukbil and to collect and mobilize warriors. The Mutasarif appeals to the religious zeal and patriotism of Mahomed Nasir to do everything necessary for guarding and protecting the country etc.

The Imam states that he has heard of the intention of some Turkish officials and soldiers to flee(apparently to Aden). He therefore warns Mahomed Nasir strictly to police the roads and send back to him any Turks who may be found going without his or the Government's permission.

I have given the gist of the telegrams for what it it is worth, but there is no guarantee that they are

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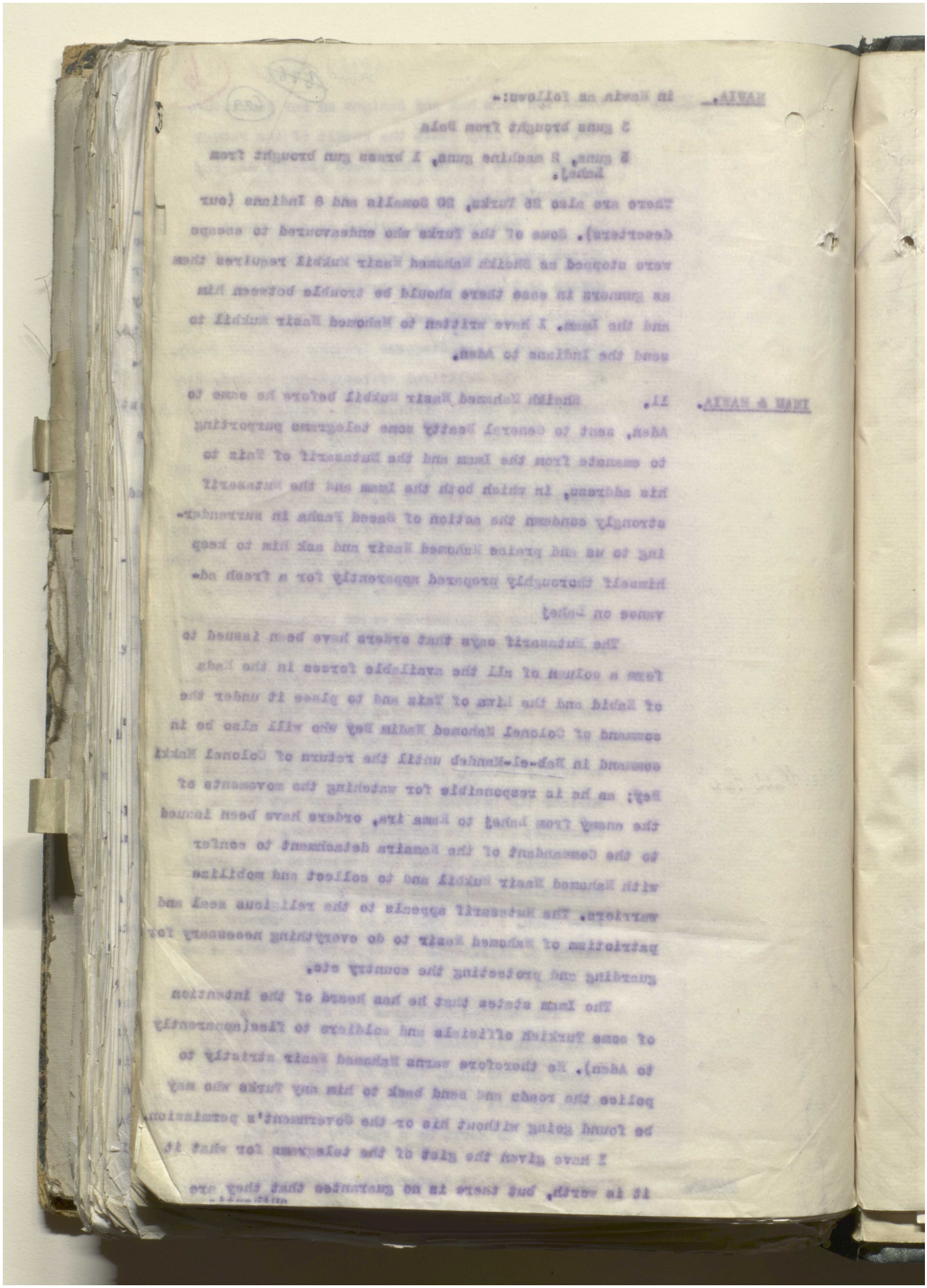

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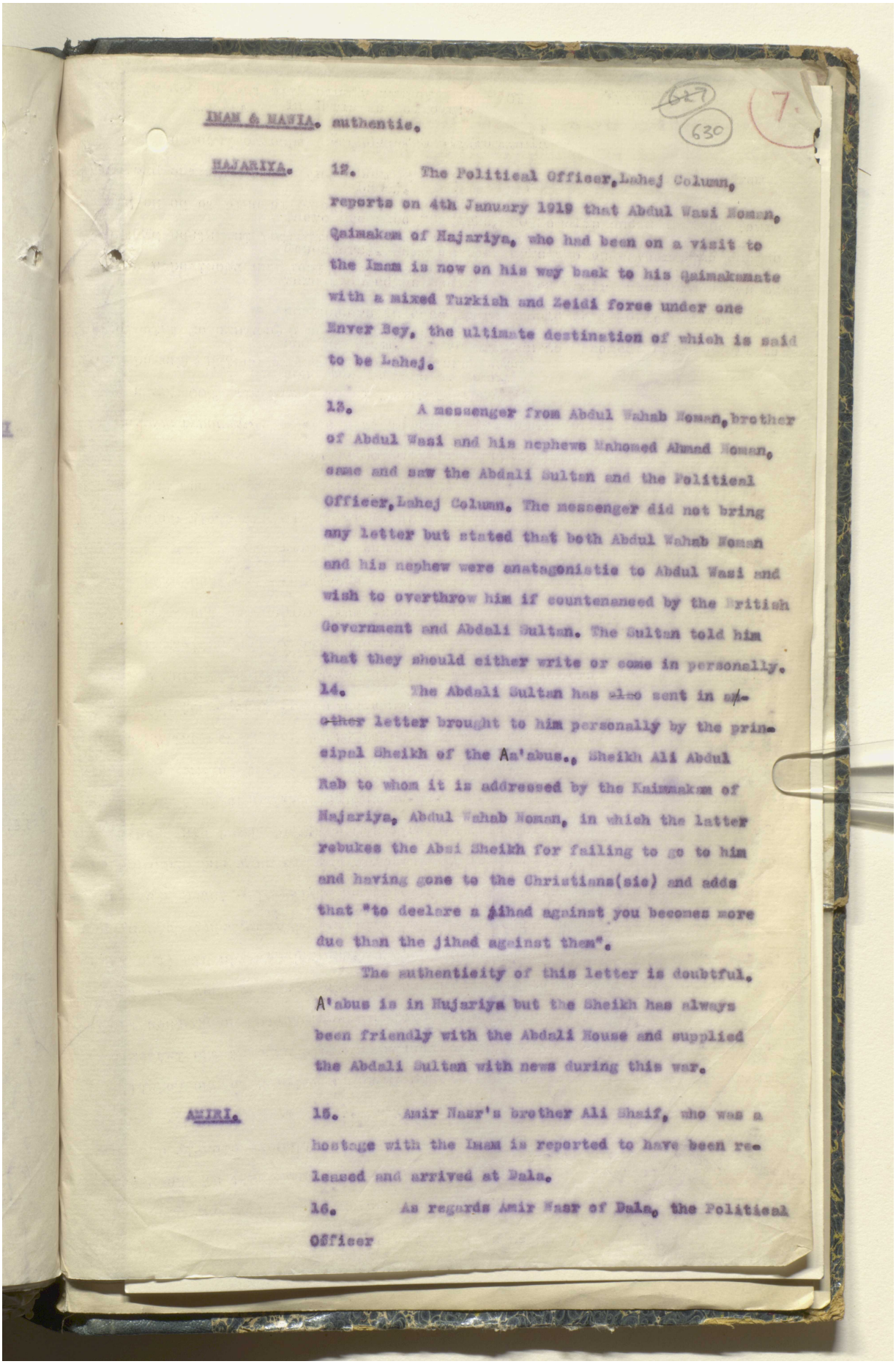

IMAM & NAHIA. authentic.

HAJARIYA. 12. The Political Officer, Lahej Column, reports on 4th January 1919 that Abdul Wasi Noman, Qaimakam of Hajariya, who had been on a visit to the Imam is now on his way back to his Qaimakamate with a mixed Turkish and Zeidi force under one Enver Bey, the ultimate destination of which is said to be Lahej.

13. A messenger from Abdul Wahab Noman, brother of Abdul Wasi and his nephews Mahomed Ahmad Noman, came and saw the Abdali Sultan and the Political Officer, Lahej Column. The messenger did not bring any letter but stated that both Abdul Wahab Noman and his nephew were anatagonistic to Abdul Wasi and wish to overthrow him if countenanced by the British Government and Abdali Sultan. The Sultan told him that they should either write or come in personally.

14. The Abdali Sultan has also sent in another letter brought to him personally by the principal Sheikh of the Aa'abus., Sheikh Ali Abdul Reb to whom it is addressed by the Kaimmakam of Hajariya, Abdul Wahab Noman, in which the latter rebukes the Absi Sheikh for failing to go to him and having gone to the Christians(sic) and adds that "to declare a jihad against you becomes more due than the jihad against them".

The authentieity of this letter is doubtful. A'abus is in Hujariya but the Sheikh has always been friendly with the Abdali House and supplied the Abdali Sultan with news during this war.

AMIRI. 15. Amir Nasr's brother Ali Shaif, who was a hostage with the Imam is reported to have been released and arrived at Dala.

16. As regards Amir Nasr of Dala, the Political Officer

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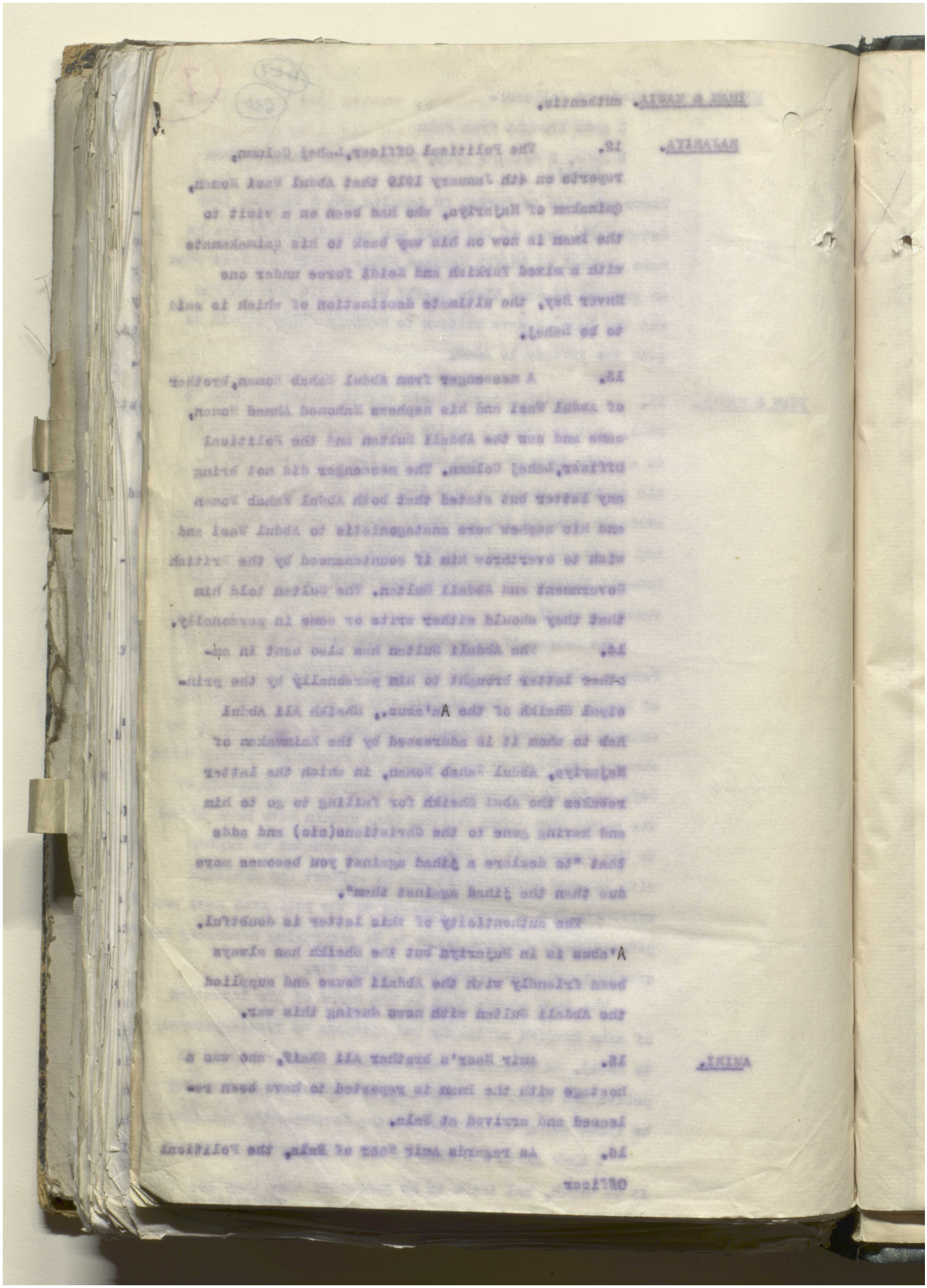

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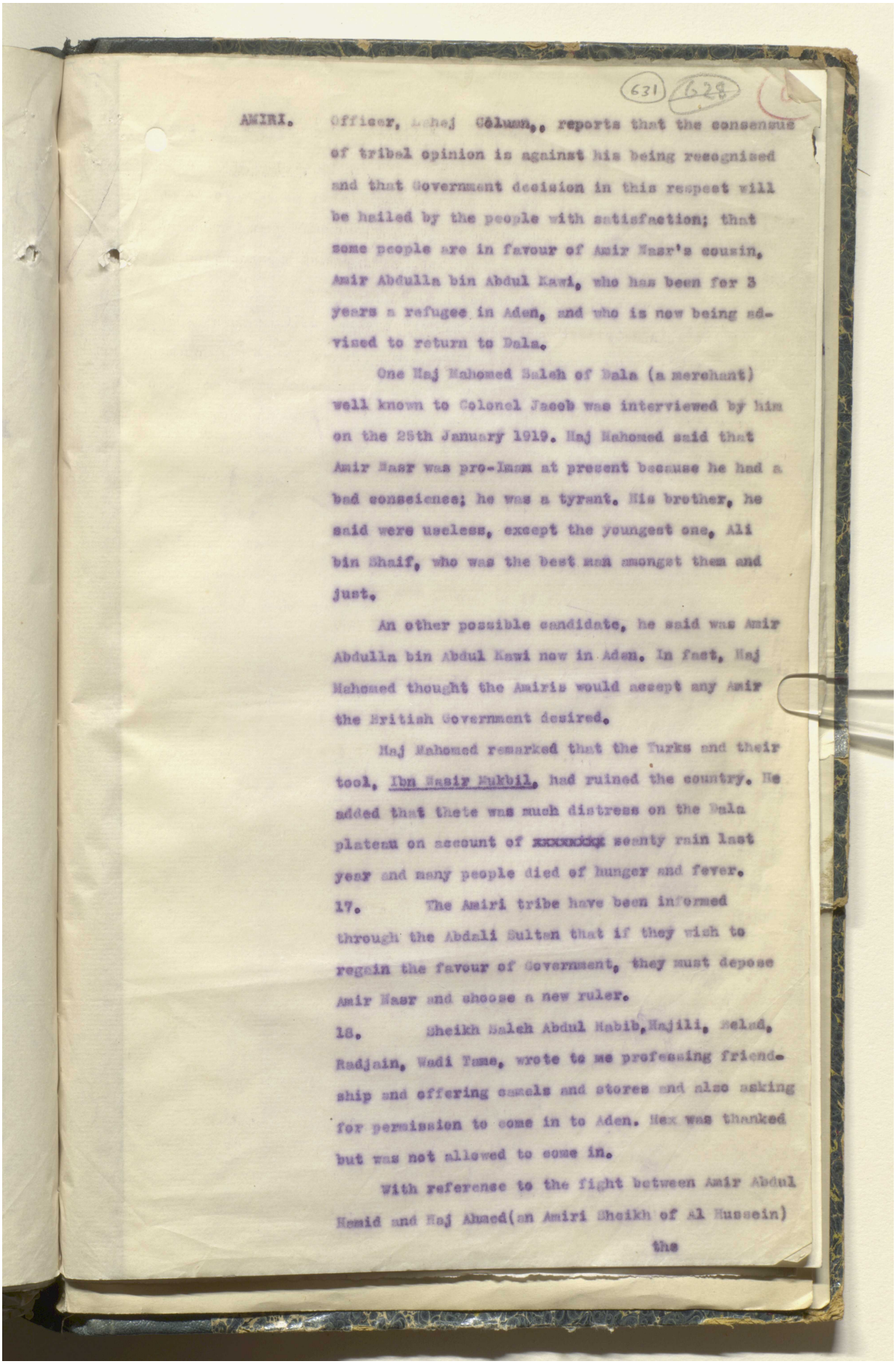

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AMIRI. Officer, Lahej Column,, reports that the consensus of tribal opinion is against his being recognised and that Government decision in this respect will be hailed by the people with satisfaction; that some people are in favour of Amir Nasr's cousin, Amir Abdulla bin Abdul Kawi, who has been for 3 years a refugee in Aden, and who is now being advised to return to Dala.

One Haj Mahomed Saleh of Dala (a merchant) well known to Colonel Jacob was interviewed by him on the 25th January 1919. Haj Mahomed said that Amir Nasr was pro-Imam at present because he had a bad conscience; he was a tyrant. His brother, he said were useless, except the youngest one, Ali bin Shaif, who was the best man amongst them and just.

An other possible candidate, he said was Amir Abdulla bin Abdul Kawi now in Aden. In fact, Haj Mahomed thought the Amiris would accept any Amir the British Government desired.

Haj Mahomed remarked that the Turks and their tool, Ibn Nasir Nukbil, had ruined the country. He added that there was much distress on the Dala plateau on account of xxxxxxx scanty rain last year and many people died of hunger and fever.

17. The Amiri tribe have been informed through the Abdali Sultan that if they wish to regain the favour of Government, they must depose Amir Nasr and choose a new ruler.

18. Sheikh Saleh Abdul Habib, Hajili, Belad, Radjain, Wadi Tame, wrote to me professing friendship and offering camels and stores and also asking for permission to come in to Aden. Hex was thanked but was not allowed to come in.

With reference to the fight between Amir Abdul Hamid and Haj Ahmed(an Amiri Sheikh of Al Hussein) the

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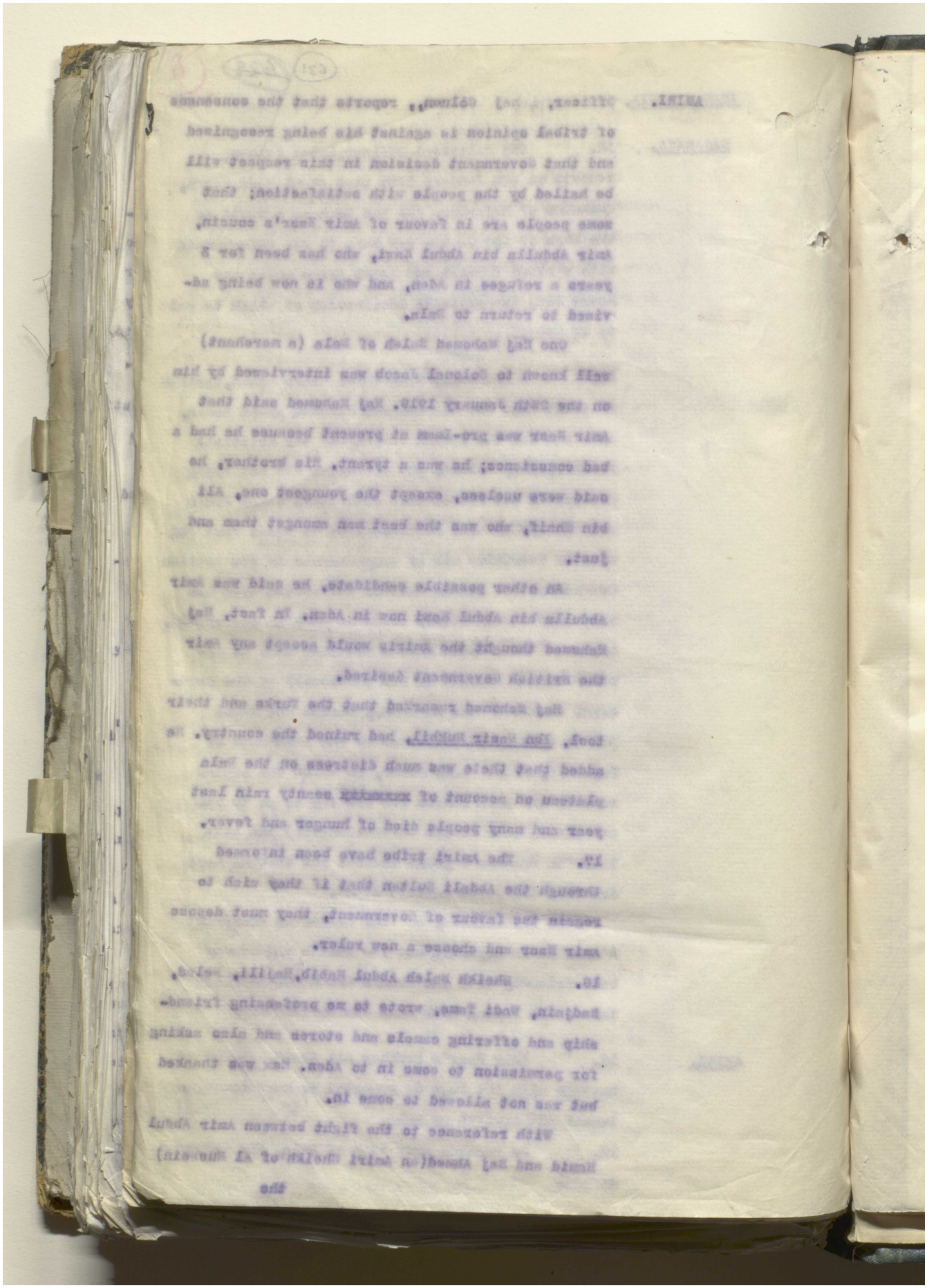

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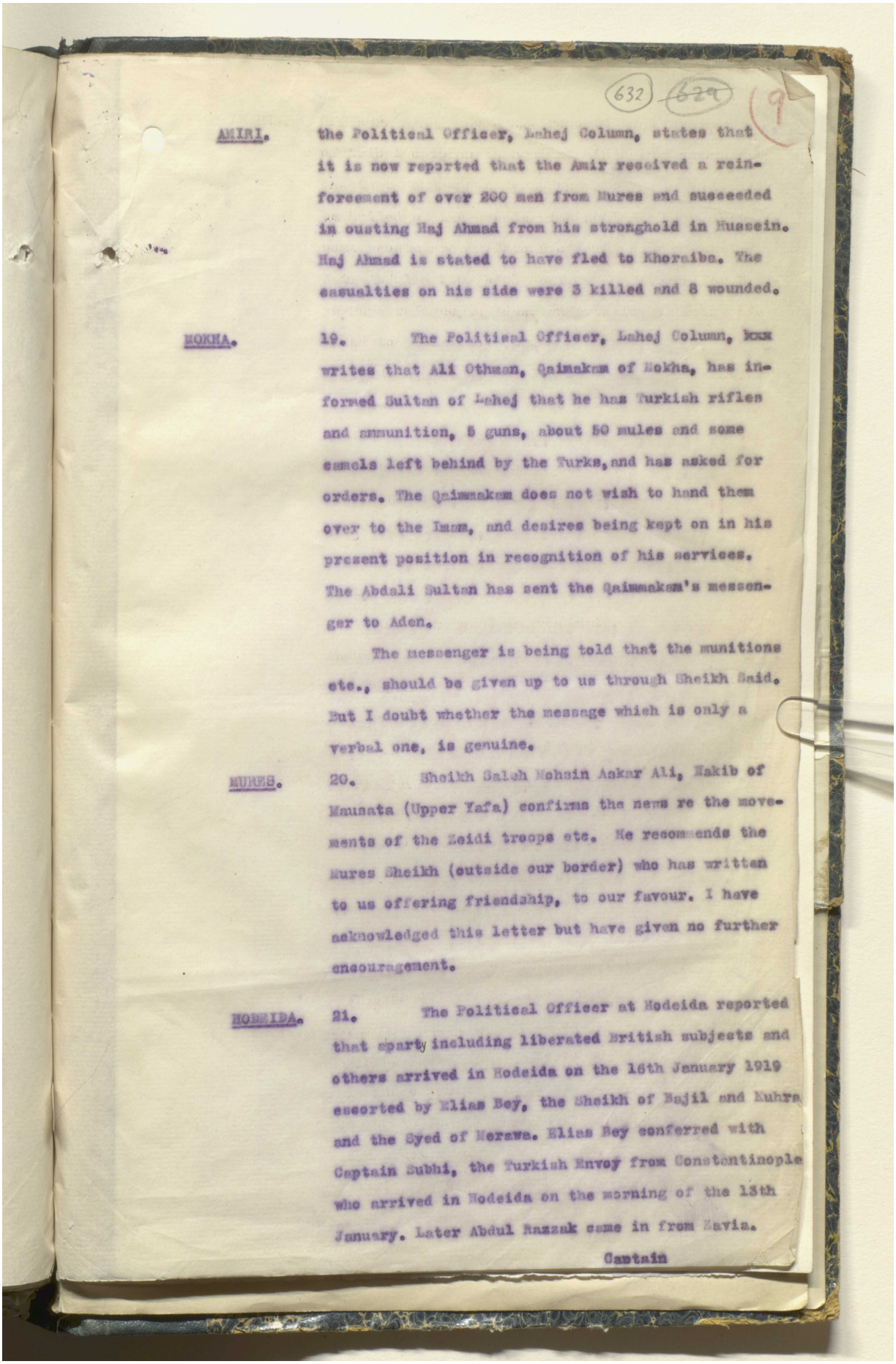

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AMIRI. the Political Officer, Lahej Column, states that it is now reported that the Amir received a reinforcement of over 200 men from Mures and succeeded in ousting Haj Ahmad from his stronghold in Hussein. Haj Ahmad is stated to have fled to Khoraiba. The casualties on his side were 3 killed and 8 wounded.

MOKHA. 19. The Political Officer, Lahej Column, ~~xxx~~ writes that Ali Othman, Qaimakam of Mokha, has informed Sultan of Lahej that he has Turkish rifles and ammunition, 5 guns, about 50 mules and some camels left behind by the Turks, and has asked for orders. The Qaimmakam does not wish to hand them over to the Imam, and desires being kept on in his present position in recognition of his services. The Abdali Sultan has sent the Qaimmakam's messenger to Aden.

The messenger is being told that the munitions etc., should be given up to us through Sheikh Said. But I doubt whether the message which is only a verbal one, is genuine.

MURES. 20. Sheikh Saleh Mohsin Askar Ali, Nakib of Mausata (Upper Yafa) confirms the news re the movements of the Zeidi troops etc. He recommends the Mures Sheikh (outside our border) who has written to us offering friendship, to our favour. I have acknowledged this letter but have given no further encouragement.

HODEIDA. 21. The Political Officer at Hodeida reported that party including liberated British subjects and others arrived in Hodeida on the 16th January 1919 escorted by Elias Bey, the Sheikh of Bajil and Kuhra and the Syed of Meraswa. Elias Bey conferred with Captain Subhi, the Turkish Envoy from Constantinople who arrived in Hodeida on the morning of the 13th January. Later Abdul Razzak came in from Zavia.

Captain

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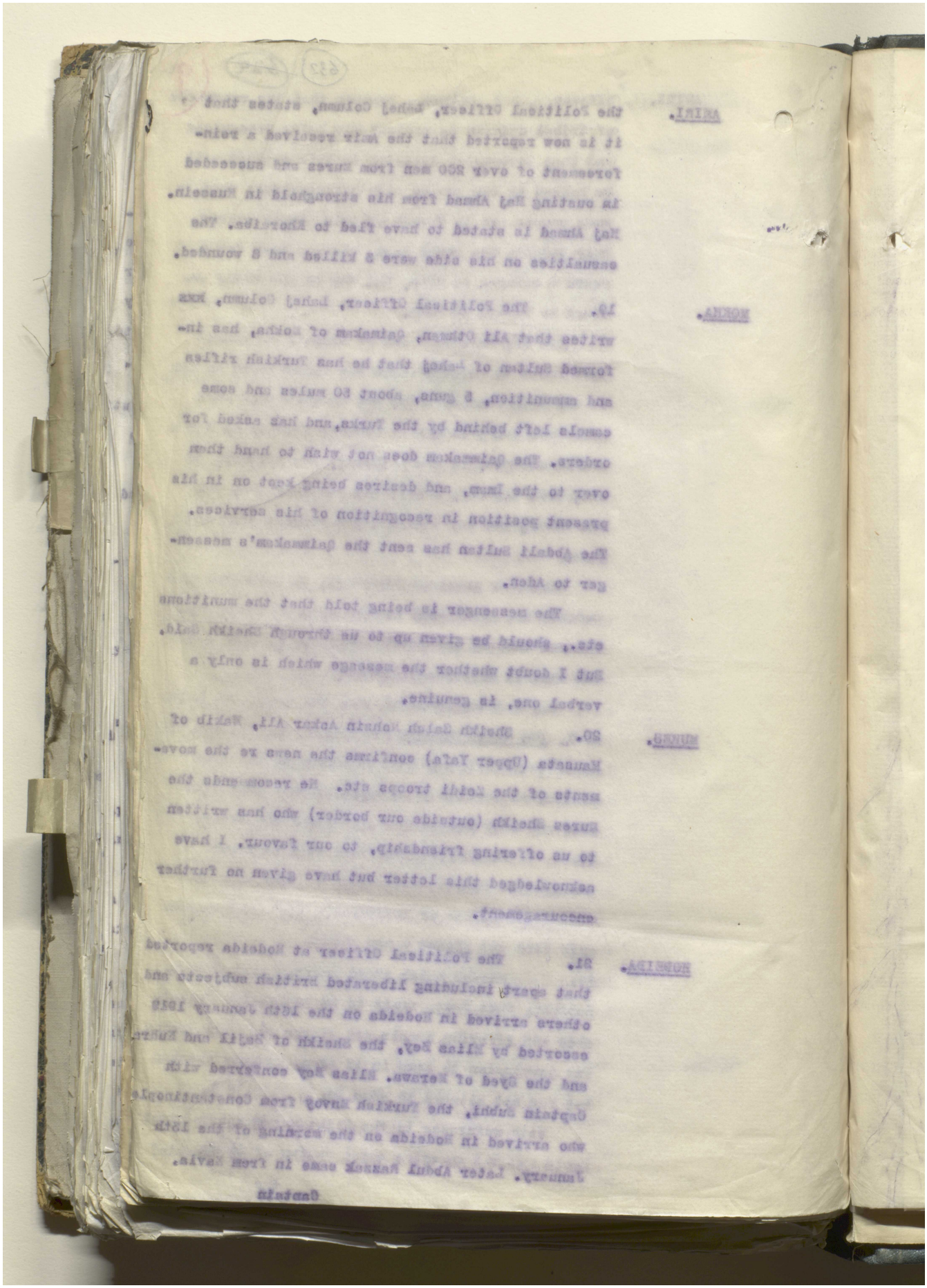

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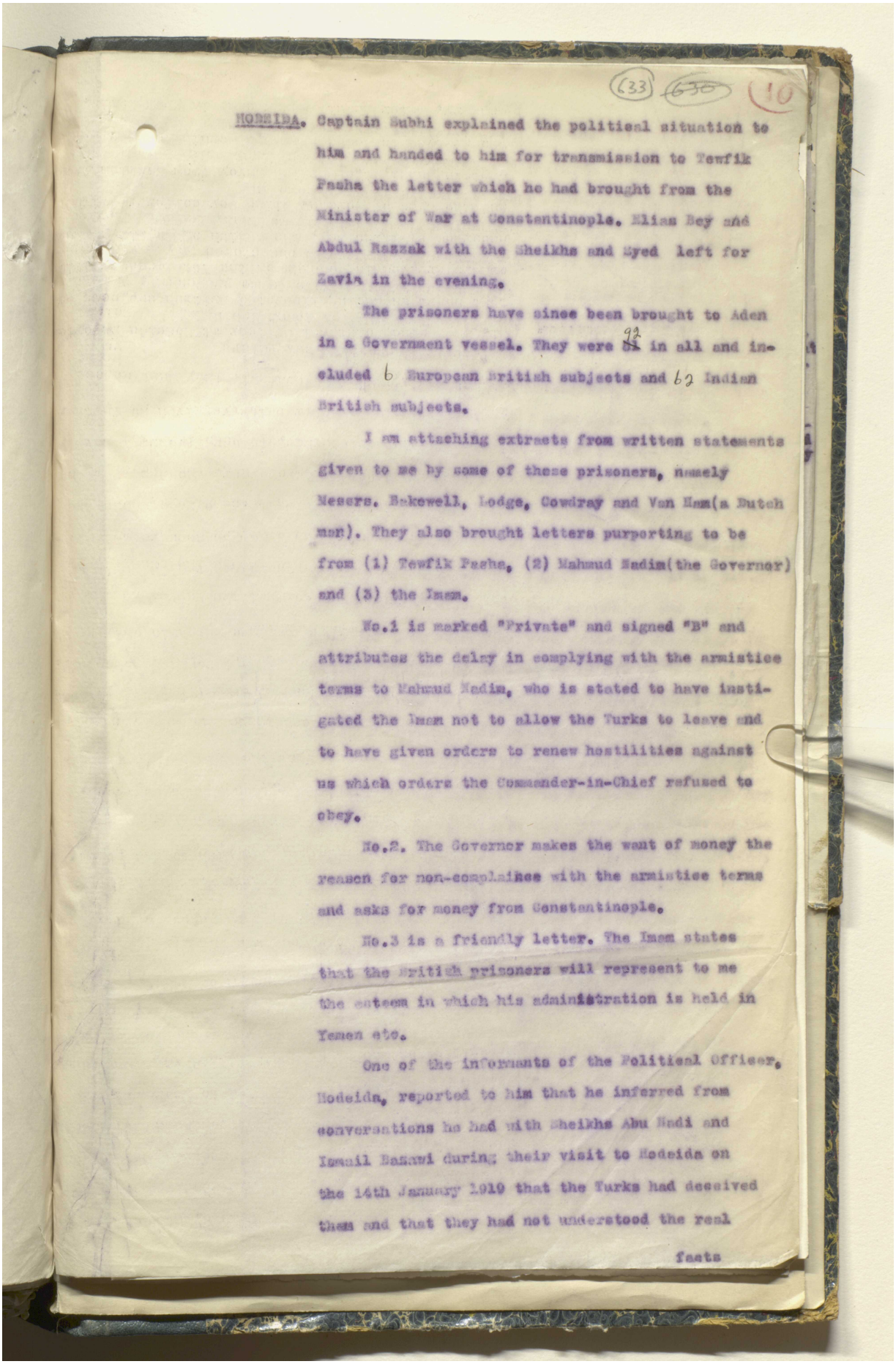

(633) ~~630~~ (10)

HODEIDA. Captain Subhi explained the political situation to him and handed to him for transmission to Tewfik Pasha the letter which he had brought from the Minister of War at Constantinople. Elias Bey and Abdul Razzak with the Sheikhs and Syed left for Zavia in the evening.

The prisoners have since been brought to Aden in a Government vessel. They were ~~81~~ 92 in all and included 6 European British subjects and 62 Indian British subjects.

I am attaching extracts from written statements given to me by some of these prisoners, namely Messrs. Bakewell, Lodge, Cowdray and Van Haam(a Dutch man). They also brought letters purporting to be from (1) Tewfik Pasha, (2) Mahmud Nadim(the Governor) and (3) the Imam.

No.1 is marked "Private" and signed "B" and attributes the delay in complying with the armistice terms to Mahmud Nadim, who is stated to have instigated the Imam not to allow the Turks to leave and to have given orders to renew hostilities against us which orders the Commander-in-Chief refused to obey.

No.2. The Governor makes the want of money the reason for non-compliance with the armistice terms and asks for money from Constantinople.

No.3 is a friendly letter. The Imam states that the British prisoners will represent to me the esteem in which his administration is held in Yemen etc.

One of the informants of the Political Officer, Hodeida, reported to him that he inferred from conversations he had with Sheikhs Abu Hadi and Ismail Banawi during their visit to Hodeida on the 14th January 1919 that the Turks had deceived them and that they had not understood the real

facts

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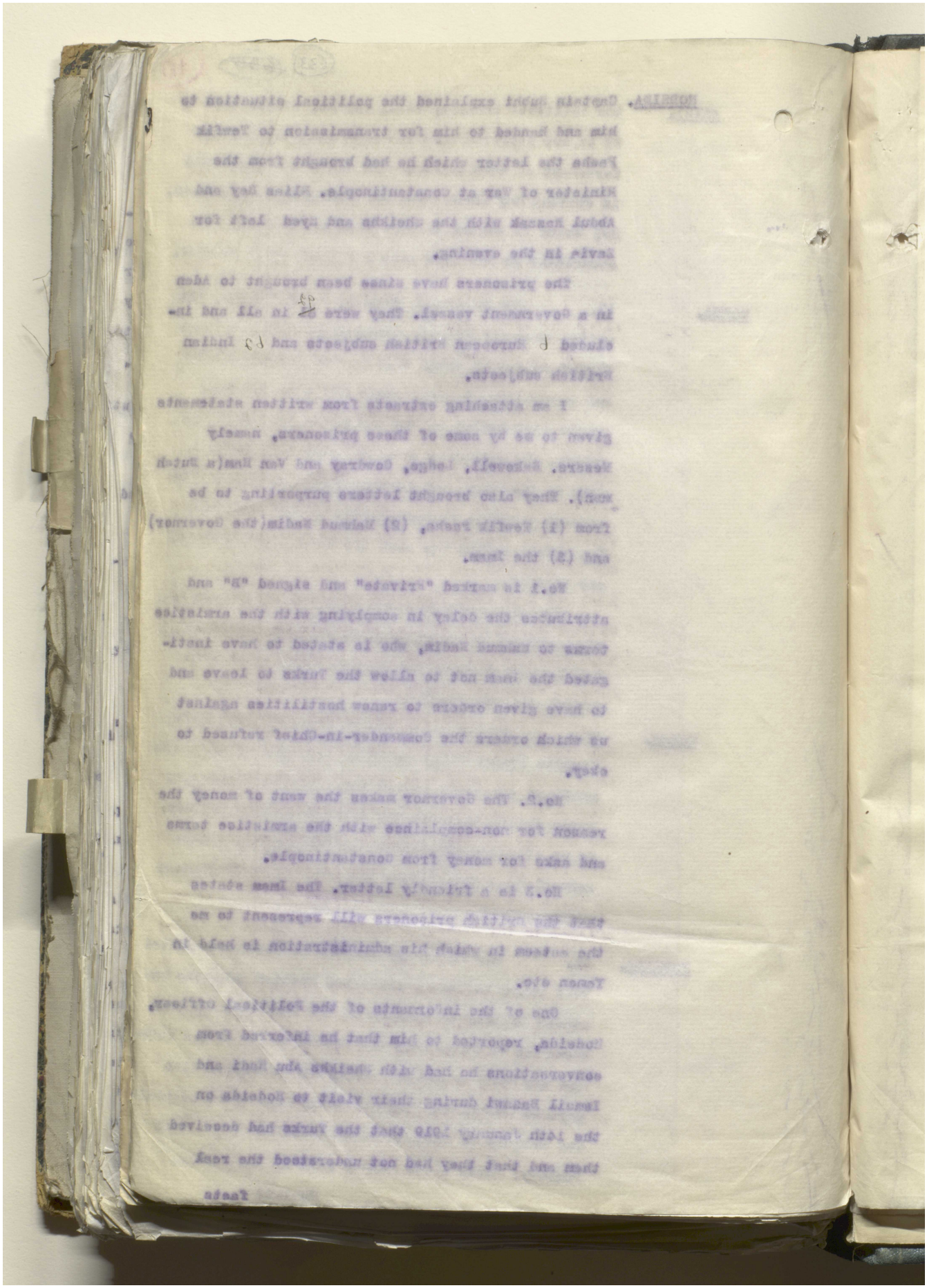

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HODEIDA. facts of the political situation till they came there. They said that henceforth we may consider the tribesmen under their leadership as allies and friends of the British Government and willing to act under our orders. They further promised to undertake to preserve peace and order in the Zohra country and to bring the various Sheikhs and Akils under our authority.

These Sheikhs were responsible for ~~xxxx~~ detention of the prisoners for some days at Bajil.

The same informant learnt that on the 13th January 1919 at Marawa a Turkish Officer Major Salim Effendi accompanied by Sheikh Suleiman Bukeib, certain Sayeds of Marawa and a number of population visited the tomb of the Sailat Ali bin Umr Al Ahdal and offered prayers for the success of the Turkish arms and said that they were awaiting the orders of Colonel Ghalib Bey to make an attack on Hodeida. This ceremony has caused great consternation among Hodeida merchants now residing in Marawa.

The same correspondent learnt that some days ago Ghalib Bey assembled his officers at Zaidyia and in a speak informed them that he did not believe the stories current about an armistice with the British, and that he did not intend to obey the orders of the Commander-in-Chief or the Wali in this connection. He thereupon called on his officers to join him in a fight to the death. In reply they agreed to follow him.

The following details were gleaned by the Political Officer, Hodeida, from an interview with Mohamed Shavish Zeidi who accompanied the Imam's representative, the Kadi Ahmed Mujjahid in charge of British prisoners from Sanaa to Hodeida:-

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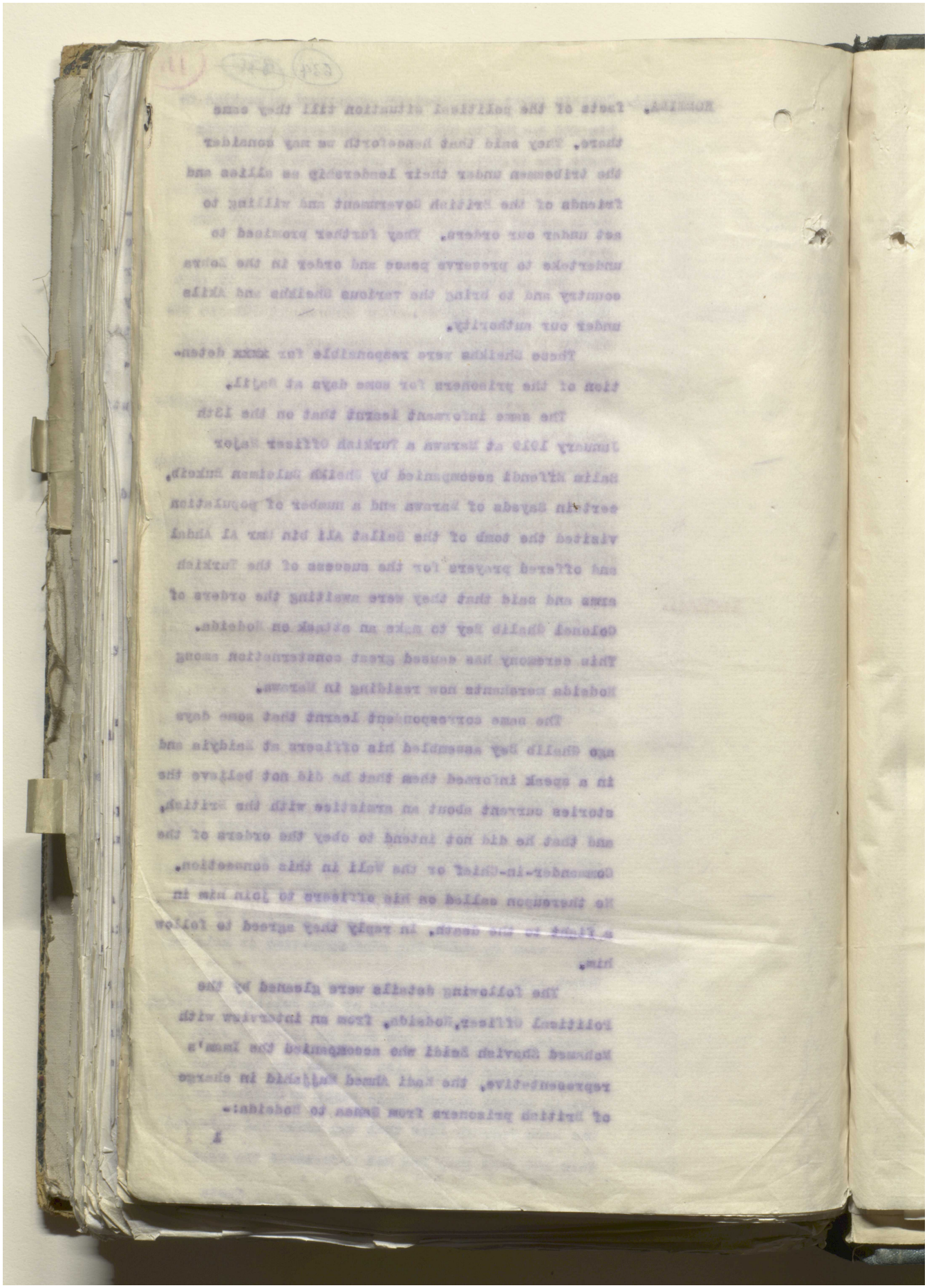

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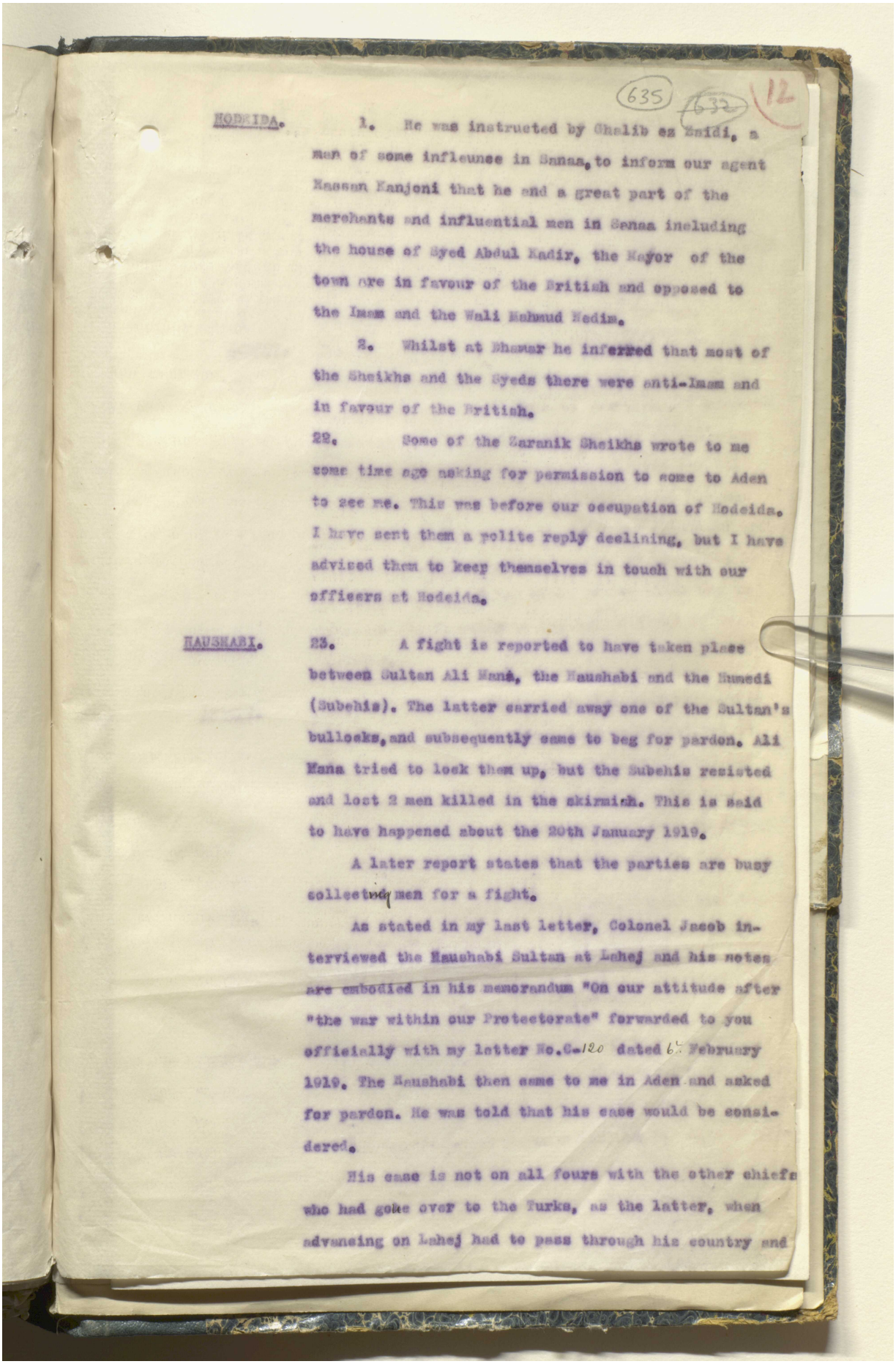

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HODEIDA. 1. He was instructed by Ghalib ez Zaidi, a man of some influence in Sanaa, to inform our agent Hassan Kanjoni that he and a great part of the merchants and influential men in Sanaa including the house of Syed Abdul Kadir, the Mayor of the town are in favour of the British and opposed to the Imam and the Wali Mahmud Nedim.

2. Whilst at Bhamar he inferred that most of the Sheikhs and the Syeds there were anti-Imam and in favour of the British.

22. Some of the Zaranik Sheikhs wrote to me some time ago asking for permission to come to Aden to see me. This was before our occupation of Hodeida. I have sent them a polite reply declining, but I have advised them to keep themselves in touch with our officers at Hodeida.

HAUSHABI. 23. A fight is reported to have taken place between Sultan Ali Mana, the Haushabi and the Humedi (Subehis). The latter carried away one of the Sultan's bullocks, and subsequently came to beg for pardon. Ali Mana tried to lock them up, but the Subehis resisted and lost 2 men killed in the skirmish. This is said to have happened about the 20th January 1919.

A later report states that the parties are busy collecting men for a fight.

As stated in my last letter, Colonel Jacob interviewed the Haushabi Sultan at Lahej and his notes are embodied in his memorandum "On our attitude after "the war within our Protectorate" forwarded to you officially with my letter No.C-120 dated 6th February 1919. The Haushabi then came to me in Aden and asked for pardon. He was told that his case would be considered.

His case is not on all fours with the other chiefs who had gone over to the Turks, as the latter, when advancing on Lahej had to pass through his country and

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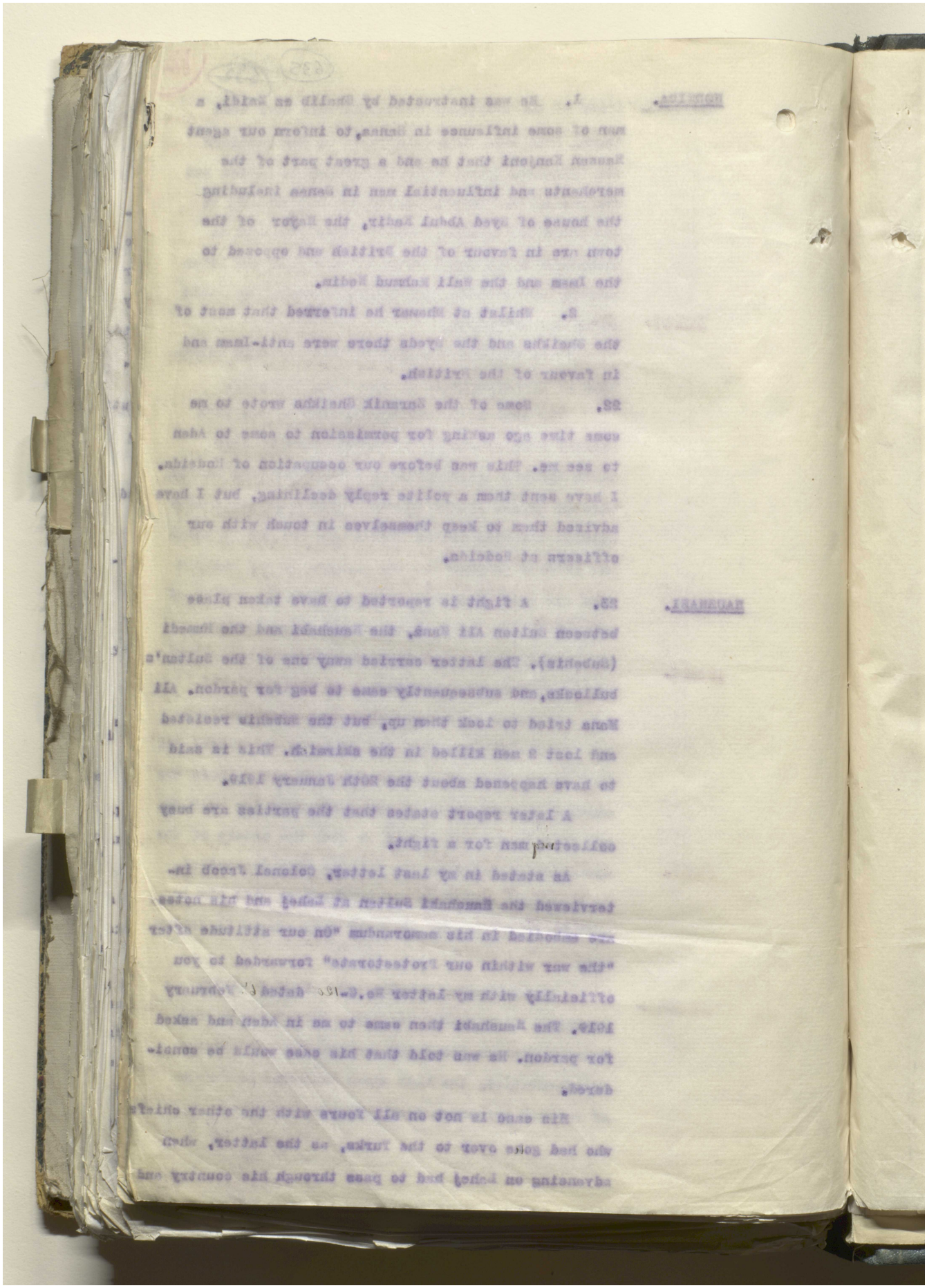

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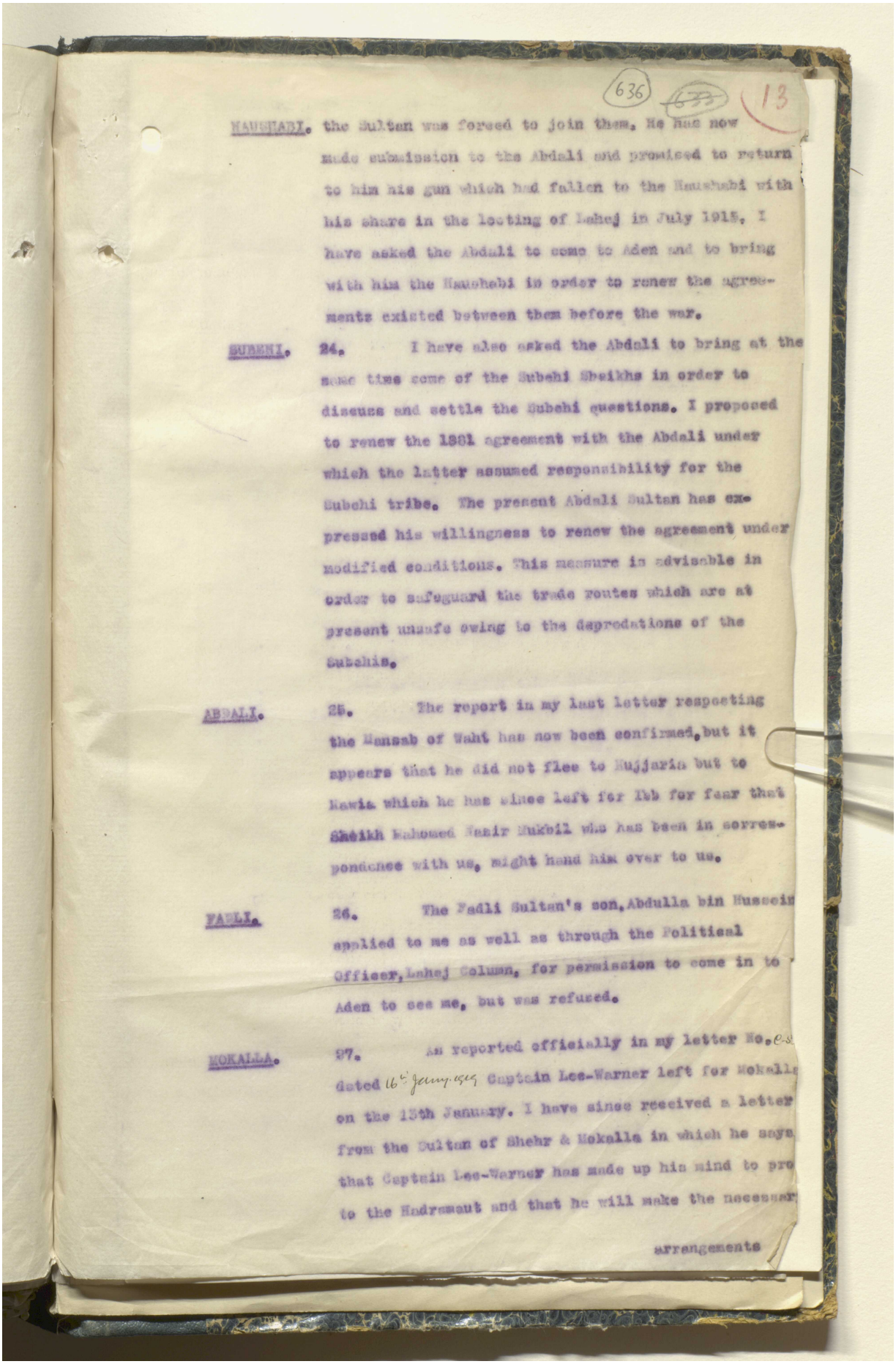

636 ~~635~~ 13

NAUSHABI. the Sultan was forced to join them. He has now made submission to the Abdali and promised to return to him his gun which had fallen to the Naushabi with his share in the looting of Lahej in July 1915. I have asked the Abdali to come to Aden and to bring with him the Naushabi in order to renew the agreements existed between them before the war.

SUBENI. 24. I have also asked the Abdali to bring at the same time some of the Subehi Sheikhs in order to discuss and settle the Subehi questions. I proposed to renew the 1881 agreement with the Abdali under which the latter assumed responsibility for the Subehi tribe. The present Abdali Sultan has expressed his willingness to renew the agreement under modified conditions. This measure is advisable in order to safeguard the trade routes which are at present unsafe owing to the depredations of the Subehis.

ABDALI. 25. The report in my last letter respecting the Mansab of Waht has now been confirmed, but it appears that he did not flee to Hujjaria but to Kawia which he has since left for Ibb for fear that Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil who has been in correspondence with us, might hand him over to us.

FADLI. 26. The Fadli Sultan's son, Abdulla bin Hussein applied to me as well as through the Political Officer, Lahej Column, for permission to come in to Aden to see me, but was refused.

MOKALLA. 27. As reported officially in my letter No. C-S dated 16th January 1920 Captain Lee-Warner left for Mokalla on the 15th January. I have since received a letter from the Sultan of Shehr & Mokalla in which he says that Captain Lee-Warner has made up his mind to proceed to the Hadramaut and that he will make the necessary arrangements

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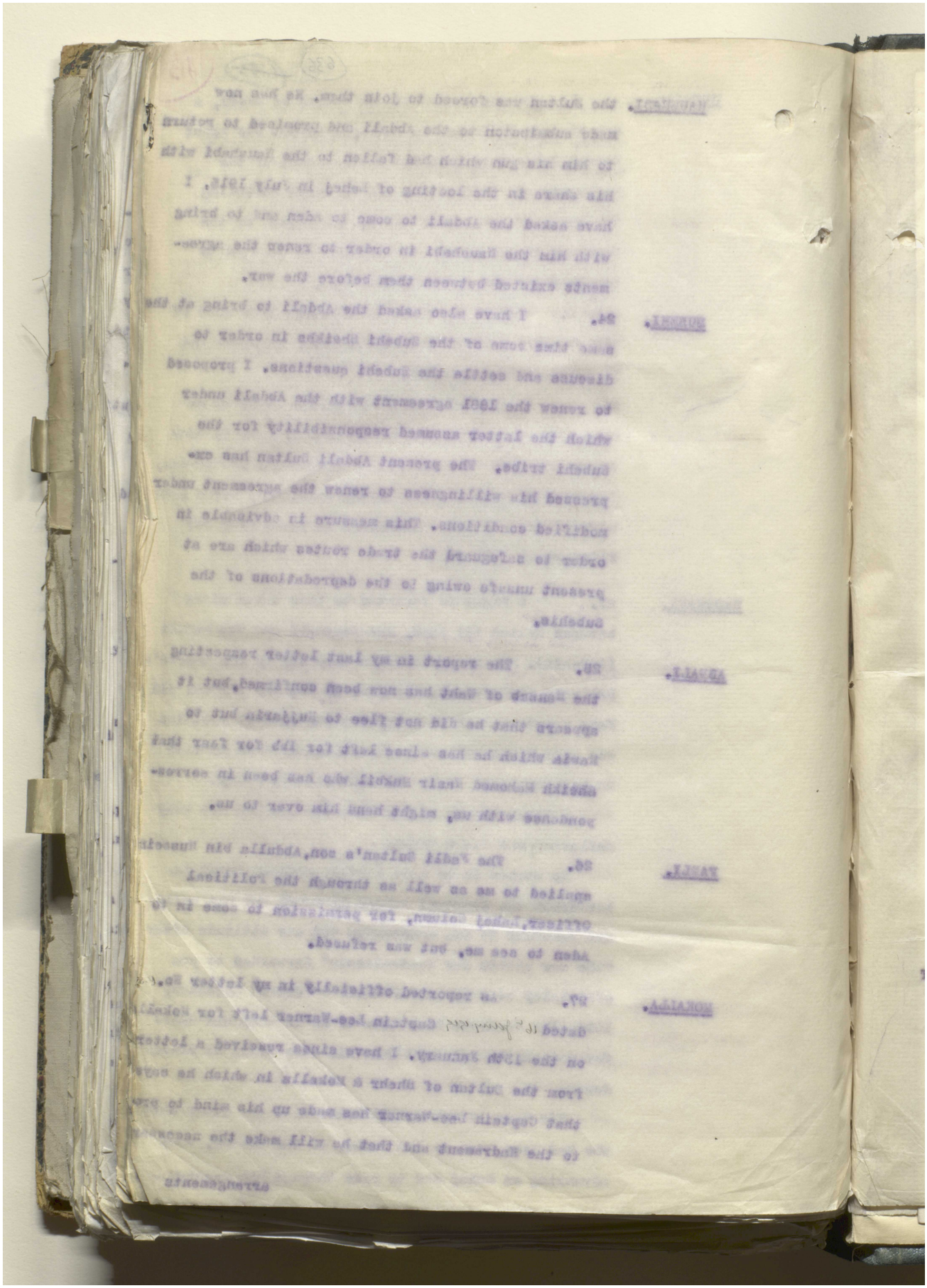

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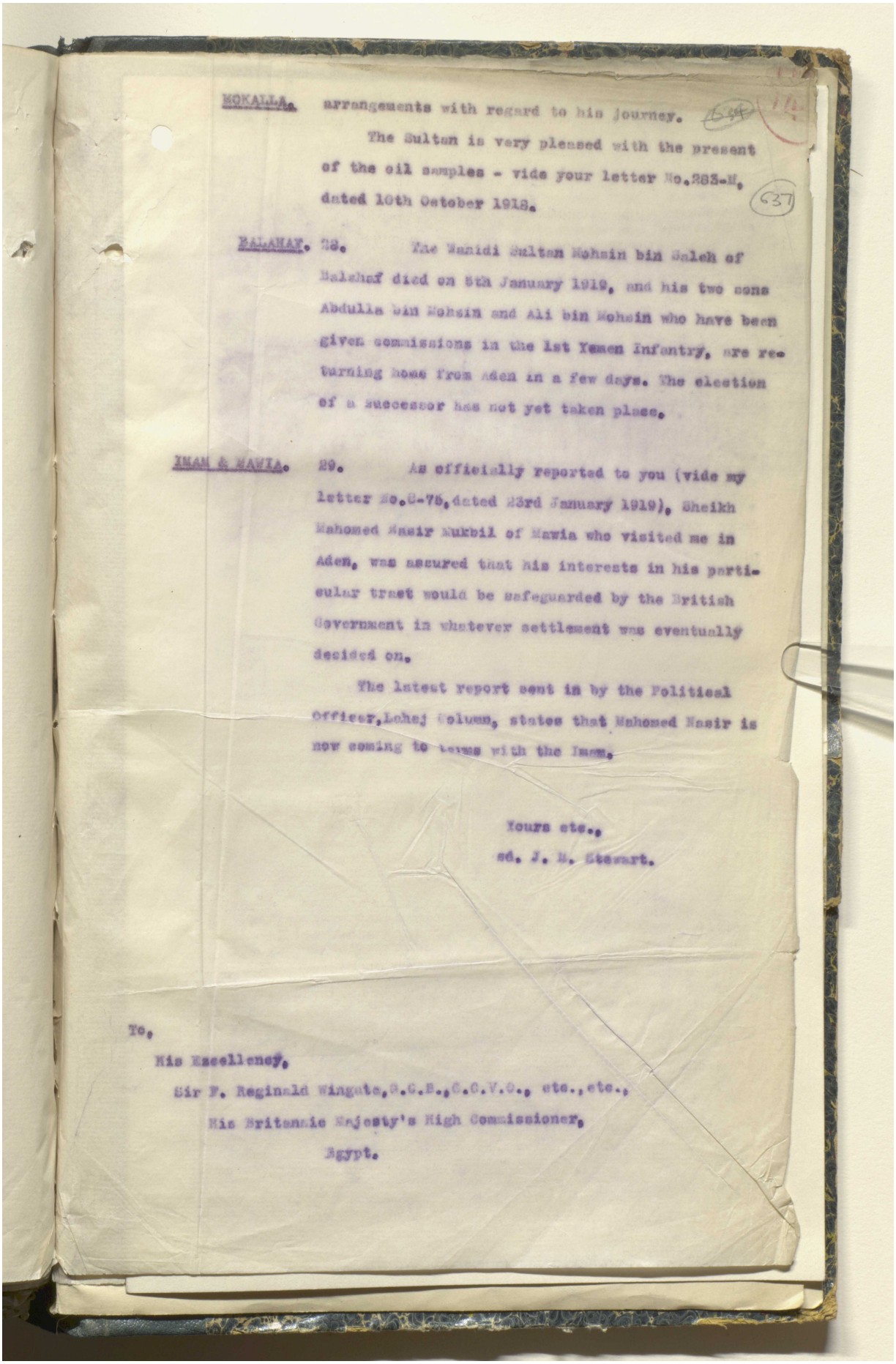

MOKALLA. arrangements with regard to his journey.

The Sultan is very pleased with the present of the oil samples - vide your letter No.283-M, dated 10th October 1918.

637

BALAHAF. 28. The Wahidi Sultan Mohsin bin Saleh of Balahaf died on 5th January 1919, and his two sons Abdulla bin Mohsin and Ali bin Mohsin who have been given commissions in the 1st Yemen Infantry, are returning home from Aden in a few days. The election of a successor has not yet taken place.

IMAM & HAWIA. 29. As officially reported to you (vide my letter No.C-75, dated 23rd January 1919), Sheikh Mahomed Nasir Mukbil of Hawia who visited me in Aden, was assured that his interests in his particular tract would be safeguarded by the British Government in whatever settlement was eventually decided on.

The latest report sent in by the Political Officer, Lahej Column, states that Mahomed Nasir is now coming to terms with the Imam.

Yours etc.,
sd. J. M. Stewart.

To,
His Excellency,
Sir F. Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., etc., etc.,
His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner,
Egypt.

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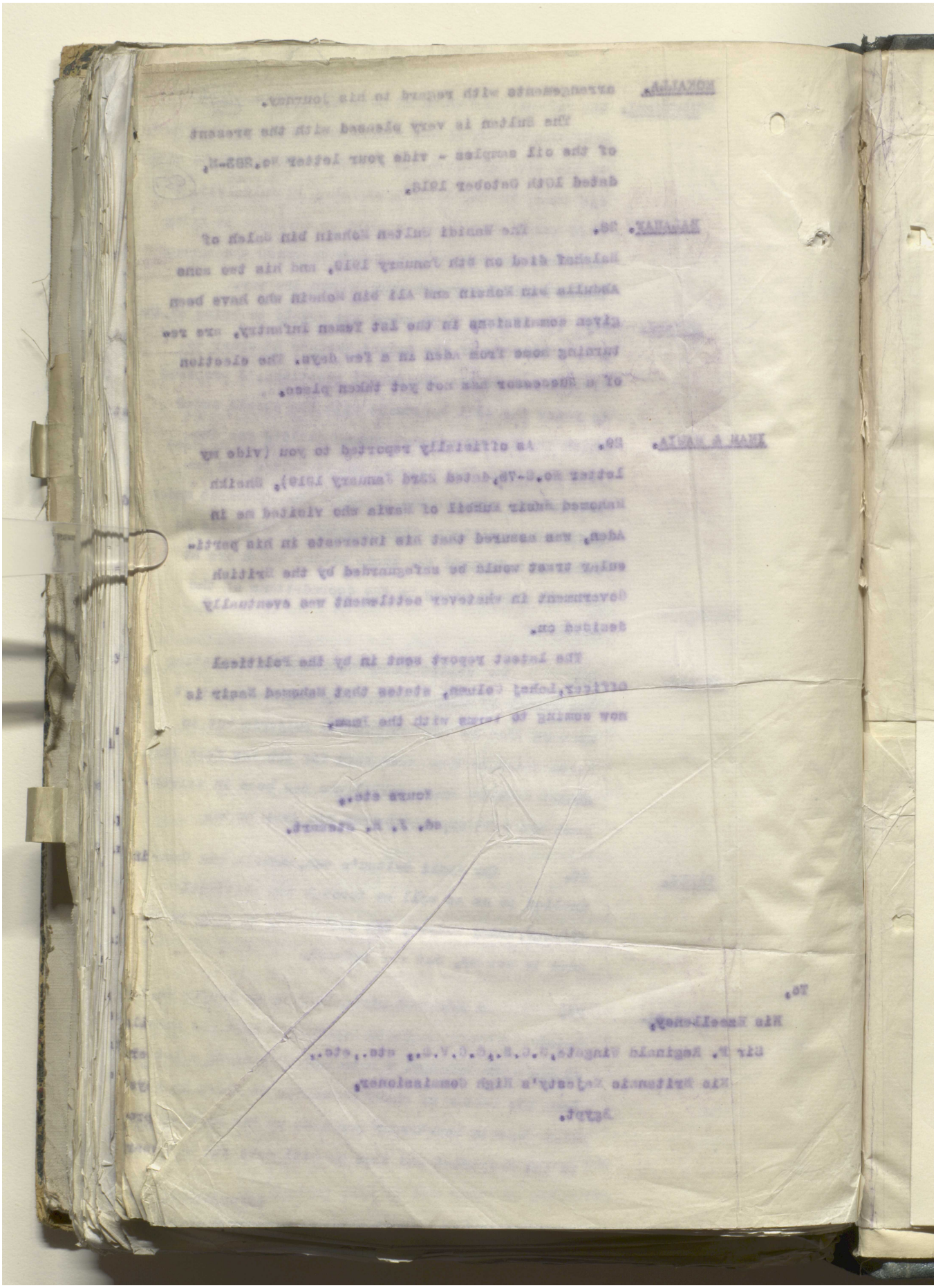

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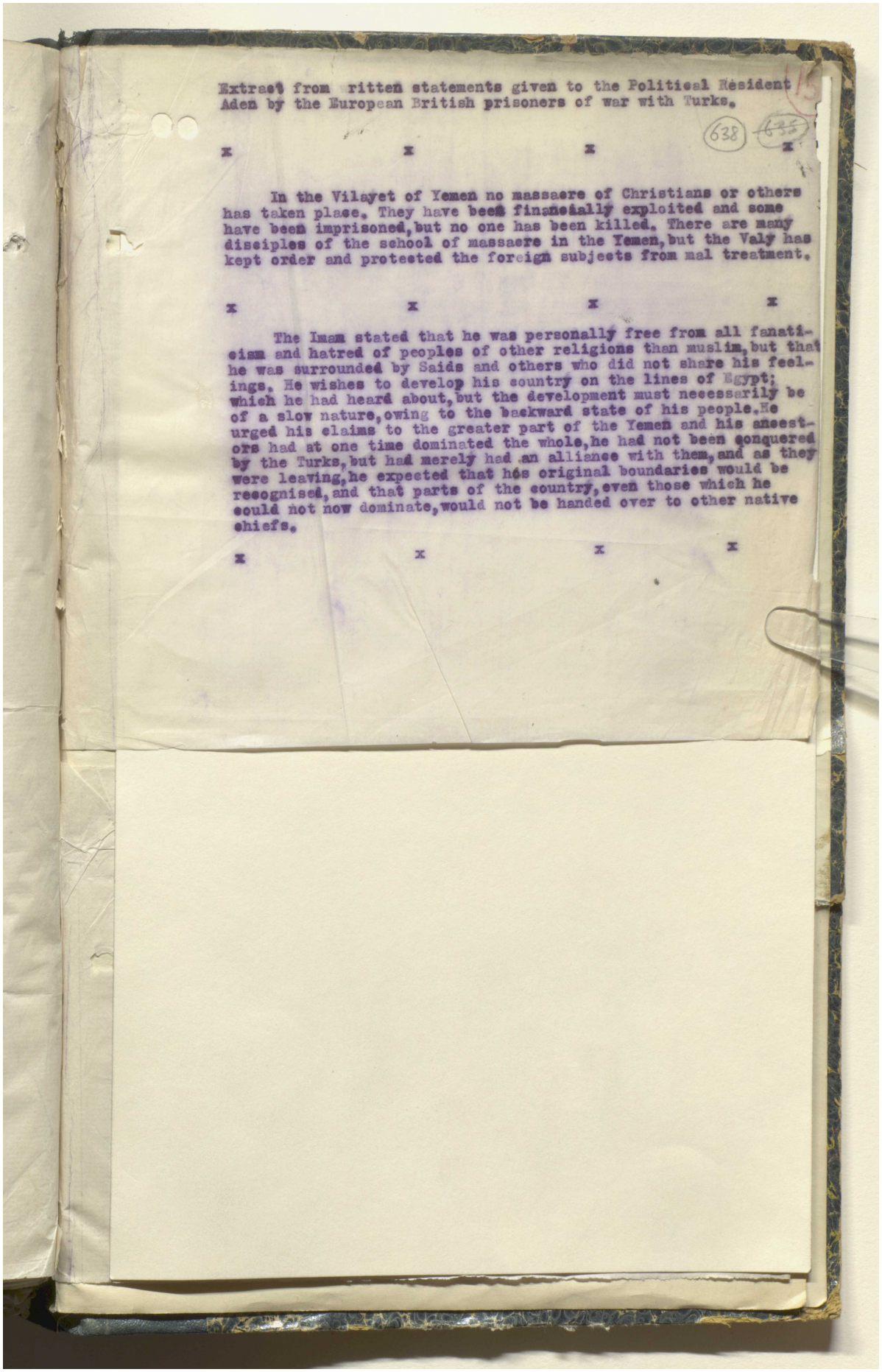

Extract from written statements given to the Political Resident Aden by the European British prisoners of war with Turks.

(638) (635)

x x x x

In the Vilayet of Yemen no massacre of Christians or others has taken place. They have been financially exploited and some have been imprisoned, but no one has been killed. There are many disciples of the school of massacre in the Yemen, but the Valy has kept order and protected the foreign subjects from mal treatment.

x x x x

The Imam stated that he was personally free from all fanaticism and hatred of peoples of other religions than muslim, but that he was surrounded by Saids and others who did not share his feelings. He wishes to develop his country on the lines of Egypt; which he had heard about, but the development must necessarily be of a slow nature, owing to the backward state of his people. He urged his claims to the greater part of the Yemen and his ancestors had at one time dominated the whole, he had not been conquered by the Turks, but had merely had an alliance with them, and as they were leaving, he expected that his original boundaries would be recognised, and that parts of the country, even those which he could not now dominate, would not be handed over to other native chiefs.

x x x x

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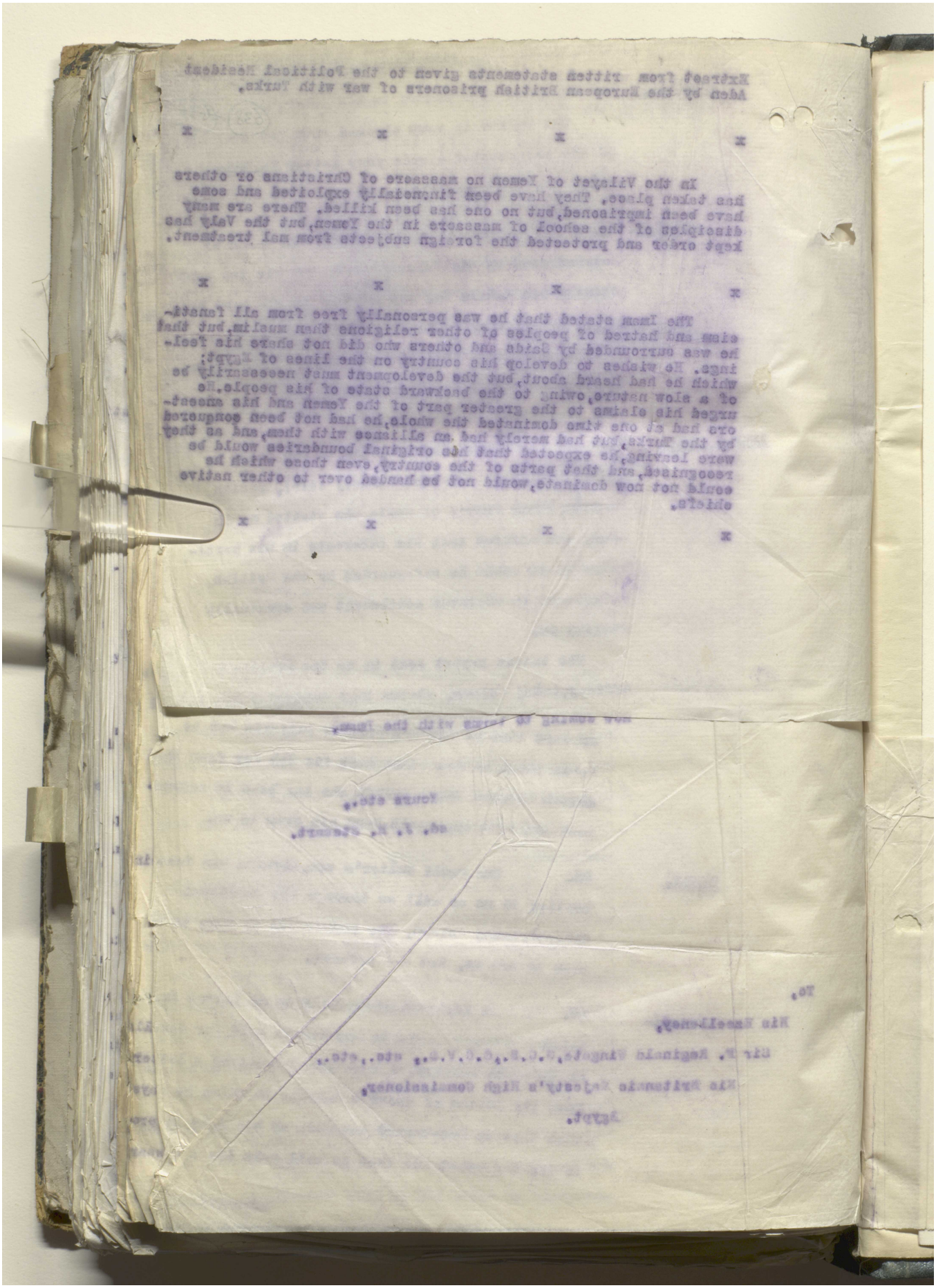

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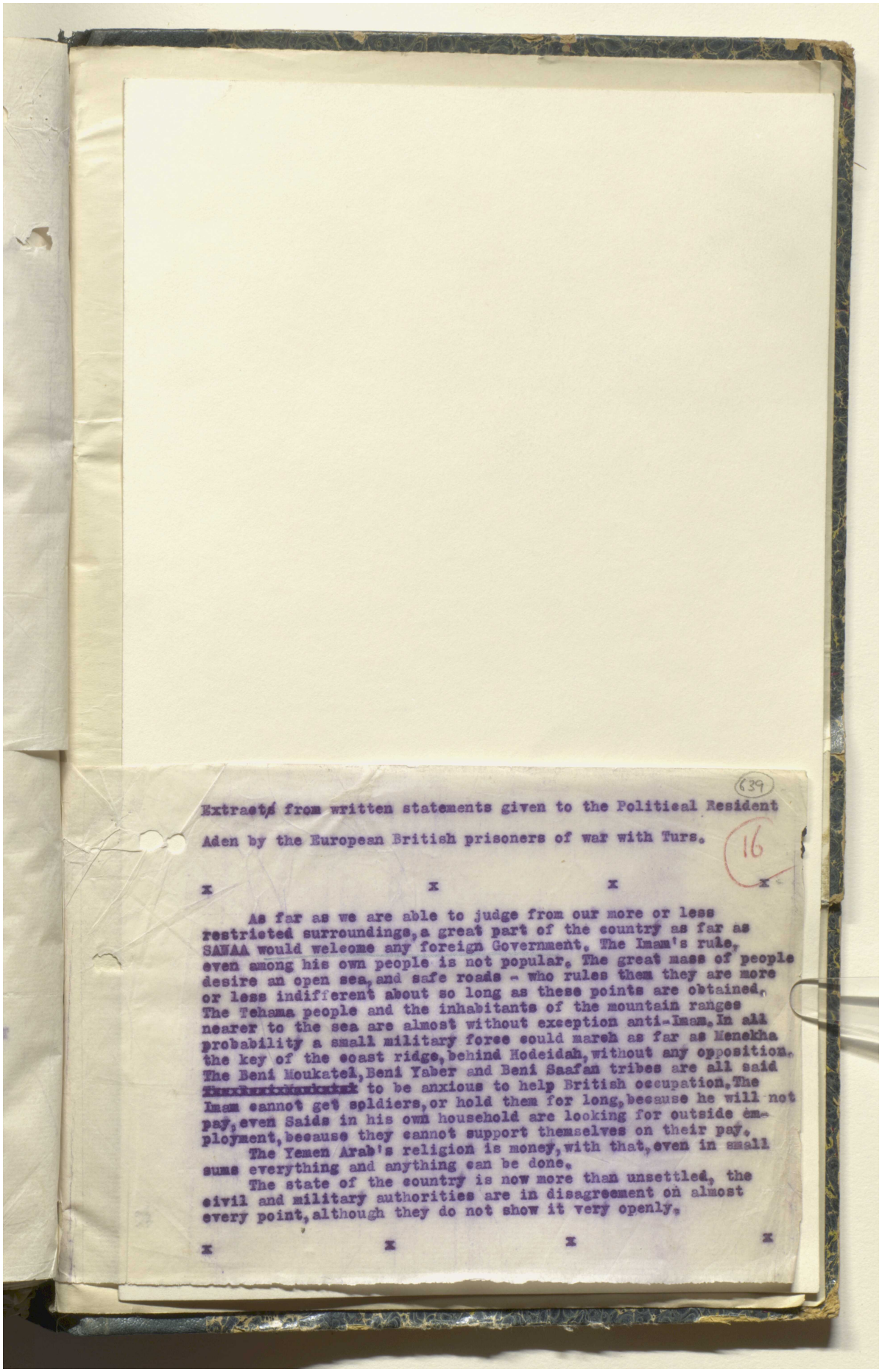

(639)

Extracts from written statements given to the Political Resident Aden by the European British prisoners of war with Turs.

16

x x x x

As far as we are able to judge from our more or less restricted surroundings, a great part of the country as far as SANAA would welcome any foreign Government. The Imam's rule, even among his own people is not popular. The great mass of people desire an open sea, and safe roads - who rules them they are more or less indifferent about so long as these points are obtained. The Tehama people and the inhabitants of the mountain ranges nearer to the sea are almost without exception anti-Imam. In all probability a small military force could march as far as Menekha the key of the coast ridge, behind Hodeidah, without any opposition. The Beni Moukatel, Beni Yaber and Beni Saafan tribes are all said to be anxious to help British occupation. The Imam cannot get soldiers, or hold them for long, because he will not pay, even Saids in his own household are looking for outside employment, because they cannot support themselves on their pay.

The Yemen Arab's religion is money, with that, even in small sums everything and anything can be done.

The state of the country is now more than unsettled, the civil and military authorities are in disagreement on almost every point, although they do not show it very openly.

x x x x

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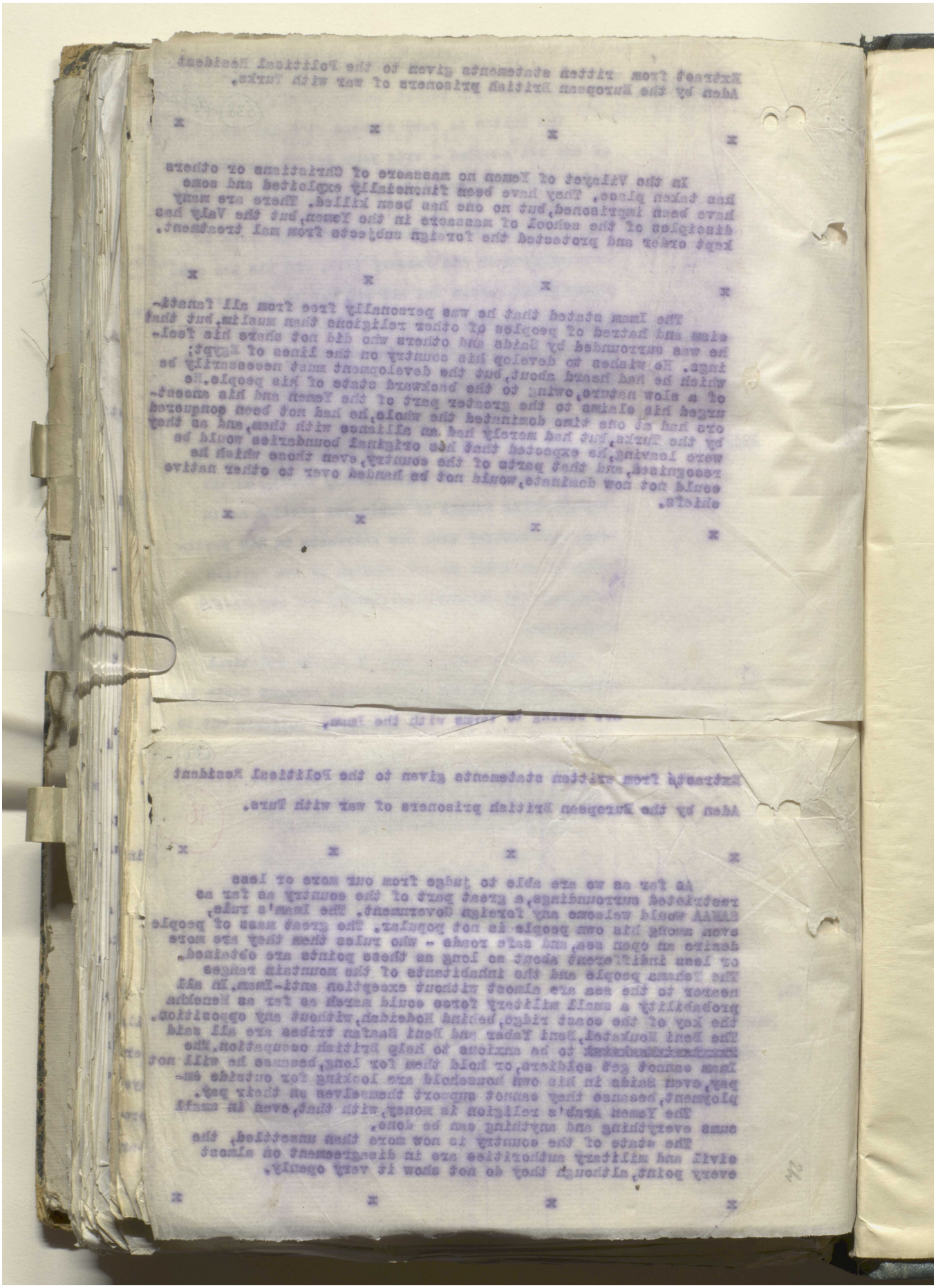

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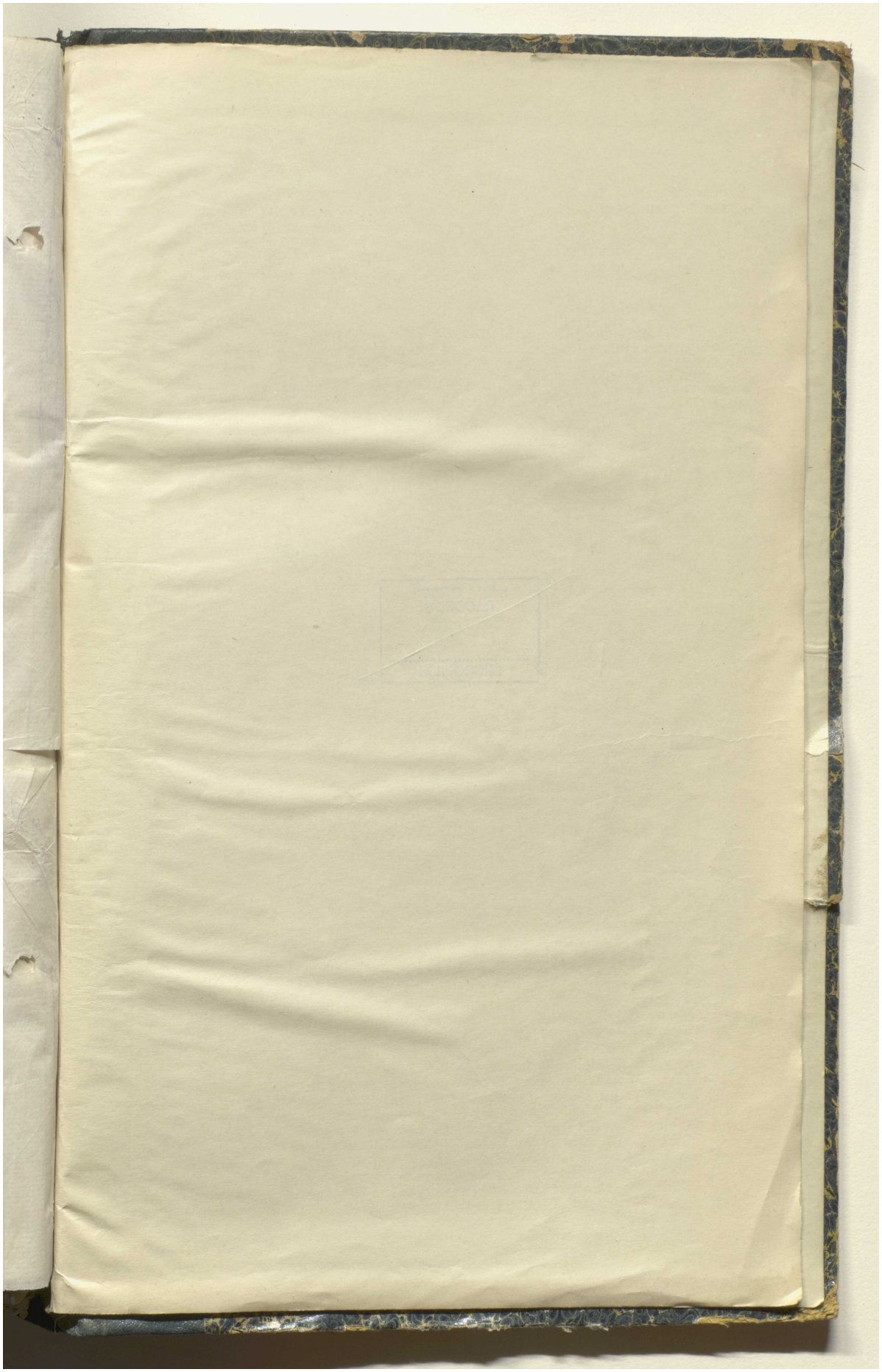

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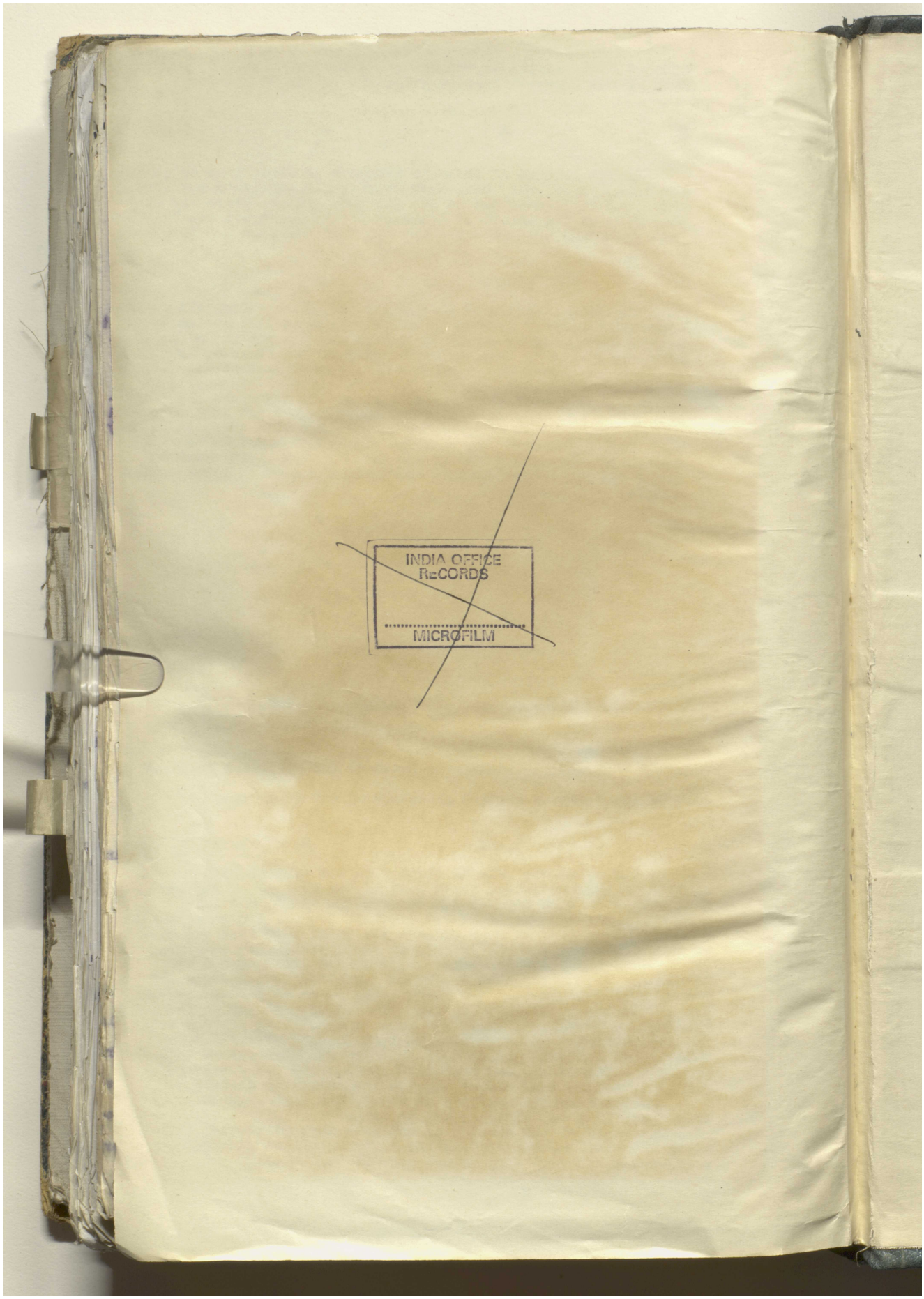

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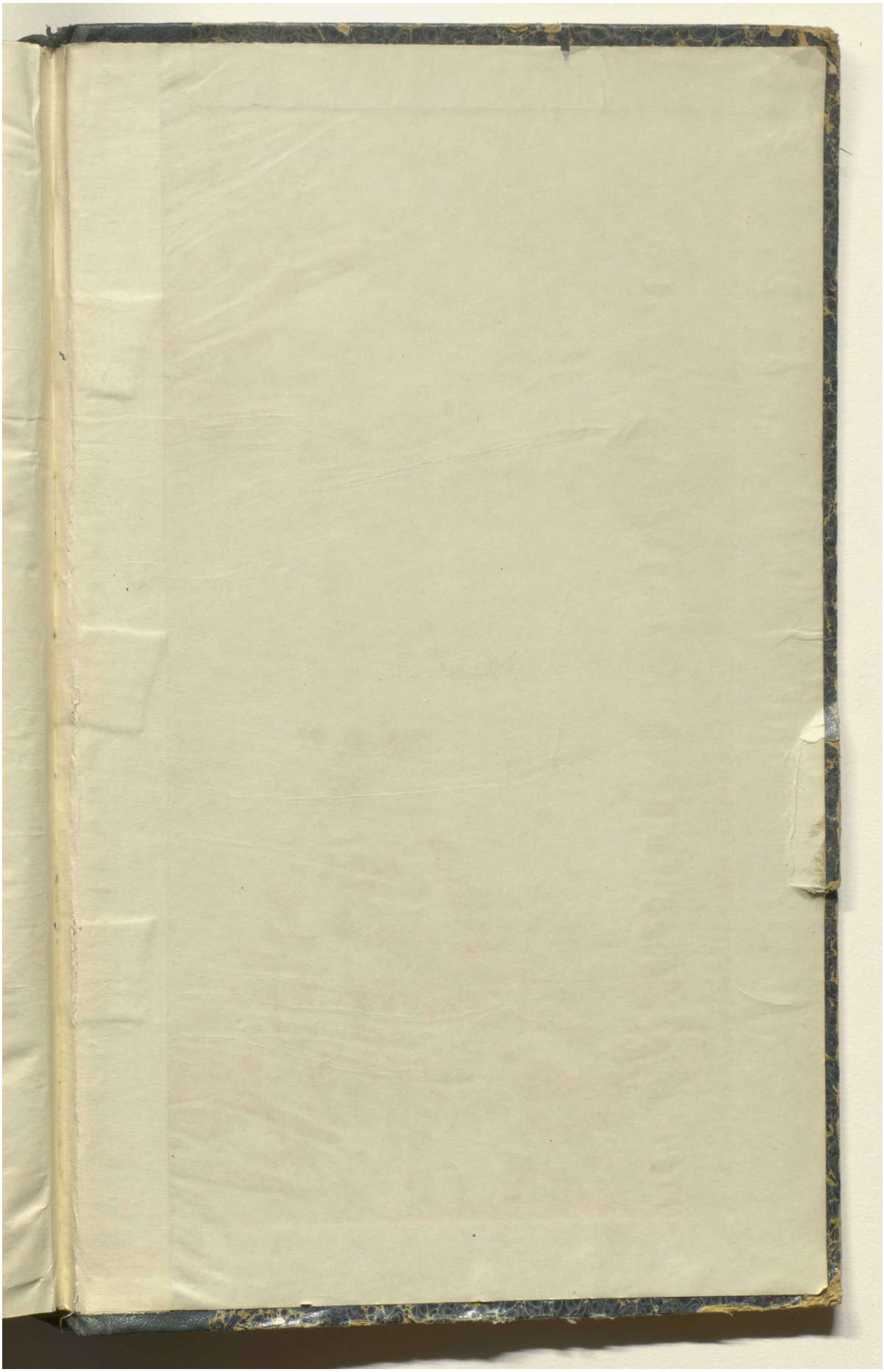

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